

103 Administration Building
Oak Ridge, Tennessee
April 30, 1956

Dr. Carlos Chagas
Instituto Biofisica
University of Brasil
Rio de Janeiro, Brasil

Dear Dr. Chagas:

As you may have heard, our State Department and the Commission have proposed to send to Brazil a team of isotope experts to participate in lectures and technical assistance in Rio as part of our bilateral agreement with Brazil. The proposed time of the visit would be around June 10 to 13. The composition of the team is not definite but would include persons specialized in medicine, physiology, agriculture, industry, physics, and research reactors. The proposal to send such a team arose from my recommendations following my visit to South America in 1954. It is thus proposed that I should be a member of the team.

This letter should be considered unofficial inasmuch as our U. S. Embassy in Rio will make all official contacts concerning the desire of your government to have such a team visit from the United States and all official arrangements. An initial overture concerning the possibility of such a visit was made some months ago to your government and you may thus have heard of it. If not, you should consider everything in this letter as unofficial until our Embassy has discussed the situation with the appropriate authorities in your government. I am writing to you because I know you personally and because you know so much about isotopes. It would thus be desirable that you assist in the arrangements, but of course this would be the choice of your government.

Our Embassy is being sent the list of team members and the possible topics on which they could speak. It is desired that those using isotopes in Brazil would also present papers in the symposium. Since there are specialists in each field on our team, I propose that I be prepared to speak only on "The Overall Importance of Isotopes," "Industrial Uses of Radioisotopes," "Production and Distribution of Radioisotopes," "Instrumentation and Health Safety in the Use of Radioisotopes," and "Applications of Radiation in the Chemical, Food, and Drug Industries."

Although a large number of topics are suggested, each speaker would actually wish to give only one or two lectures. One session could be open to a wide audience and be of a general orientation nature. Other sessions would be

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of a technical nature with each speaker appearing before only those specialists in his own field. Actually not too much time should be taken up with formal lectures. The greatest value of the team would be in the informal meetings and discussions with interested professional groups.

The itinerary is still very indefinite but it would be desirable to arrive in Rio by say Sunday, June 10. Monday would be taken up with introductions and sight-seeing. Tuesday would be a good time for general orientation lectures. Wednesday the speakers could spend with specialists in their own fields and perhaps present technical lectures. This is only a suggestion, however, and arrangements would depend upon when the groups in Brazil could hold meetings. It would be desirable for the United States team to have much free time for visits and informal discussions. We would hope that the team would stimulate interest in peaceful uses of atomic energy and also be of technical assistance in planning programs.

When the arrangements for the trip look definite, I would like you to let my other friends there know. Through official channels we will notify your government of the persons we wish to see. However, there may be many more persons now who have worked with radioisotopes. Also by June you should have your isotope training course started and the team could give them some general background. Later Dr. Cooper will provide details of techniques. I have reviewed his course outline and it is excellent indeed.

Unfortunately Mickey will not be able to join me on this trip. There is not time or space for wives to accompany team members. I hope that your wife is fine and that I will have some free time with all of those I met on my last trip. Please write to me here at the above address and mark the envelope personal. I hope the trip is arranged as planned and I look forward to seeing you.

With all very best wishes,

Sincerely,

Paul C. Aebersold
Director, Isotopes Extension
Division of Civilian Application