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FILE DESIGNATION

CA-11047

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NO.

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Amembassy RIO DE JANEIRO
INFO: Amconsul RECIFE

FROM : Department of State

DATE: MAY 9 4 51 PM '66

SUBJECT : Astrophysical Observing Station at Natal

REF :

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1966 MAY 9 PM 8 21

Enclosed are copies of (a) the Memorandum of Understanding concluded March 29, 1966, between the Smithsonian Institution and the Comissao Nacional de Atividades Espaciais (CNAE) to provide for establishment and operation of a Baker-Nunn camera station at Natal, and (b) a news release of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory (SAO) dated April 22, 1966, describing the new station to be completed late this year.

The Smithsonian Institution is an establishment of the U. S. Government under Title 20, U. S. Code, Chapter 3. The SAO at Cambridge, Mass., is a Bureau under the Smithsonian Institution (see U. S. Government Organization Manual). As stated in the press release, the Natal station will be part of a world-wide network of observing stations which SAO operates under a grant from NASA.

Article I. c. 4 of the agency-level agreement concerns privileges and immunities both for the station and for SAO personnel at the station. The Scientific Attache is aware of all developments concerning the negotiation of this agreement to date. Embassy administrative and logistic support is to be negotiated at a later date by the local SAO representative as soon as he has had an opportunity to assess the need for such support.

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MICROFILMED BY

Enclosures:

1. Memorandum of Understanding
2. News Release

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In Out

FORM 4-63 DS-323

Drafted by: SCI:MFSmith:by

Drafting Date: 5/6/66

Contents and Classification Approved by: SCI - Col. James W. Milner JWM

Clearances: ARA/BR - Mr. Hugh C. MacDougall

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Agreement
between

Smithsonian Institution

of the United States of America

and

Comissao Nacional de

Atividades Espaciais

of Brazil

for the operation of an

Optical Satellite Tracking Station

This agreement, entered into this 29th day
of March, 1966, by the Smithsonian Institution,
established by the U. S. Government, hereinafter referred to as
Smithsonian, and the Comissao Nacional de Atividades Espaciais
of Brazil, hereinafter referred to as CNAE, does WITNESS that
the parties hereto agree as follows:

Article I Statement of Work and Obligations of Parties

a. General The purpose of this agreement is to provide
for the establishment and operation of a tracking station
at Natal, Brazil, primarily for the observation of earth
satellites, as part of the Smithsonian's worldwide network
to obtain data for research in celestial mechanics, upper
atmosphere studies, geodesy and other astronomical programs.
It is agreed that the tracking station will be operated in
accordance with the policies and directives of the Smithsonian.

b. Obligations of the Smithsonian The Smithsonian will:

1. Provide the buildings, furnishings, and scientific
equipment and supplies for the establishment and
operation of the Station.

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Agreement between Smithsonian and CNAE (cont'd) page 2

2. Pay all operating expenses of the station, including initial installation and subsequent costs of utilities such as water and electrical power.
3. Provide a Station Manager who will assume responsibility for the supervision of the program carried out at the station.
4. Provide and/or hire a station staff, including both U.S. and Brazilian members. Consideration for employment will be given to candidates suggested by CNAE.
5. Provide the technical equipment and other material which Smithsonian deems necessary for the operation, maintenance, and improvement of the station.
6. Assist the CNAE by providing, from time to time, technical instruction or seminars on matters relating to the work of the station when, in the judgement of the Station Manager, the operation of the station permits such instruction or seminars.
7. Make the scientific facilities of the station available to CNAE for scientific observing programs of its own, subject to prior approval by the Station Manager and non-interference with routine Smithsonian requirements for the station. CNAE shall bear any extraordinary costs incurred.

c. Obligations of CNAE The CNAE will:

1. Provide land for the station at no cost to Smithsonian at a site selected by a Smithsonian Survey team. No alterations or modifications

affecting observing conditions at the site shall be made without the prior written consent of Smithsonian. This consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.

2. Provide necessary access roads to the selected site at no cost to Smithsonian.
3. Assist in arranging for station utilities, such as water and electricity, and in the installation and removal of major station equipment.
4. Bear the cost of, or arrange for the Brazilian Government to exempt the Smithsonian and/or its non-Brazilian personnel from the cost of any taxes, duties, fees or levies on:
 - i. Importation and exportation of all equipment, supplies and materials for the station;
 - ii. personal and household effects of personnel assigned to the station, entering or leaving the country; and
 - iii. all income of personnel from sources outside Brazil.

Article II Property

Title to all moveable property, as well as optical and electronic equipment and supplies, including the Baker-Nunn Satellite Tracking Camera, furnished by Smithsonian under this agreement shall remain in the Smithsonian.

Article III Technical Information

The Smithsonian shall make available to CNAE to the extent possible all technical and scientific results derived from the operation of the station.

This agreement shall enter into force on the date on which signed and may be terminated by the Smithsonian at any time before 30 September 1970 by providing CNAE with 6 months written notice of intention to terminate. After 30 September 1970, this agreement may be terminated by either party upon providing the other party with 90 days written notice of intention to terminate. This agreement is contingent upon the continued availability to Smithsonian of funds to support the research programs in which this station is involved.

IN WITNESS HEREOF, the Smithsonian Institution and the Comissao Nacional de Atividades Espaciais have caused this agreement to be signed and sealed.

Comissao Nacional de
Atividades Espaciais

By Fernando de Mendonça

Fernando de Mendonça
Scientific Director

Date 29 March 1966

Smithsonian Institution

By Carlton W. Tillinghast

Carlton W. Tillinghast, Assistant Director

Date 4 February 1966



NEWS RELEASE

SMITHSONIAN ASTROPHYSICAL OBSERVATORY

RELEASE NO:
66-12FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE
4-22-66

SMITHSONIAN OBSERVATORY TO ESTABLISH RESEARCH FACILITY IN BRAZIL Agreement Signed with Comissao Nacional de Atividades Espaciais

The Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory of Cambridge, Massachusetts (USA) has signed an agreement with the Comissao Nacional de Atividades Espaciais (CNAE) to establish an astrophysical research station near Natal.

The station will utilize a special Baker-Nunn camera for the photographic observation of both man-made satellites and natural phenomena.

Data obtained at the new Brazilian facility will be used for research in celestial mechanics, upper atmosphere studies, geodesy and other astronomical investigations.

The station will be one of 12 such astrophysical observing sites in a world-wide network operated by the SAO under a grant from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration of the United States. The SAO is a bureau of the Smithsonian Institution of Washington D.C.

Construction of the camera station and the transfer of major scientific equipment from a present location at Curacao, Netherlands Antilles, should be completed by late this year.

The CNAE will provide land for the camera station at a site in its research complex near Natal. The SAO will supply all buildings and scientific equipment, including the Baker-Nunn camera and electronic timing system. The total cost of the installation will be approximately \$55,000.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138
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-2-

Selection of the Natal site will provide the SAO with a better distribution of its camera stations around the world, thus allowing further participation in programs of satellite geodesy. Simultaneous observations of satellites by two or more Baker-Nunn cameras provide the SAO with geodetic information necessary for the precise mapping of distances between the earth's land masses. The Natal site will provide a link with SAO stations in Africa.

The scientific facilities of the SAO station will be available to members of the CNAE, as will any technical or scientific results. It is also hoped that Smithsonian personnel may participate in technical and scientific seminars and training programs with CNAE.

When completed, the new Brazilian field station will include a camera building with sliding roof to house the 3-ton, 8-foot-high camera, as well as darkroom, communications, electronics, administration, and maintenance facilities. The staff will consist of a station manager, several observers, and a small crew of maintenance personnel.

Mr. Francis A. Budreski, local SAO representative and acting station manager, is supervising the construction of the Natal station.

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