

# DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
MESSAGE CENTER

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL  
Authority: EO 13526  
DIA FOIA & Declassification Services Offices  
Date: Oct 18, 2018

VZCZEMAY098YYC142 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ZYUW  
MULT  
ACTION

61526

DIA:  
DISTR

IADB(01) J3(14) J5(02) J3:NMCC SECDEF(07) SECDEF:  
ASD:ISA(10) ASD:PA&E(01) :DIA(20) NMIC  
CMC CC WASHINGTON DC  
CSAF WASHINGTON DC  
CNO WASHINGTON DC  
CSA WASHINGTON DC  
C I A  
NSA WASH DC  
FILE  
(055)

1021103 AR-US  
104200  
105211 AL  
302210 AR

~~NOFORN~~

TRANSIT/0381835/0381925/000150TOR0381916  
DE RUESBAA #0036 0381835

ZNY ~~CCCCC~~

P 071815Z FEB 79

FM USDAO/BUENOS AIRES

TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASH DC//DB-3E//

INFO RULPALJ/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ//SCJ2-AD//

RUEHC/DEPARTMENT OF STATE WASH DC

BT

(b)(3):10 USC 424

~~CONFIDENTIAL/NOFORN~~

SUBJ: THIS IS IR (b)(3):10 USC 424

1. (U) COUNTRY: ARGENTINA (AR)

2. (U) REPORT NUMBER: (b)(3):10 USC 424

3. (U) TITLE: (U) HUMAN RIGHTS-GOA EFFORTS TO DEAL RESPON-  
SIBLY WITH JEHOVA'S WITNESSES

4. (U) PROJECT NUMBER: N/A

5. (U) DATE OF INFORMATION: 790202

6. (U) DATE OF REPORT: 790205

7. (U) DATE AND PLACE OF ACQUISITION: 790202, BUENOS AIRES

8. (U) REFERENCE:

9. (U) ASSESSMENT: (b)(3):10 USC 424

10. (U) ORIGINATOR:

11. (U) REQUEST EVALUATION: OMIT

12. (U) PREPARING OFFICER:

13. (U) APPROVING AUTHORITY: (b)(3):10 USC 424

14. (U) SOURCE:

PAGE 1

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

00110111

(b)(3):10 USC 424

203

Rec'd RDS-3B/ 08 FEB 79

55

# DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
MESSAGE CENTER

DECLASSIFIED IN PART  
Authority: EO 13526  
DIA FOIA & Declassification Services Offices  
Date: Oct 18, 2018

PAGE 2

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

61526

15. (U) SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: ~~DIRE-NO NOFORN TO AVOID EM-~~  
~~BARRASSMENT TO HOST GOVERNMENT~~

16. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ THIS IR FORWARDS INFORMATION CONCERNING GOA EFFORTS TO RESPOND TO USG INITIATIVES ON BEHALF OF JEHOVA'S WITNESSES.

22. DETAILS: ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ [Sec. 3.3(b) (1)]

SOURCE DISCUSSED RECENT U.S. AMBASSADOR CASTRO'S VISIT WITH ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER PASTOR, IN WHICH THE FORMER EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR JEHOVA'S WITNESSES IN ARGENTINA. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, AMBASSADOR CASTRO'S OVERTURE ON BEHALF OF THE LITTLE KNOWN RELIGIOUS SECT, ALONG WITH OTHER GROUPS' INITIATIVES, HAS HAD AN EFFECT ON THE GOA.

2. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ SOURCE CITED AN INCREASING NUMBER OF LOW-RANKING NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND RECRUITS CLAIMING EXEMPTION FROM MILITARY SERVICE, ACCENTUATING DIFFICULTIES OF THE GOVERNMENT IN DEALING WITH THE JEHOVA'S WITNESSES. FOUR ARGAF NCO'S ARE NOW UNDER ARREST IN PARANA, AND ARE AWAITING TRIALS; IF FOUND GUILTY, THEY COULD FACE SENTENCES OF FOUR YEARS.

3. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ ACCORDING TO SOURCE, GOA IS DEALING WITH THE MATTER BROUGHT UP BY AMBASSADOR CASTRO IN A SERIOUS AND RESPONSIBLE WAY. THE GOVERNMENT, HE ASSERTED, IS UNDERTAKING A STUDY TO DETERMINE HOW BEST TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM-- AND MEET USG APPROVAL AS WELL. CURRENTLY BEING CONSIDERED IS THE ALTERNATIVE OF ALLOWING THE JEHOVA'S WITNESS MEMBERS SERVE TWO YEAR "CIVIL SERVICE" ENLISTMENT IN AREAS SUCH AS FORESTRY WITH THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, WITH YPF (YACI-MIENTOS PETROLIFEROS FISCALES, STATE OIL ENTITY) OR IN STATE MINES IN ISOLATED AREAS OF THE COUNTRY. THIS WOULD NOT ONLY ELIMINATE THE JAIL SENTENCES, BUT WOULD ALSO GIVE GOA FLEXIBILITY IN DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM OF PROVIDING MUCH-NEEDED LABOR IN REMOTE AREAS OF THE COUNTRY.

Sec. 3.3  
(b) (1)

COMMENT: ~~(C/NOFORN)~~

[Sec. 3.3(b) (1)]

HE SEEMED,

[Sec. 3.3(b) (1)]

SINCERE AND HONEST IN THE ELABORATION OF GOA'S PROBLEMS WITH JEHOVA'S WITNESSES. THE THRUST OF THE DISCUSSION WAS THAT ARGENTINA WILL RESPONSIBLY RESPOND TO USG CONCERN FOR JEHOVA'S WITNESSES, AND THAT GOA EFFORTS WILL GAIN THE APPROVAL OF USG AS WELL AS ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES.

B. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ SOURCE SEEMED GENUINELY INTERESTED IN HOW USG DEALS WITH THESE TYPES OF PROBLEMS. [Sec. 3.3(b) (1)]

PAGE 2

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

00110111

# DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
MESSAGE CENTER

DECLASSIFIED IN PART  
Authority: EO 13526  
DIA FOIA & Declassification Services Offices  
Date: Oct 18, 2018

PAGE 3

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

61526

USG DOES NOT FACE THIS PARTICULAR PROBLEM CURRENTLY, BECAUSE  
OF NON-COMPULSORY SERVICE (NO DRAFT);

Sec. 3.3(b) (1)

WHEN THE DRAFT WAS IN FORCE, USG WOULD NORMALLY  
PLACE SECT MEMBERS IN NON-COMBATTANT RELATED DUTIES SUCH AS  
ORDERLIES, ADMINISTRATION, AND OTHER SUPPORT ACTIVITIES.  
SOURCE TOOK NOTE OF THIS INFORMATION, AND ASKED IF IT  
WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON JEHOVA'S WITNESSES,  
SUCH AS PAMPHLETS OR BROCHURES. PROMISED TO TRY TO  
FULFILL HIS REQUEST.

Sec. 3.3(b) (1)

C. THE DISCUSSION REFLECTED THE FACT THAT  
CONSTRUCTIVE CONSIDERATION OF THE MATTER IS BEING GIVEN  
BY GOA.

Sec. 3.3(b) (1)

THIS MSG AMEMBASSY COORDINATED. ~~DECL/REVW 5 FEB 1985~~

BT

#0036

ANNOTES

EPW 117

PAGE 3

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

00110111

NNNN

071925Z