

OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM

TO: USIS Rio de Janeiro
FROM: Amconsul Porto Alegre
SUBJECT: "Fronteira Foundation"
REF: USIS OM, dated December 4, 1964

DATE: January 14, 1965

The Consulate's investigations of the "Fronteira Foundation" has produced information that results in the opinion that a minimum extreme caution is recommended in dealings with the concern.

It should be noted that though the vast majority of the individuals listed as being on the board of the firm are well and favorably known in the local community (others being unknown) there are several aspects of the Foundation's operation which do not inspire confidence. The Foundation's present purpose appears to be to colonize Paraguayan lands belonging to the foundation and use the profits from this colonization to finance improvements in the "fronteira region of Rio Grande do Sul". The colonists are supposed to come from Rio Grande and the foundation hopes to obtain the financial resources for this operation from American official and private sources. This seemingly fantastic plan was described by an individual working at the "Foundation" to a local social worker.

Adding a somewhat unholy touch to the whole operation is the "Fronteira Foundation's" connections with one Albino Ernesto POLI, who owns the offices where the Foundation operates and whose business partner Luis H. BEHS is an officer of the Foundation. Poli is an extremely wealthy 49 year old businessman presently residing in Paraguay who has an extremely unsavory reputation. Trusted business contacts have told the Consulate that it is best to stay away from Poli and Dun and Bradstreet reports that he made his money in less than legal wheat operations. It is well known that Mr. Poli owns considerable land in Paraguay and it may be speculated that the Foundation's land in Paraguay was somehow transferred by Poli to the Foundation.

As may be expected, the Foundation presently has no official state support.

TFRIEDMAN/TBF

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OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM

TO: USIS Pôrto Alegre
FROM: USIS Rio de Janeiro
SUBJECT: "Frenteira Foundation"
REF:

DATE: December 4, 1964

The Frenteira Foundation, with offices in Pôrto Alegre at Rua Uruguay 240, Sala 801, and in Flushing, New York, and Arlington, Virginia, was evidently organized a little over a year ago. From a folder left here by one, Rogerio Genari of Ribeirão Preto, November 24, it would appear to be planning self-help and technical training projects. We now have an inquiry from the Agency. A Sr. Luiz Alberto de Souza was in the United States at least for the month of November, and the Agency received a call from a New York organization, Commission for International Development, which had been approached by Sr. de Souza for programming help. It may be that Sr. de Souza was in the United States principally to stimulate financial and/or scholarship support, but we have no way of knowing.

Please let us know what information you have about this organization, what its objectives and seriousness of purpose are, what support it receives from all sectors, and whether it has local governmental support.

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