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Beppo Occhialini in Brazil between Physics and Politics

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The aim of this work is to offer an analysis of the documents kept in Italian and Brazilian archives on Occhialini's activity in Brazil in the late 1930's. Occhialini went to São Paulo to help Gleb Wataghin in creating a new Physics team. Due to Brazil's geomagnetic location and the scarcity of funds, they chose cosmic ray physics as the main subject of research. We shall analyse Occhialini's main activities of research and his contribution to the international conference on cosmic rays held in Rio de Janeiro. As for the political context of the time, we shall show Occhialini's activity in helping people living under European regimes, in particular the role he played in the Houtermans affair.

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