



Department of State OF STATE TELEGRAM

REVIEWED BY *M. J. Kelly* DATE *6/13/86*

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RDSP (or REVISED) DATE	REASON(S)
TS AUTH.	
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKING	
D.C. SECRET RELEASE	
RELEASE	
PA OF FOI EXEMPTIONS	

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07
 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05
 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 IO-11 /093 W
 ----- 052547

R 251840Z MAR 76
 FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4987
 INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
 AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
 AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
 AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
 AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
 USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
 TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PGOV, AR
 SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY GOA/LABOR RELATIONS
 REF: BUENOS AIRES 1887 NOTAL

1. SUMMARY. MILITARY JUNTA ACTIONS VIS-A-VIS LABOR MOVEMENT THUS FAR INDICATE INTENTION TO DEAL RATIONALLY AND HARMONIOUSLY WITH LABOR. TO DATE, ACTIONS PARALLEL SCENARIO SPELLED OUT IN REFTEL. END SUMMARY.

2. ALTHOUGH THE MILITARY JUNTA HAS SUSPENDED UNION ACTIVITIES, THERE HAS BEEN PRACTICALLY NO REPRESSIVE ACTION AGAINST ORGANIZED LABOR. AS ANTICIPATED, CGT WAS OFFICIALLY INTERVENED. METAL WORKERS (UOM) AND THREE OR FOUR OTHER UNIONS HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN TAKEN OVER BY MILITARY. VERY LIMITED NUMBER OF NATIONAL LABOR LEADERS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED. NOTE: LABOR CONTACTS REPORTED THEY ALSO HAD RECEIVED CONFLICTING REPORTS THAT LORENZO MIGUEL
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WAS UNDER ARREST OR HAD ESCAPED CAPTURE, BUT THEY WERE UNABLE TO CONFIRM EITHER VERSION. CGT SUBSEC GEN WIMER HAS NOT, REPEAT NOT, BEEN ARRESTED.

3. LABATT HAS CONTACTED AND VISITED SEVERAL UNIONS AND ALL ARE FUNCTIONING ALMOST NORMALLY. CONTACT WAS MADE WITH UNIONS OF THREE OF THE CGT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENTLY IN MONTEVIDEO. ALL ARE OPEN AND FUNCTIONING AND EXPECT THEIR SECRETARIES GENERAL TO RETURN FROM MONTEVIDEO AT ANY TIME. LEADERS CONTACTED STATED THEY EXPECT MILITARY TO VISIT UNIONS SHORTLY TO AUDIT THE UNION ACCOUNTS, ALL OF WHICH ARE NOW FROZEN. CGT INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ADVISED LABATT THAT ALTHOUGH MILITARY HAS ASSUMED CONTROL OF CGT, IT REMAINS OPEN AND SECRETARIAL AND CUSTODIAL STAFF ARE WORKING AS USUAL. BOARD MEMBERS AND OTHER OFFICIALS HAVE NOT BEEN MOLESTED, BUT NEITHER HAVE THEY REPORTED TO THE CGT. GENERAL LABOR CONSENSUS THUS FAR HAS BEEN THAT MOST UNIONS WILL PROBABLY BE PERMITTED TO CONTINUE FUNCTIONING WITHOUT UNDUE MILITARY INTERFERENCE, EXCEPT THAT CORRUPT LEADERS WILL BE REPLACED AND STRIKES AND WORK STOPPAGES WILL BE DEALT WITH SEVERELY.

4. ALTHOUGH LABOR WAS NOT EXPECTED TO TAKE TO THE STREETS TO DEFEND THE PERONIST GOVERNMENT, ITS FAILURE TO CALL A LAST MINUTE NATIONWIDE STRIKE IN PROTEST, EVEN IF ONLY FOR APPEARANCES SAKE, IS SOMEWHAT SURPRISING. JUST HOURS BEFORE THE COUP OCCURRED, THE CGT ISSUED A PROCLAMATION LIMITING ITSELF TO LITTLE MORE THAN EXPRESSING A DESIRE FOR PEACE AND HARMONY BETWEEN THE VARIOUS SECTORS. AT THE FINAL HOUR THE GOVERNMENT WAS SO ALIENATED FROM ITS HERETOFORE MAJOR SUPPORTERS THAT PERONIST LABOR ITSELF LOOKED WITH FAVOR ON A MILITARY TAKEOVER. THE ONLY ADVERSE REACTION REPORTED THUS FAR WAS IN CORDOBA WHERE WORKERS IN THE AUTOMOTIVE AND METAL INDUSTRIES WALKED OFF THEIR JOBS. THAT WAS FORESEEN, AND REPORTEDLY SOME ARRESTS HAVE BEEN MADE. CONSIDERING THAT CORDOBA LABOR IS BASICALLY NON PERONIST, THE WALKOUTS WERE AGAINST THE MILITARY RATHER THAN IN SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT PERON.

5. FUTURE GOA/LABOR RELATIONS DEPEND ALMOST ENTIRELY ON THE MILITARY HANDLING OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT. LABOR ITSELF IS UNLIKELY TO CREATE MAJOR DIFFICULTIES UNLESS FORCED TO DO SO BY EXCESSIVE REPRESSIVE ACTION. GIVEN THE MILITARY ATTITUDE THUS FAR,

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SECRET

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THERE ARE GROUNDS FOR OPTINISM THAT AN ACCEPTABLE RELATIONSHIP
CAN BE REACHED.
WOODWARD

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