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Date: Fri, 3 Jan 1997 16:01:02 -.0400

From: Priscilla A. Doel <padoel@colby.edu>

To- tolman@unm.edu

Subject: Portuguese SATII - please forward to members list

Dear Colleagues-

As many of you may know, the Embassy of Portugal in Washington, D.C., has been spearheading a proposal to the College Board (a national nonprofit association) to include Portuguese as one of the languages offered for testing to students applying for entry to college. At the moment, no SAT 11 test exists in Portuguese, nor has there been one, although tests are available in Chinese, French, German, Modern Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Spanish. By November of 1997, College Board will add Korean to its list of languages, this project being made possible through funding from Samsung Corporation.

Many reasons have been expressed in support of developing the appropriate tests for Portuguese. For example over 200 million people in the world speak Portuguese today, and this number will continue to expand. Global markets will continue to open up and expand in these areas where Portuguese is spoken, as Portugal continues to assume a leadership role in the European Economic Community, and Brazil continues to be an economic leader in Latin America. Moreover, the Portuguese-American community in the United States now occupies leadership roles in many spheres of our social, political, economic, and intellectual life, and their number will continue to grow through their children. College and university enrollments in Spanish and Portuguese have increased noticeably between 1990-1995 while those in Russian, French and German have

declined. Also, many Latin American Studies Programs include both Spanish and Portuguese as languages, while some are still limited to Hispanic American Programs, without Portuguese.

At the moment, although College Board seems not to have reached any decision on this proposal, the organization seems reluctant to commit to the proposal put forward by Ambassador Andresen Guimarães and his many strong supporters. Teresa Greenwald, Social Counsellor at the Embassy of Portugal in Washington, continues to submit all new data regarding the number of students enrolled in Portuguese courses nationwide.

In seeking to make this proposal a reality, Ambassador Fernando Andresen Guimarães has worked closely with the Ambassadors of Brazil and Cape Verde as well as Dr. Rui Machete, head of the Luso-American Development Foundation in Lisbon and the directors of the Portuguese-American Leadership Council of the United States in Washington. Important support for this proposal has also been expressed to College Board from members of Congress, researchers, scholars, teachers, volunteer groups, the Portuguese-American community.

With this letter, I ask you please to voice your support for the proposal being advanced by the Embassy of Portugal by writing a simple note indicating your support for including Portuguese in the group of SAT 11 language tests; or, if you have the time and more information, to write a more detailed letter to

*Dr. Donald M. Stewart, President
The College Board
45 Columbus Avenue
New York, New York 10023-6992.*

*Sincerely,
Priscilla A. Doel*