

MEMORANDUM:

To: Board of Directors  
ACCION International

From: J.H. Blatchford

Subject: Brazil: Interim Progress Report

Date: May 31, 1966

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The report of March 1966 was a report on the survey trip and recommended program for this year. Since then I returned to Brazil for six weeks to help form the organization and set up the program. I left Brazil to go to Caracas and New York for one week, but will return to Brazil tomorrow. The following things have been achieved during my stay in Brazil. A further report will be made at the Board Meeting of June 27th.

Rio:

Dr. Haroldo Poland is continuing to lead the formation of the program there. Several luncheons have been held and many new Brazilian executives have agreed to assist the movement; however, as yet no formal committee has been formed. Meanwhile, Mr. Poland is proceeding with the incorporation. Lawyers have drawn the by-laws and "ACAO COMUNITARIA DO BRAZIL" should be incorporated by the time I return this week. The lawyers will serve as Board Members until more members are named. Mr. Poland and Mr. Candido Machaeco are the only two Committee Members at present.

Offices have been given the program by GasBRAS, a Brazilian gas company which is associated with the Lorentsen family, owners of a Norwegian shipping firm. The program is well received and the ideas of community action, ACCION-style, are gaining a foothold. Mr. Poland feels we will be able to get Brazilian companies to finance part of the pilot project. United States companies will participate if they get word from the head office. However, Brazilian Traction Light & Power turned down a request to be a pace setting contributor to the program.

The Council for Latin America is active in Rio and there is a present need to clarify the activities of the Council and coordinate the Council and ACAO.

Both the United States and Brazilian governments are backing the promotion of the ACAO program. The Foreign Minister is personally giving his blessing and backing, and the U.S. AID Mission Chief has reiterated willingness to give financial assistance for training.

Memorandum to  
Board of Directors  
ACCION International (continued)

Sao Paulo:

Mr. Paulo Ayres Filho continues to promote the program and has held a luncheon and general meeting to discuss the program and show the ACCION film. His organization, IPES, has decided to finance a preliminary one month study to gather greater statistics on the favela problem and bring together existing agencies in the field. This is because Sao Paulo is less informed and conscious of the existence of the favela problem than Rio. IPES will also finance the stay of ACCION International's Miss Virginia Lampe, to come to Sao Paulo after June 15th. She is presently in Caracas.

Mr. Juan Llerena, President of Moore McCormack has sparked great interest in the program, among the Brazilian private sector, i.e., especially the Associacao Comercial of Sao Paulo, the largest business group, who will consider backing the program at their next meeting.

The trip I will make now for the next two and a half weeks will be to get the organizational entity set up in Rio and start actively recruiting a Brazilian Project Director. Then the Committee can start raising funds and a tax exemption can be sought. I will spent most all of July and August there, and with the gracious help and presence in Brazil of Mr. Berent Friele, I feel we should have the organizational and administrative phases completed by the first of September.

JEB dm