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Pentagon Research in Brazil Is Blocked by U.S. Envoy

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U.S. Ambassador to Brazil Lincoln Gordon's critical analysis of a proposed Army research study planned for Brazil has led to suspension of the project, State and Defense Department spokesmen confirmed yesterday.

The Department of the Army had entered into a contract with a Massachusetts research organization—Associates for International Research, Inc., of Cambridge—for a study into ways of influencing social and political change and the subversive techniques which permit Communists to take advantage of such situations in developing countries.

As part of the "planning and coordination stage" of the contract, the Army reportedly sought State Department clearance for research in Brazil.

With the lesson of Project Camelot behind them, State Department officials cabled Ambassador Gordon in Rio, asking his reaction to the Army research proposal.

Caused Flareup in Chile

Two months ago, failure of Army-sponsored researchers to obtain clearance from U.S. Ambassador to Chile Ralph Dungan before undertaking Camelot inquiries in Chile compounded the impact of a public flareup in that country after the study was publicized in a Chilean newspaper.

Subsequent publication in The

Star of the background of Camelot and the Chilean incident was followed by hasty cancellation of the multimillion-dollar project "in its present form" by the Defense Department.

A Defense spokesman said at the time that difficulties inherent in conducting that type of study in a foreign country—as exemplified by the Chilean episode—had influenced the decision to cancel the entire program.

Other sources indicated the impetus to cancel Camelot came from the White House.

Ambassador Gordon's objections last week to the Brazilian study, however, led to yesterday's decision to suspend it. A Pentagon spokesman emphasized that such a study would not be undertaken without first obtaining approval from the host government.

Seek Coordination

Since disclosure of the Camelot controversy, talks have been going on within the Defense and State Departments looking for some means to coordinate foreign research projects.

Discussions between the two agencies also have been underway—though neither will confirm them publicly.

A certain amount of inter-governmental rivalry has been brought to the surface by the Camelot situation.

Some State Department officials are sharply critical of the type of behavioral studies

being undertaken by Defense—particularly in terms of the damage they can do to relations between the United States and the host country.

Though stress is placed on the fact that no research is undertaken without prior clearance—few countries could be caught publicly allowing U.S. researchers, supported by the Defense Department, to study different elements within their social structure as potential insurgents.

At the recent meeting in Lima, Peru, of this country's ambassadors to Latin America, some discussions were held on problems and situations that are harmful to U.S. relations in that area of the world, and Camelot was one mentioned.

Discuss Guidelines

A State Department official said yesterday discussions leading to some guidelines for foreign policy research are underway, and some decisions are expected to be reached before Secretary of State Dean Rusk appears before a House Foreign Affairs subcommittee to discuss Camelot and other behavioral science research projects.

Rusk had been scheduled to appear before the subcommittee Thursday, but that session was postponed because of the President's review of the Viet Nam crisis. The meeting has been reset tentatively for Tuesday, but it may be cancelled again because of the situation in Viet Nam.