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DIA FOIA & Declassification Services Offices
Date: Oct 17, 2018

(b)(3):10 USC 424

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PRIORITY
P 171932Z MAR 83
ZYUW RUEHBUA1703 0761936

FM [REDACTED]
TO DIA WASHINGTON DC// [REDACTED] DB-3E1/DB-4// PRIORITY
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HQUSAF WASHINGTON DC//XOXXW/CVAIA// PRIORITY (b)(3):10 USC 424
CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK VA PRIORITY

RESTRICTIONS OR CONDITIONS TO ARGAF ACQUISITIONS AFTER A
CERTIFICATION WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE TO THE CURRENT
LEADERSHIP.

2. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ SOURCE STATED THAT CERTIFICATION WOULD HELP
RESOLVE TWO OVERPOWERING ISSUES NOW FACING THE ARGAF.
FIRST, CERTIFICATION PRIOR TO THE AR ELECTIONS, SCHEDULED
FOR 831030, WOULD HELP REMOVE A VERY SERIOUS OBSTACLE
TO THE OUTGOING MILITARY GOVERNMENT AND ALLOW FOR A
SMOOTHER TRANSITION TO CIVILIAN RULE. AS LONG AS THE
ISSUE OF PAST HUMAN RIGHTS TRAUMA (WHICH IS, IN GREAT PART,
FORMALLY REPRESENTED BY HUMPHREY-KENNEDY) HANGS OVER THE
CURRENT MILITARY TRANSITION GOVERNMENT, THEIR FLEXIBILITY
AND ABILITY TO COMPROMISE WITH THE FUTURE CIVILIAN
LEADERSHIP IS LIMITED.

3. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ THE SECOND AND PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE
TO BE AFFECTED BY CERTIFICATION IS THE CURRENT AND FUTURE
STATUS OF THE UK-AR CONFLICT. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, ARGAF
LOGIC DICTATES THAT INASMUCH AS CURRENT DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS
INDICATE LITTLE CHANCE OF MOVING THE UK TO NEGOTIATIONS
AND INASMUCH AS THE U.S. IS UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO PRESSURE
LONDON TO DO SO, THEN AR MUST APPLY THE PRESSURE ITSELF,
DEALING FROM A POSITION OF INCREASED MILITARY STRENGTH
AND SUPPORTED DIPLOMATICALLY BY AS MANY NATIONS AS
POSSIBLE, REGARDLESS OF THEIR RELATIVE POWER OR IDEOLOGY.
(AN OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO RECENT EVENTS IN THE NON-
ALIGNED MOVEMENT CONFERENCE IN NEW DELHI).

4. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ SOURCE CONTINUED (IN UNCHARACTERISTICALLY
BLUNT EMOTIONAL LANGUAGE) THAT WHAT REMAINS OF THE US-
ARGAF RELATIONS IS ON THE VERGE OF RUPTURE. HE STATED
THAT FAILURE OF CERTIFICATION EFFORTS WILL LEAD TO ARMS
ACQUISITIONS FROM THE USSR. THE ARGAF CANNOT FACE THE
UK WITH WHAT REMAINS AFTER THE WAR, AND THEY INTEND TO
MOVE QUICKLY TO FURTHER RE-EQUIP, STRENGTHEN, AND MODERNIZE
THE FORCE. (b)(3):10 USC 424 THAT TIME IS BT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 BUENOS AIRES AR [REDACTED]

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USC 424

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SUBJ: [REDACTED] ARGENTINA/ARGENTINE AIR FORCE
ATTITUDE HARDENING(U) (b)(3):10 USC 424

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(b)(3):10
USC 424

1. (U) CTRY: ARGENTINA (AR) (b)(3):10 USC 424
2. (U) IR NO: [REDACTED]
3. (U) TITLE: ARGENTINE AIR FORCE ATTITUDE HARDENING
4. (U) DATE OF INFO: 830314/15
5. (U) ORIG: [REDACTED]
6. (U) REQ REFS: K-3E1-00054, Z-DI3-AR001, Z-DI3-AR030

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8. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ SUMMARY: IN WHAT APPEARS TO BE A SIGNIFI-
CANT HARDENING OF THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE U.S., THE
ARGAF SEES THE CURRENT POSSIBILITY OF LIFTING HUMPHREY-
KENNEDY RESTRICTIONS ON ARMS SALES AND TRAINING AS THE
FINAL EFFORT BEFORE MAKING SIGNIFICANT POLICY DECISIONS
WHICH WILL INCLUDE SOVIET SOURCE WEAPONS. IN AS MUCH AS
CURRENT DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS HAVE FAILED TO MOVE THE UK TO
THE NEGOTIATING TABLE, ARGAF LOGIC DICTATES THAT THEY MUST
FORCE THE ISSUE FROM A POSITION OF INCREASED DIPLOMATIC AND
MILITARY STRENGTH. IF THE U.S. POSITION DOES NOT CHANGE
IN THE VERY NEAR TERM, NEW AND SIGNIFICANT ACQUISITIONS
WILL BE MADE WITH THE CLEAR IMPLICATION THAT THE USSR
WILL BE A MAJOR SOURCE. BASED ON RECENT ARGENTINE FOREIGN
POLICY STATEMENTS, AND THE INCREASINGLY HARD-LINED
NATIONALIST STANCE OF THE ARGAF, THERE IS A VERY STRONG
POSSIBILITY THAT THE ARGAF IS "CRYING RUSSIAN WOLF" FOR
REAL THIS TIME.

9A. (U) DETAILS:

1. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ DURING TWO SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH
SOURCE, BOTH THE AIRA AND A/AIRA WERE TOLD, IN UNUSUALLY
STRAIGHTFORWARD LANGUAGE, THAT THE NEED FOR CERTIFICATION
OF ARGENTINA UNDER HUMPHREY-KENNEDY AMENDMENT IS NOW AT
A VERY CRITICAL STAGE. IN SO FAR AS THE ARGAF IS
CONCERNED, FAILURE TO CERTIFY OR AN EXTENDED DELAY IN
CERTIFICATION WILL RESULT IN THE FINAL RUPTURE OF WHAT
REMAINS OF ARGAF-USAF RELATIONS. ADDITIONALLY, ANY UNUSUAL

ACTION DB-3E1(*) DIA(*) (U,6,7,8,F)
INFO NIDS(*) J3-NMCC(*) J5(*) USCINCCENTLO(*) SECDEF:(*)
SECDEF(*) USDP(**) ASD:PA&E(*) DI-1(*) NMIC(*)
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 BUENOS AIRES AR 010703

RUNNING OUT AND IF A SOVIET GAIN IS TO BE AVOIDED, THE U.S.
MUST ACT DECISIVELY NOW. SOURCE WAS EMPHATIC IN THAT [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] THIS WARNING WAS FOR REAL AND MAJOR ARGAF
POLICY DECISIONS WERE IMMINENT.

5. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ AS A FURTHER ARGUMENT, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS HE HAD
ALWAYS BEEN CANDID IN HIS ASSESSMENTS OF US-AR RELATIONS
DURING OUR DISCUSSIONS. HE EMPHASIZED HE WAS DOING
SO NOW. ADDITIONALLY, HE REMINDED A/AIRA THAT HE HAD
CONSISTENTLY REASSURED [REDACTED] ON THE SAFETY OF U.S. PERSONNEL
IN ARGENTINA. NOW, HOWEVER, HE COULD NO LONGER BE AS
CONFIDENT DUE TO WHAT SOURCE TERMED A RAPIDLY DEVELOPING
ANTI-U.S. SENTIMENT IN THE ARGENTINE (K907)-3. THE LATTER
POINT, HOWEVER, WAS NOT MADE TO THE AIRA IN CONNECTION
WITH THE DISCUSSIONS ON NEED FOR CERTIFICATION.

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9B. (U) ORIG CMTS:

1. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THE ARGAF IS EMPLOYING
A "FULL COURT PRESS" TO FORCE THE ISSUE OF CERTIFICATION
WITH THE U.S. AND TO COUNTER APPARENT STRONG UK OBJECTIVMS.
THEY ARE CERTAINLY AWARE THAT THE THREAT OF "BUY SOVIET"
DOES GARNER SOME ATTENTION IN USG CIRCLES.

2. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ UNFORTUNATELY, CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE CHANGED
SIGNIFICANTLY WITHIN THE PAST YEAR AND, MORE SO, WITHIN
THE PAST FEW WEEKS. THE ARGAF APPEARS TO BE THE MOST
ACTIVE AND VOCAL PROPONENT OF A HARDLINE NATIONALIST,
INDEPENDENT POLICY. IT IS RUMORED THAT BRIGADIER MAYOR
((INSUA)), ARGAF COS, ACCOMPANIED PRESIDENT ((BIGNONE))

ON HIS RECENT VISIT TO THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE AND THAT
THE ARGAF WAS KEY TO THE DECISION TO MORE CLOSELY ALIGN
ARGENTINA WITH THAT MOVEMENT DESPITE THE IDEOLOGY AND
POLICIES OF SOME OF ITS MEMBERS.

3. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ THE ARGAF OBVIOUSLY REALIZES THAT ITS
NORMAL SOURCES OF ARMS AND TRAINING (I.E. EUROPE AND THE
U.S.) WILL CONTINUE TO BE UNRELIABLE AS LONG AS THE
POSSIBILITY OF A UK-AR CONFLICT EXISTS. ARGENTINA'S RECENT
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ACTION DB-3E1(*) DIA(*) (I,M)
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424

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 BUENOS AIRES AR 01703

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USC 424

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USALLY BEEN QUITE CANDID AND HONEST IN HIS ASSESSMENTS OF US-AR RELATIONS. HIS BLUNT, ALMOST FRANTIC APPEAL LEADS TO BELIEVE THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF ACQUIRING SOVIET EQUIPMENT IS NOW VERY REAL, AND MAJOR DECISIONS MAY VERY WELL BE IMMINENT.

10. (U) PROJ NO: N/A

11. (U) COLL MGMT CODES: AM

12. (U) SPEC INST: DIRC NO

13. (U) PREP BY:

(b)(3):10 USC 424

14. (U) APP BY:

15. (U) REQ EVAL: YES; REL TO: NONE

16. (U) ENCL: N/A

17. (U) DIST BY ORIG: N/A

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