

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

~~NATIONAL SECURITY
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Classification/Control Markings

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1. COUNTRY: ARGENTINA (AR)

2. REPORT NUMBER: [REDACTED]

3. TITLE: (U) Political Military -
Argentine Navy Views of US Policy

4. PROJECT NUMBER: N/A

(b)(3):10 USC 424

5. DATE OF INFORMATION:

780120 - 780217

(b)(3):10 USC 424

6. DATE OF REPORT: 780302

(b)(3):10 USC 424

7. DATE & PLACE OF ACQUISITION:

780120-780217,

Buenos Aires & Comandante Espora

9. ASSESSMENT: SOURCE [REDACTED], INFO [REDACTED]

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14. SOURCE:

15. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

~~ADVANCE REPORT FOR DEFENSE USE ONLY~~~~NOFORN TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT TO HOST GOVT~~D YES ☐
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C NO ☒

16. SUMMARY:

~~(C/NOFORN)~~ This report forwards comments by senior Argentine Naval Officers, including the Commander in Chief, regarding their perception of a policy singling out the Navy with regard to withholding US foreign military sales.

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Date: Oct 19, 2018

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19. DOWNGRADING AND

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~~SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSI-~~
~~FICATION SCHEDULE OF EO 13526~~
~~AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED~~
~~AT TWO YEAR INTERVALS DECLASSI-~~
~~FIED ON 31 DEC 1984~~

20. ENCLOSURES:

2 ENCLOSURES

1. AMEMBASSY BA Telegram
0833, DTG 021400Z, 1 Cy
4 Pages (C)2. AMEMBASSY BA Telegram
1251, DTG 172020Z, 1 Cy
3 Pages (C)

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21. This IR contains 2 pages.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

Continuation Sheet

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Report No. (b)(3):10 USC 424

Page 2 of 2 pages
(b)(3):10 USC 42422. DETAILS: 1. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ on 20 January 1978, [REDACTED]

(b)(3):10 USC 424; Sec. 3.3(b) (1)

(Leave Blank)

[REDACTED] Having set the stage, source then described his great displeasure with lack of spare parts support for SP2 aircraft recently arrived in country with inoperative avionics components. Source A then described unwillingness of US contractors to overhaul these components when an export license could not be obtained. [REDACTED] responded that perhaps if human rights conditions in Argentina improved that spare parts flow might also improve. Source questioned [REDACTED] regarding background knowledge on terrorism in Argentina. [REDACTED] satisfied source A that he was aware of the recent history, then suggested that the war was won and it was time to get on with other business that could improve relations between our countries.

2. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ On 27 January 1978 [REDACTED]

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3. ~~(C)~~ As described in enclosure (1) and (2) there is a perception in the ARA that spare part support is being selectively withheld.

COMMENT: ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ Chief, Navy Section, U.S. Military Group is aware of views expressed by senior ARA officers. Standing too close to this situation may limit [REDACTED] objective comments. In any case, the ARA feels pinched, but as seen in enclosure (2), ARA is showing a positive response to the human rights issue.

(b)(3):10 COMMENT: ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ While ARA actions can be interpreted as a positive response to US human rights initiatives, they also reveal an attempt by Admiral Massera to advance his own political ambitions by trying to give the impression that human rights advances are primarily the results of his personal efforts.

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TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~0-11652:~~ CDS
TAGS: SHUM, PGOV, PINT, MASS, AR
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON MASSERA

ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES

0833

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1. Ambassador paid a half hour call on Admiral Massera afternoon February 1, responding to urgent telephone call early the same morning inviting him to "stop around for a drink." (That part of the invitation got side-tracked. Nothing was served during the interview, which took place at Massera's office at naval headquarters.)
2. EQUIPMENT FOR THE NAVY. The Admiral expressed great concern that both the Argentine Army and Air Force had recently been authorized to receive spare parts and military equipment from the United States, while the Navy has received nothing. Massera said that he had upbraided Ambassador Aja Espil

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POL:WHHallman:gcr

DRAFTING DATE
2/2/78

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Ambassador Castro

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DCM:MChaplin

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[about this and gotten the answer that the Argentine Navy is unpopular with the US Government. "They say in Washington we have the nuns," Massera said. "You know that's just not so," he continued. "Well it's alright for the US not to like Massera," the Admiral added, "but you should hold nothing against the Argentine Navy."

3. HUMAN RIGHTS CASES. The Ambassador took the occasion to raise human rights problems. He raised specifically the Timerman, Deutsch and Vogler cases. On Timerman Massera gave his expected response: He had tried for Timerman's release, he said, but had been overruled by members of the Army. He seemed genuinely unaware of the Deutsch and Vogler matters, making notes and asking particulars. He said that he would attend a Junta meeting only a half hour later, and that he would raise these names while there. (Comment: On being told that Alejandro and Liliana Deutsch were being held in Cordoba, Massera mused that this was really too bad. If they weren't in the hands of General Menendez, he said, he just might be able to snatch the pair of them away for us.)

4. THE WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE. Massera said that he had read Karen de Young's January 27 "Post" article. He acknowledged that he and Videla often disagree, and [said that he had never tried to disguise this. He had]

been frank with many people about this. Now that the de Young article is causing a stir, he said, the time has come to air his grievances and have candid words with his Army colleague.

5. ATMOSPHERICS. More interesting than what Massera said at the meeting--which seems almost trivial when compared with the urgency with which the meeting was arranged--was the publicity given it. First notice that the Ambassador would see the Navy commander came during a 1030 radio news broadcast. (The appointment was set 0900.) Afternoon papers carried the event--at about the time it was taking place.

6. We account for this by suggesting that Massera wanted it publicized he was meeting with the American Ambassador in order to throw his Army "opposition" off base. We were told on January 31 by a ranking civilian officer of the Presidency that Videla was fed up with Massera's politicking and apparent disloyalty, and would use the de Young story to "have it out with him" at a Junta meeting due to take place late afternoon February 1. The meeting with the Ambassador was, in effect, a Massera hole "hole card" for the tough conversation with Videla he probably expected.

7. On leaving Massera's office Ambassador encountered Foreign Minister Montes, which gave another opportunity

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to lay out the human rights case concerns he had just given Massera. Montes promised to go over these again with his boss.

8. Ambassador is waiting for green light from ~~Embassy~~ Fon0 to meet with Minister of Interior Harguindeguy and of the Governor/Province of Buenos Aires General St. Jean. Meetings are expected to occur early next week and again Deutsch, Timerman and Vogler cases will be discussed.

CASTRO *llc*

TELEGRAM

INDICATE
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FROM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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11652: CDS (b)(3):10 USC 424

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, AR

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE FAVORABLE DECISIONS ON DEUTSCH AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS CASES

ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES: 1251

REF: BUENOS AIRES 1228: 9282

1. FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES WE HAVE RECEIVED A NUMBER OF SIGNALS THAT FAVORABLE JUNTA ACTION MAY BE IMMINENT IN THE CASE OF ALEJANDRO DEUTSCH AND OTHERS OF HIGH U.S. INTEREST. AS WE HAVE ALREADY REPORTED IN REFTEL, MINISTER OF INTERIOR HARGUINDEGUY TOLD THE AMBASSADOR FEBRUARY 16 THAT THE JUNTA WOULD BE CONSIDERING THE DEUTSCH, VOGLER AND TIMERMAN CASES "SOON". ON THAT OCCASION, THE MINISTER STATED THE OPINION THAT DEUTSCH AND VOGLER HAD DONE NOTHING MORE THAN ACT AS ANY NORMAL PARENT WOULD HAVE DONE IN ATTEMPTING TO PROTECT THEIR KIN. (TIMERMAN WAS AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT MATTER, HOWEVER.)

2. UNOFFICIAL SOURCES CLOSE TO THE NAVY IN THE PAST DAY OR TWO HAVE COINCIDED IN THE VIEW THAT DEUTSCH

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CLEARANCES

POL:WHHallman

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PARTICULARLY WAS ABOUT TO BENEFIT FROM A FAVORABLE DECISION, TODAY (FEBRUARY 17), ADMIRAL MASSERA SENT A POLITICAL AIDE, CAPT. MONTEMAYOR, TO INFORM THE AMBASSADOR THAT DEUTSCH'S RELEASE WOULD BE EFFECTED SHORTLY. THE AIDE MADE NO MENTION OF DEUTSCH'S DAUGHTER LILIANA AND WE HAVE NO REASON TO ASSUME THAT SHE MAY BE INCLUDED IN THE REPORTEDLY IMMINENT ACTION.

3. CAPT. MONTEMAYOR STRESSED THAT ADMIRAL MASSERA WAS WORKING HARD TO RESOLVE THE HUMAN RIGHTS CASES OF HIGH INTEREST TO THE U.S. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE NAVY WAS AT THE AMBASSADOR'S COMPLETE DISPOSAL IN THIS REGARD AND IMPLIED, AS MASSERA HIMSELF HAS BEEN WONT TO DO ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, THAT THE ARMY WAS THE PRIMARY SOURCE OF OBFUSCATING ~~SOLUTIONS TO~~ THE PROBLEM. COMING TO THE BOTTOM LINE OF HIS PROPOSITION, HE THEN ASKED WHY THE NAVY SEEMED TO BE SINGLED OUT FOR DENIALS OF U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT WHEN IT WAS THE NAVY THAT WAS DOING THE MOST TO IMPROVE THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION. THE AMBASSADOR RESPONDED THAT THERE WAS NO POLICY OF SINGLING OUT ANY SERVICE NOR DID U.S. DECISION-MAKERS HOLD ANYTHING PERSONAL AGAINST MASSERA. THE AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED THAT TIME WAS RUNNING OUT IN WASHINGTON IN TERMS OF THE POLICY DECISION THAT HAD TO BE MADE WITH RESPECT TO ARGENTINA AND THAT IF THERE WAS ANYTHING THAT MASSERA COULD DO TO RESCUE THESE PEOPLE, THIS WOULD BE GREATLY WELCOMED--AND APPRECIATED--BY THE USG.

4. IT IS EVIDENT THAT MASSERA IS TRYING TO TAKE CREDIT FOR

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WHAT APPEARS TO BE IMPENDING JUNTA ACTION IN SOME OF THE HIGH
INTEREST CASES. FOR WHATEVER HIS MOTIVES, WE BELIEVE THAT
MASSERA HAS BEEN PLAYING A ROLE OF PUSHING A FAVORABLE
DECISION THROUGH THE JUNTA AND WE PROPOSE TO CONTINUE
ENCOURAGING HIM TO DO SO.

Raul B. Castro

CASTRO

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