



Sociedade Brasileira para o Progresso da Ciência

February, 20th, 2017  
SBPC-034/Dir

To  
Mr. Vaughn Turekian  
U.S Department of State  
Science and Technology Advisor to the Secretary of State

Subject: SBPC manifest against restrictions on the free mobility of scientists

Dear Vaughn,

The Brazilian Society for the Advancement of Science (SBPC), representing more than 130 national scientific societies, is very much concerned with the restrictions imposed by the USA government on the free mobility of foreign scientists and professors. Unfortunately, these measurements are already affecting Brazilian citizens who are facing difficulties to enter the USA bearing valid passports and visas, as well as to get their visas and we are sure that the scientific community as a whole will be soon affected.

We strongly protest against any restraint on the free movement of scientists once science, as well known, is an universal endeavor, that from its dawn after the Middle Ages, always relied on the interchange of ideas, projects and achievements, through the interchange and exchange of scientists, students and their respective findings. It is not much to remember that a great part of the USA scientific potential, Manhattan Project for instance, was achieved with the support of foreign fellows from various countries.

Countless Brazilian scientists, as from other parts of the world, have joint programs and projects with American scientists from numerous scientific organizations and universities. Any interruption on these activities can be very harmful for the development of science. We consider these restrictions on mobility, based on racist or nationalist prejudices, both inconceivable and unacceptable.

Thus, the SBPC strongly supports all science organizations, which are publically standing against such restrictions imposed by the USA government, as well as against any nation or individual that perpetrates such restrictions.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Helena B. Nader  
President

Brazilian Society for the Advancement of Science  
Sociedade Brasileira para o Progresso da Ciência (SBPC)