

Quebec, June 19, 1946

Prof. Gleb Wataghin
Departamento de Física
Av. Brigadier Luiz Antonio 784
São Paulo, Brazil.

Dear Wataghin,

Notwithstanding your telegram that the money has already been sent via the Bankers Trust of New York, I had to cable you to recall the money. Really the last-minute attempt suggested in my cablegram of the 14th was already too late, and I shouldn't have suggested it. By this time you will have received my letter of June 14th and you may get an idea of the difficulties and delays resulting from the order in which the various operations must be performed. Even assuming the most favorable chances, it would still take two weeks before I could leave. This would bring my depart around July 4, and my arrival in Brazil around July 9. Since as I explained to you I would have to leave about the 15th of August, this would leave little more than a month. I do not think that the considerable cost of the trip would be justified by such a short sojourn. Moreover, there is no certainty that a place in the airplane could be had, so that all this waiting might well be in vain. You must realize that waiting for this trip prevents me from doing anything else and that I would risk spending most of my vacation here in Quebec for nothing.

It is difficult for you to imagine the difficulty of organizing this trip from Quebec. Here there is no Consulate of Brazil and no representative of the airlines, so that for any information one has to go to Montreal, a 4-hour trip by train, each way. I have made already two of these trips to Montreal and should I continue the attempt at least a couple more would be necessary.

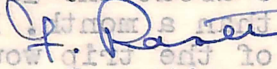
I regret that this attempt failed. I hope it may renewed with better success next year. One thing at least has been learned, i. e. that such a trip cannot be organized at the last minute and that a decision must be taken earlier. For example, had I known of your decision to invite me a couple of weeks earlier, I would have asked you to send the Consulate of Brazil in Montreal an official letter from the University, guaranteeing my return trip from Brazil to Montreal. This letter would have facilitated my organization of the trip immeasurably, because then I could

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have gotten the Brazilian visa before buying the passage. This would have made things incomparably easier, because then I could have gone to New York and organized the trip from there. As things were I could not do this because I could not get the visa before going to New York. I have been greatly handicapped by not having any official letter from the University of Sao Paulo to show the Brazilian Consulate; for this reason they eyed me somewhat suspiciously and asked for evidence that I had paid my return trip. You may ask why I did not ask for such a letter. The reason is that I believed I would leave before there was time for an exchange of letters; and since at that time the original plan (implying the operations to be performed in the order described in my letter of the 14th) promised to lead to success more quickly, I did not introduce what I considered a useless complication.

I hope now the University of S. Paulo will have no difficulty in recovering the money. I shall not withdraw it from the Bankers Trust, so I believe all that is needed is for Mr. Pompeia to write the Trust to send the money back.

Yours very sincerely


F. Rasetti

P. S. Of course, it would have been even better if the Consulate of Brazil in Montreal had been advised about my invitation from the University of S. Paulo through the official channels.

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so that for any information one has to go to Montreal, no Consulate of Brazil and no representative of the airlines, only of organizing this trip from Quebec, here there is no difficulty for you to invite me to visit you in P. S. Of course, it would have been even better if the Consulate of Brazil in Montreal had been advised about my invitation from the University of S. Paulo through the official channels.