

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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UNITED KINGDOM (UK)

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14. SOURCE: American Embassy Official

15. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

YES ☐
NO ☒

16. SUMMARY:

(U) This report forwards an American Embassy Buenos Aires memorandum of conversation describing FRG Ambassador's views on his country's arms sales to Argentina and FRG internal problems with arms sanctions.

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20. ENCLOSURES:

1 Enclosure
1. Amembassy Memorandum, 15 Oct 79, 1 cy, (a), 2 pgs

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21. This IR contains 1 pages.

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: Ambassador Joachim Jaenicke
the Federal Republic of Germany
Maxwell Chaplin, Deputy Chief of Mission
American Embassy, Buenos Aires

~~E.O. 12065. XDS 1 10 16 09 Chaplin, Maxwell~~

DATE & PLACE: October 15, 1979; German Embassy

SUBJECT: German Arms Sales and the Argentine
Human Rights Record

At a diplomatic social event the German Ambassador had previously asked me for information on the Humphrey-Kennedy Amendment and the consequences for U.S. arms sales. I provided him and his Economic Counselor the text of the Humphrey-Kennedy Amendment, a description of the Munitions List and the information that FMS sales to Argentina prior to 1978 had averaged approximately \$35 million per year. We had no data in the Embassy to indicate the value of sales of Munitions List items on a commercial basis.

Ambassador Jaenicke stated his primary concern was advising Bonn on whether the FRG should continue with its naval construction program. He said there was concern that "the Americans might be angry with us because of the Argentine human rights record and the fact that U.S. arms sales are prohibited." I told him that in the most recent relevant Congressional votes on the subject, it appeared that there was ample continuing support for embargo on U.S. arms to Argentina. I did not comment on whether the USG might make any statements about arms sales of third countries. I observed that arms sales were the object of attention of many private human rights groups and such sales could expect ample publicity from that source. The Ambassador had a few critical words for the French, whom he implied are hypocritical in the protestation of their support for human rights while being the main beneficiary of arms sales cut-offs by other suppliers.

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Ambassador Jaenicke then went into a long discourse on the futility of international sanctions. He said he had been in Rome in 1936 and observed the failure of the League of Nations' sanctions against Italy. He went on to cite the lack of success of sanctions against Rhodesia, South Africa and the Soviet Union. He asserted that there was absolutely no way in which denying arms to the Argentines would save a single life here. I observed that our policy also served to distance us from the GOA and prevent our identification with a regime with a terrible human rights record. The Ambassador agreed but said the matter created a most difficult problem for German trade.

Comment: The Ambassador's statement that the FRG was concerned "whether the FRG should continue with its naval construction program" is of interest. We had been under the impression that this contract was firm and that the Germans had no second thoughts about it. If they do, the British are aching to replace them.

(b)
Distribution: Buenos Aires
Ambassador
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