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Porto Alegre, Brazil

May 4, 1967

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The Honorable
John W. Tuthill
American Ambassador
American Embassy,
Rio de Janeiro

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

I was much interested in your telegram TOAID 2361 to the Department on the Passo Real project. I hope my reporting was useful to you in reaching your conclusions. I am still looking into the question and will send along anything of interest I uncover.

Mr. Ambassador, as I am sure you appreciate, my effectiveness here as both a reporting officer and a representative of the United States depends in large measure on the relationships I can develop with government officials and other important people in the community. Like yourself, I am faced with the problem of frequently having to say no or "I'll pass it along" to these people in response to their requests; and, like you, I very seldom have a chance to say yes. My position and effectiveness would be immensely enhanced if, from time to time, news of new AID projects confined to or materially affecting this district could reach officials and the public here through me rather than directly from the Embassy or AID, or through an itinerant AID official. I am thinking specifically of Passo Real should the U.S. contribution be approved, but the same applies to other projects as well. (In the case of Passo Real you, of course, would want to tell the President first in view of his interest in the project, but the matter might be so arranged that I could call on the Governor here at about the same time.)

This is the kind of problem that I would raise at a Consular Conference, but in the absence of such a meeting I am taking the liberty of raising it with you directly.

Sincerely yours,

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Ashley C. Hewitt, Jr.
American Consul

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