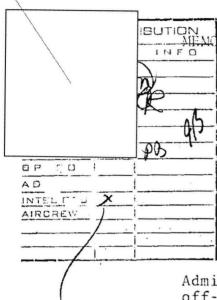
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT									
NATIONAL SECURITY -INFORMATION- Unauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sometions	CONFIDENTIAL Classification/Control Markings	This report contains unprocessed infor- mation. Plans and/or policies should not be evolved or modified solely on basis of this report.							
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16. SUMMARY:		Conversation							
between Argentine Navy Correspondents (includ Memorandum contains Ad subjects and current p policies. COMMENT: (C) The remar attitudes towards USG policy decisions (deni	n AMEMBASSY Memorandum of CINC Admiral Emilio Masser ing USICA Information Office miral Massera's remarks on olitical issuesnotably remarks are indicative of Admiration policies in general, as we all of Exim Bank loan for the Government of Argenting	cer). The a variety of eaction to USG 16 AUG'78 al Massera's of the vacyreta							
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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: Admiral Massera and Foreign

Correspondents Association

John Corr, USICA Information Officer

PLACE:

American Club, Bueno's Aires

DATE:

July 19, 1978 .

SUBJECT:

Current Events

FWD VIA

IR PB

Admiral Massera charmed foreign correspondents in an off-the-record conversation. He said, in response to questions:

- 1. He wasn't overly disturbed about not getting the Ex-Im Bank Yacyretá loan. Financing can be obtained elsewhere. The real problem flowing from disagreements with the U.S. over human rights involves the lack of spare parts for the military.
- 2. He was for a concerted Argentine effort to return to democracy. Military people know how to order but not to govern. History shows that military governments create insoluble problems if they stay in office too long. He is willing to treat with politicians of ability in planning the restoration of democracy. The principal impediment to this restoration is military groups that fear the outcome of the ballot box, a fear he does not share because the Argentines have learned their lesson from recent history. The existence of past political movements (read Peronism) cannot be denied. (He made it clear that Peronists would be welcome to participate in the new democratic order. He shied away from criticizing Mrs. Peron.)
- 3. He said the U.S. had a right to its own policy in pressuring Latin America for a return to democracy; however, the results of the policy, e.g. Bolivia, may be worse than the situation it is designed to improve. Each nation should be permitted to find its own democratic solution without being pushed.
- 4. Last year the Navy asked that the <u>detenidos</u> list be published and he, himself, has asked the Junta to publish lists of those killed during the war on subversion.

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- 5. He was optimistic on the Beagle dispute, adding that just because Argentina is ready for war doesn't necessarily mean there will be a war.
- 6. There will be no big changes after August 1. Videla will be working under the authority of the Junta, which, at one time, even considered making the fourth man a prime minister, instead of a president.
- 7. As for his own political ambitions, he will have more to say beginning the afternoon of September 15, when he retires from active duty. What is necessary for a constructive political career is humility and a sincere desire to solve problems. He will wait in a relaxed manner to see what life has in store for him.

COMMENT: His hostility to Videla showed through when he discussed how much power Videla would have after August 1. To hear Massera tell it, Videla will not have very much power at all. He reminded his audience that, among Junta members, he was the most senior and that Videla had precedence because of traditional Argentine protocol. He appeared to show some anger when he said that "the other service" had denied there had been a request for publication of the names of those killed in the war against terrorists.

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