

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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POL-29
HORTH
FILE COPY

TO : Files

DATE: October 7, 1970

FROM : CONS - Malcolm P. Hallam *MPH*

SUBJECT: Detention of American Citizen Robert H. Horth

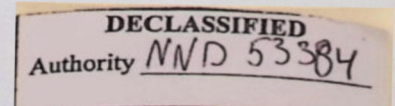
Around 8:00 p. m. on Tuesday, September 8, 1970, I received a telephone call at my home from Dr. Alcides Cintra Bueno, DEOPS delegado. He said an American citizen, whom he described as a "terrorist," had been detained and asked that I come to DEOPS headquarters at once.

Dr. Bueno seemed reluctant to divulge any more information by telephone, and so I immediately drove to his office. When I got there, he showed me a communication DEOPS had received from the federal police, enclosing a photocopy of a document headed (in English) "MEMBERS OF WEATHERMAN SECTION OF THE STUDENTS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION." Below and on a second page were the photographs of perhaps 30 or 40 persons, with a name appearing below each photograph. Alcides pointed out one photograph with the name "Robert Henry Roth," and said that this person had been detained at Viracopos when he arrived by air the previous Sunday morning, September 6.

I asked to see the American's passport, and Alcides sent an aide for it. The latter returned some minutes later and said that the passport was not available--if I understood him correctly, he said that the passport, other documents, and effects of the detained person were being inventoried. After some discussion with Alcides, it was agreed that he would telephone me at the Consulate General the next morning when he had Roth's passport and other papers in his possession.

Alcides called about 9:30 a. m. the next day to say that he had Roth's passport, and asked me to come on down. I did, and arrived a few minutes after Jack Halliwell, who had also been called by Alcides, arrived. I came into Alcides' office just as it was discovered that the

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detained person's name as it appeared in his passport was not "Robert Henry Roth" but "Robert Henry Horth." Alcides sent for Horth, and he was brought to the office in a few minutes. Alcides explained the mistake, apologized profusely, and gave Horth a letter explaining what had happened so that Horth could use it if he should be detained in the future as a result of the similarity in names.

Horth seemed relaxed and in good humor. In answer to my question, he said he had been treated well. I asked him if he had requested permission to call the American Consul, and he said he had been refused permission to use the telephone (he had intended to call a friend) but that he had not specifically requested permission to call the American Consul. In my presence Horth's possessions were returned to him and he was allowed to leave.

It was only after the incident that I learned that Mr. Horth has resided in São Paulo for more than two years, and that he is associated with the well-known firm, Sementes Agroceres S. A., which is developing hybrid corn in Brazil. The company, I understand, is owned or somehow connected with IBEC, and therefore with Rockefeller interests.

Note: In view of Cintra Bueno's obviously sincere cooperation with the Consulate General in this case and the fact that Horth, by his own admission, never asked that U. S. officials be notified or that he be permitted to contact them, the Consulate General did not consider indicated a protest in this case, as has been done in earlier cases.

CONS:MPHallam:is 10-7-70

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