

~~TOP SECRET~~

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~~TOP SECRET~~AMERICAN EMBASSY,
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil,
June 7, 1954.Mr. Gerard C. Smith;
Office of the Secretary (S/AE),
Department of State,
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Smith:

We have learned from a reliable source that the Conselho Nacional de Pesquisas now has four young chemists in Germany participating in a research project on the centrifuge method of U₂₃₅ separation. This is regarded as a highly secret matter by the several Brazilians who appear to be in on the operation. One of them was overheard to explain that secrecy was required owing to the fact that the U.S. authorities would otherwise clamp down because the project violates the occupation statutes.

We will discretely obtain the names of the Brazilian scientists in question and, if possible, the base of their German operations. Meanwhile, our people in Germany may be able to provide useful information.

We have noted that Dr. Djalma Guimeraes of the Conselho is now in Germany and that Maffei's passport had been visaed for a visit to that country. I also recall that Maffei was vague when I asked whether he would visit other European countries than France. A certain Dr. Defini, in charge of the Centro de Pesquisas Fisicas (the cyclotron station) is one of the parties to this operation of which the Admiral must, of course, be fully aware.

We will promptly forward any further information. Meanwhile, your comments and guidance would be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Robert P. Terrill
Counselor of Embassy~~TOP SECRET~~TOP SECRETRPT
RPT/mbmfor review
June 8

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