

The Rockefeller Foundation

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Confidential - Urgent

My dear Madame Prime Minister:

You have probably been informed of the fact that following my visit to Portugal we were able to arrange, rather quickly, a visit by Doctors Wellhausen and Laird to your country. Thanks to the good work of Ing. Bravo Lima an itinerary of activities was arranged and my staff immediately set out to meet with Ministry of Agriculture officials. Dr. Wellhausen will return to the U. S. next week with a report of the discussions and a proposal which gives details of the projects which you are anxious to start. I have had telephone conversations with Dr. Wellhausen and Ing. Bravo Lima, both of whom expressed great satisfaction with the work accomplished so far.

Now comes the more difficult part, the execution of the proposals. I have not yet studied their recommendations, but on the basis of what they describe the operation is based on strengthening the commodity research and extension programs and actually initiating several defined rural area development projects.

I see now several matters which are critical to the success of the programs:

1. Assurance of official commitment and continuity. I am, of course, most hopeful that you as Prime Minister will be successful in the elections. That would solve this problem. In any case, I have given this some thought and would like to outline briefly a suggestion along this line. Perhaps one way to assure continuity of the program would be to establish a simple but fully legal agreement between The Rockefeller Foundation and the Portuguese Government. Thus, like the nurses program, (which you mentioned to me - and by the way, I read all of our past files on this project) we would then have a basis of continuous collaboration and commitment (at least to the extent that the programs are wanted).

It would be desirable to establish such an agreement as soon as possible. I shall be pleased to send an example of such an agreement, if you wish.

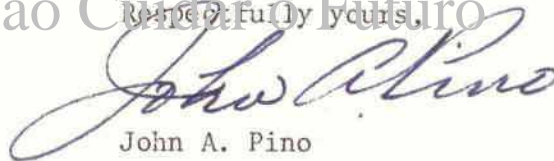
2. The next most important item concerns leadership and organization of the programs. After we have seen the proposal, it would be well to decide by whom and how it will be carried out.
3. Financing is, of course, a must. I would urge that existing personnel and institutions be used to the extent possible. Thus new costs should be minimum. For this reason point 2 above is critical. It will mean some shuffling of staff and reorientation of programs. However, it is better to restructure programs to meet new needs than create more bureaucracy. Even with this, however, it may be necessary to seek some financing to give the program a push at the beginning. The Foundation can take care of financing its consultants and we can sponsor people for training. But local costs will have to be borne from local or other sources. Your ideas here would be helpful.

We will be prepared to take the next step as soon as we hear from your people in the Ministry. Time of course is of the essence, especially if the program is to get under way before the next planting season.

I am sorry I missed you during your recent visit to the U.S. Word reached me that you talked briefly with Secretary Vance. He was pleased with your reference to the Rockefeller Foundation. And so was I.

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

Very truly yours,



John A. Pino

Her Excellency
Madame Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo
Office of the Prime Minister
Lisbon, Portugal

JAP:lzm

cc: Ing. Joaquim Lourenzo, Minister
of Agriculture