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TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INFO: AMEMBASSY, BUENOS AIRES (FOR BEARD)

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FROM : AMEMBASSY, RIO DE JANEIRO

SUBJECT: Non-Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy

REF :

This reporting officer has been informed confidentially that the final decision as to the type of power reactors to be installed to supply the electrical energy needed for metropolitan and industrial users in the Central-South area of Brazil (see Emb A-1028 of March 11, 1963), and the authorization to submit bids therefor, are both being delayed because members of the National Commission for Nuclear Energy (CNEN) are being subjected to certain pressures by the military who insist, apparently, that said reactors have also the capability to produce fissionable material end products usable for military purposes.

The source of the information is Dr. Pedro Bento de Camargo, one of the top officials of the Institute of Nuclear Energy, agency of the CNEN located in São Paulo, which operates the swimming pool reactor there. Dr. Camargo made the above statement in the course of a quiet luncheon at a nearby restaurant at which he was the guest of the Scientific Attaché, with no others present.

Comment: Other Embassy officers consulted in re the above report have had no repeat no information of this nature.

Group 3 - Downgraded at 12-year intervals; not automatically declassified

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Drafted by: SA:ACSimonpietri'mt

3/24/64

Contents and Classification Approved by: John Gordon Mein, DCM

Clearances: (in draft) AirAtt:EBarbee; ArmyAtt:FPCConnelly; NavyAtt:CNWhited; MinAtt:AIRansome; POL:CCCarson

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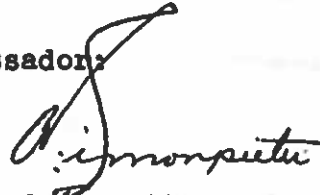
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Amembassy, Rio

FYI: In the past the Attaché has been of some assistance to Dr. Camargo, and his associates in the Institute of Engineering, a São Paulo professional association, e.g., in connection with the coming of Dr. Alvin M. Weinberg of Oak Ridge National Laboratory last November to address the Nuclear Engineering group at the Society, and also in connection with a plan for the reproduction of U.S. textbooks in engineering, at very low cost, for use by the students of the Faculty of Engineering of the University of São Paulo. Camargo and associates insist that the students use American textbooks.

Dr. Ragnar Rollefson, Director of SCI, and Dr. John K. Rouleau of SCI, both know Dr. Camargo personally. He was their host on a visit to the reactor installations last September, together with this reporting officer, and again at luncheon the same day. The textbook plan was discussed at that luncheon (AID is endeavoring to provide assistance but apparently has so far been unable to secure release of copyright). END FYI.

For the Ambassador:

André C. Simonpietri  
Scientific Attaché  
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