

UNCLASSIFIED

10/14/77

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*File VANCE VISIT*

**BN 066**

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DE RUENC #7918 2882343  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
P 192331Z OCT 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO ANEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY 8451

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[REDACTED] STATE 247918

.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PGOV, PARM, SHUM, AR, US

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR AJA ESPIL

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S20000044)  
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS  
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director  
(X) Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny  
Exemption(s):

Date  
Declassify on  
Reason  
( ) In Part (X) In Full  
( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to

1. AMBASSADOR AJA ESPIL (ACCOMPANIED BY MINISTER PRAT GUY, MINISTER BOCHERT AND COUNSELOR BEAUGE) GAVE A LUNCH OCTOBER 13 FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY MCNEIL DURING WHICH THEY DWELT IN GOOD MEASURE ON THE SECRETARY'S TRIP.

2. THE AMBASSADOR STRESSED THE GREAT PLEASURE OF THE ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES AT THE SECRETARY'S VISIT. FOR THE ARGENTINES, THE SUBSTANCE OF THE VISIT WOULD BE MOST IMPORTANT. THE ARGENTINES, OF COURSE, UNDERSTOOD THAT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR THE PRESIDENT TO GO TO ARGENTINA. BUT IT WOULD BE CRITICAL TO HAVE THE SUBSTANTIVE THEME OF THE SECRETARY'S CONVERSATIONS PARALLEL THE CONVERSATIONS WITH THE BRAZILIANS SO THERE COULD BE NO OPPORTUNITY FOR ARGENTINE JINGOISTS TO CLAIM THE U.S. HAD SINGLED OUT BRAZIL FOR SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS AND HAD RELEGATED ARGENTINA TO THE REALM OF THE PERFUNCTORY.

3. MCNEIL ASSURED THEM THAT WE RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF ARGENTINA AND NOTED THE IMPORTANT ROLE THAT ARGENTINA PLAYED IN NORTH-SOUTH FORUMS AND ON OTHER GLOBAL ISSUES. SECRETARY NATURALLY INTENDED TO HAVE SERIOUS TALKS ON A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES WITH BOTH THE ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER AND PRESIDENT VIDELA.

4. THE SUBJECT TURNED TO HUMAN RIGHTS. MCNEIL POINTED OUT THAT THE VERY FACT OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT DEMONSTRATED OUR BELIEF THAT VIDELA WAS ATTEMPTING TO MOVE THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION TOWARD MORE NORMAL PRACTICES. IF THAT WERE NOT SO, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE A VISIT. AJA ESPIL THEN HINTED, NONE TOO SUBTLY, THAT THERE MIGHT BE A TRADEOFF BETWEEN HUMAN RIGHTS AND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION. MCNEIL NOTED THE PERMANENT CHARACTER OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY. WE ALSO GAVE PRIORITY TO NON-PROLIFERATION, BUT THEY SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS TRADEOFFS. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT ARGENTINA WOULD COME TO SEE THAT THE U.S. APPROACH TO NON-PROLIFERATION WAS ONE THAT WAS ALSO IN ARGENTINA'S INTEREST. HE CITED OUR EFFORTS IN SALT AND OTHER FIELDS AS EVIDENCE THAT WE WERE INTERESTED IN LOWERING ARMS STOCKS AS WELL AS PREVENTING THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS TO NEW STATES.

5. AJA ESPIL THEN SAID THAT IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT FOR THE SECRETARY TO TALK ABOUT THE BROAD ISSUES OF DISARMAMENT SINCE THERE IS A MISCONCEPTION IN ARGENTINA ABOUT OUR GENERAL APPROACH AND ONE THAT THE SECRETARY'S VISIT WOULD DO MUCH TO DISPEL. AT THE SUBSTANTIVE LEVEL, IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE SECRETARY'S VISIT BE USED AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET ACROSS THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S APPROACH TO FOREIGN POLICY IN GENERAL, WHICH WAS ONLY IMPERFECTLY UNDERSTOOD IN IMPORTANT CIRCLES.

6. ON THE DETAILS OF THE VISIT, AJA ESPIL ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT WE CONSIDER THE IDEA OF HAVING THE SECRETARY PRESIDE OVER AN OPENING CEREMONY FOR THE NEW EMBASSY. HE ALSO RECOMMENDED THE SECRETARY STAY AT THE EMBASSY RESIDENCE THOUGH THE SHERATON WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. WE OF COURSE WANT YOUR VIEWS ON SUCH MATTERS. VANCE

of course.

*Has this been  
ensured?*

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 DHA-02 PRS-01 CIAE-00  
INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DODE-00  
H-01 NEA-10 /067 W

-----107994 192213Z /70

R 191930Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1841

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E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, US, AR  
SUBJECT: TODMAN MEETING WITH FON MINISTER MONTES

REF: BUENOS AIRES 6127

1. ASST SECRETARY TODMAN ACCOMPANIED BY CHARGE CALLED ON FONMIN VICE ADMIRAL OSCAR ANTONIO MONTES AT 1800 JULY 15. MONTES OPENED THE DISCUSSION BY OBSERVING WITH SOME EMOTION THAT HE APPRECIATED TODMAN'S INTEREST IN THE HEALTH OF FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER GUZZETTI WHO IS RECOVERING FROM A TERRORIST ATTACK IN BETHESDA NAVAL HOSPITAL. HE PROCEEDED TO GIVE STRESS TO THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE GOA ATTACHES TO SATISFACTORY RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES -- HE SAID QUOTE WE ARE PREPARED TO MAKE A MAJOR EFFORT AND GIVE MAXIMUM EMPHASIS SINCE WE BOTH HAVE MUCH TO GAIN FROM GOOD RELATIONS. END QUOTE HE OFFERED HIS PERSONAL ATTENTION TO SOLVE PROBLEMS SHOULD THIS BE NECESSARY, AND SAID HE WOULD EVEN BE HAPPY TO DEAL BY TELEPHONE. AMB TODMAN RESPONDED THAT HE SHARED THE FONMINISTER'S DESIRE TO RESOLVE ANY OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS.

2. RESPONDING TO A QUESTION, AMB TODMAN SAID HE HAD

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U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/TPS  
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Declassify: ( ) In Part  In Full  
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Date \_\_\_\_\_ Declassify on \_\_\_\_\_ Reason \_\_\_\_\_

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SEEN ALL THE OFFICIALS HE HAD HOPED TO SEE AND HAD HAD A PRODUCTIVE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT VIDELA, DURING WHICH HE HAD EXPRESSED THE USG INTEREST IN THE RATIFICATION BY THE GOA OF THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO, PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE OF THE EFFECT OF THAT ACTION ON OTHER COUNTRIES. SINCE THE GOA HAD ACCEPTED SAFEGUARDS, THERE WOULD BE NO ADDITIONAL DEGREE OF COMMITMENT TO FOREIGN REGULATION. MONTES RESPONDED THAT HE HAD TALKED OF THIS MATTER WITH SECRETARY VANCE AND STATED WITH SOME EMPHASIS THAT QUOTE WE ARE GOING TO HAVE A RESOLUTION OF THIS MATTER WHICH WILL BE SATISFACTORY TO BOTH COUNTRIES. END QUOTE.

3. AMB TODMAN STATED THAT HE HAD ALSO ASKED PRESIDENT VIDELA IF HE WOULD CONSIDER THE SUITABILITY OF ARGENTINA'S SIGNING THE INTERAMERICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, OBSERVING THAT IT ADVOCATED THE SAME PRINCIPLES AS EXISTED IN THE ARGENTINE CONSTITUTION AND WHICH HAD BEEN ENDORSED AND ACCEPTED ELSEWHERE BY THE GOA. HE NOTED THAT THIS WOULD HAVE A FAVORABLE EFFECT ON HEMISPHERIC OPINION, AS WAS THE CASE WITH THE SIGNATURE BY PERU. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ALLARA STATED INTRA-GOVERNMENTAL CONSULTATIONS ON THIS POINT WERE CURRENTLY GOING ON WITHIN THE GOA. MONTES STATED THAT HE WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO INFORM SECRETARY VANCE AT THE UNGA ABOUT THE ACTIONS THE GOA WOULD TAKE ON THE IACHR AND NFZ MATTERS.

4. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ALLARA STATED THAT THE GOA NEEDED USG TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE IN THE AREA OF NUCLEAR POWER. AMB TODMAN STATED HE WOULD RAISE THIS ISSUE IN WASHINGTON AND UNDERTAKE TO ARRANGE APPROPRIATE MEETINGS BETWEEN US AND ARGENTINE SCIENTISTS

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OR OFFICIALS.

5. AMB TODMAN REITERATED THE DEEP USG COMMITMENT TO THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE CENTRAL PLACE IT OCCUPIES IN OUR FOREIGN POLICY. HE OBSERVED THAT CERTAIN CASES OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES HAD GENERATED PARTICULARLY DEEP FOREIGN CONCERN, WHICH WAS OFTEN WIDELY SHARED, NOT ONLY IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH, BUT IN THE CONGRESS.

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ONE SUCH CASE WHICH HE WISHED TO BRING TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S ATTENTION WAS THAT OF DR. MAURICIO LOPEZ AND HE SOUGHT THE FOREIGN OFFICE'S BEST EFFORTS TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON DR. LOPEZ' CURRENT WHEREABOUTS. AMB TODMAN SAID THAT DR. LOPEZ' CASE WAS TYPICAL OF MANY WHICH WERE GENERATING MUCH CONCERN ABROAD. HE WOULD BE SENDING A LIST OF THESE CASES TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER IN THE HOPE THAT THE LATTER'S PERSONAL INTEREST MIGHT ELICIT NEW OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THEM. AMB TODMAN NOTED THAT HE HAD MET WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES WHO STATED THAT THEY WERE SATISFIED WITH THE HANDLING OF THEIR CASE AND WERE EXPECTING A FAVORABLE DECISION OF THE SUPREME COURT ON THE APPEAL CURRENTLY BEFORE IT. HE NOTED THAT IN NO CASE HAS THERE EVER BEEN ANY SUGGESTION THAT MEMBERS OF THIS CHURCH WERE ENGAGED IN SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES. THE FOREIGN MINISTER READILY AGREED THAT THIS WAS THE CASE, THOUGH HE COMMENTED WRYLY THAT SOME OF THE RELIGIOUS SCRUPLES EXPRESSED HAD BEEN STRENGTHENED BY THE PROSPECT OF IMMINENT MILITARY SERVICE.

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ACTION ARA-14

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INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DODE-00  
H-01 NEA-10 /067 W

-----108082 192212Z /70

R 191930Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1842

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6. MR. TODMAN MADE REFERENCE TO THE GOVERNMENT'S DECREE BANNING THE ANTI-SEMITIC PUBLICATION CABILDO, COMMENTING THAT HE WAS IMPRESSED BY WHAT MIN MARTINEZ DE HOZ HAD TOLD HIM OF THE SPECIFIC REJECTION IN THE DECREE OF RACISM AS A FUNDAMENTAL GOVERNMENT POLICY. THE FOREIGN MINISTER STATED WITH CONSIDERABLE VIGOR THAT HE HAD MADE A SPECIFIC PUBLIC DECLARATION ON THIS SUBJECT

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PRIOR TO THE CABILDO DECREE BECAUSE THE ASSERTION OF RACISM WAS ESPECIALLY OBJECTIONABLE TO HIM.

7. AMB TODMAN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE SATISFACTORY WAY IN WHICH OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS OF INVESTMENT, AVIATION AND MARITIME REGULATIONS HAVE BEEN RESOLVED.

8. FOREIGN MINISTER STATED THE AMBASSADORS OF SEVERAL UNSPECIFIED ARAB COUNTRIES HAD SUGGESTED THAT ARGENTINA MIGHT BE A MEDIATOR IN THE MID-EAST DISPUTE IN COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES, AND HE WAS PREPARED TO DO THIS IF ARGENTINA COULD BE HELPFUL. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION HE SAID THAT THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR HAD NOT YET RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF MEDIATION WITH HIM. AMB TODMAN SAID HE WOULD CABLE SECRETARY VANCE TO INFORM HIM OF THIS DEVELOPMENT.

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9. THE FONMIN WAS ASKED HOW THE GOA VIEWED THE PROBLEM OF INTERNATIONAL TENSION IN THE ANDES AND THE POSSIBILITIES FOR CONFLICT. MONTES STATED THAT THE GOA SAW NO IMMINENT PROBLEM. WHILE THERE WAS ALWAYS A LATENT PROBLEM. HIS GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED THAT IT WOULD HAVE TO BECOME CONSIDERABLY MORE AGGRAVATED BEFORE ACTUAL CONFLICT WAS LIKELY.

10. SUB SECRETARY ALLARA OBSERVED THAT THE USG HAD NOT YET APPROVED THE FY 77 FMS CREDIT AGREEMENT. HE SAID WITH EMPHASIS THAT THE GOA CONSIDERED THIS AN IMPORTANT ISSUE AND THAT IF IT WERE IMPOSSIBLE TO PROCEED WITH THIS CREDIT, THERE WOULD BE STRONG REACTIONS WITHIN SOME SECTORS OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE OUTCOME OF WHICH HE COULD NOT FORESEE. AMB TODMAN RESPONDED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORTS HAD BEEN DEVOTED TO GETTING THE BEST POSSIBLE SECURITY ASSISTANCE BILL FOR FY 78 THROUGH THE CONGRESS AND THAT, CONSEQUENTLY, THE QUESTION OF HANDLING THIS CREDIT HAD BEEN DEFERRED. HE UNDERTOOK TO RAISE THE ISSUE UPON HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON.

11. THE FONMIN CLOSED THE MEETING WITH A REITERATION

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OF THE IMPORTANCE HE PLACED ON GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE  
UNITED STATES AND HIS PARTICULAR SATISFACTION WITH  
THE SUCCESS OF AMB TODMAN'S VISIT.  
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