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ORIGIN: 88181

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INFO: DSG (21) DDCG (21) RSC (21) POC (21) SA (21) ARA (21) PFC (21)
OAS (21) PPA (21) RSC (21) CAS (21)

RESTRUCTURING AND DOWNSIZING TO BETTER SERVE THEIR MISSION TO DEFEND NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND PARTICIPATE IN MULTILATERAL PEACEKEEPING EFFORTS. ARGENTINA SEEKS TO INCREASE THE INTEROPERABILITY OF ITS FORCES WITH U.S. AND NATO FORCES, PARTICULARLY NAVAL FORCES, TO PREPARE FOR FUTURE PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS. ARONSON SAID HE WANTS VERY MUCH TO CONTINUE TO COOPERATE WITH THE ARGENTINE MILITARY AND HOPE THAT PROGRESS COULD BE MADE ON THIS ISSUE DURING GONZALEZ'S VISIT.

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ORIGIN ARA-88

INFO LOC-88 ACOM-14 AID-88 ARND-81 CINE-88 C-81 DODE-88
ED-88 NA-88 H-81 INBE-88 INR-81 L-88 NS-88
NSAE-88 NSCE-88 OND-81 PA-88 P-81 SREL-88 SP-88
SS-88 TASE-88 T-81 TIC-81 /PAZ?

REGIONAL MILITARY BALANCE

1482
DRAFTED BY: ARA/SC: JDFARRAR
APPROVED BY: ARA: BWARDNSON
NRA: JPK/LEARN
ARA/SC: CJPLANTY

0 161759Z JUN 92
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

SECRET STATE 227817

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL NSAP PASS
SUBJECT: A/S ARONSON'S MEETING WITH DEFENSE MINISTER GONZALEZ
REF: (A) 92 BUENOS AIR 7859; (B) 92 BUENOS AIR 6310

5. ARONSON SAID THAT OUR RECENT OFFER OF A-4'S FOR ARGENTINA SYMBOLIZES OUR GREAT CONFIDENCE IN ARGENTINA AND IN THE LEADERSHIP OF PRESIDENT MENEM. WE WILL RESPOND SOON AS TO HOW MANY A-4'S COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE. ARONSON SAID OUR COUNTRIES SHARE A CONCERN TO MAINTAIN THE MILITARY BALANCE IN THE REGION AND SEEK TO AVOID A REGIONAL ARMS RACE. HE NOTED THAT ARGENTINA HAS TAKEN THE LEAD IN THE OAS IN PURSUING REGIONAL ARRANGEMENTS ON ARMS CONTROL. THE U.S. SUPPORTS SUCH INITIATIVES AND HOPES THAT PROGRESS CAN BE ACCELERATED.

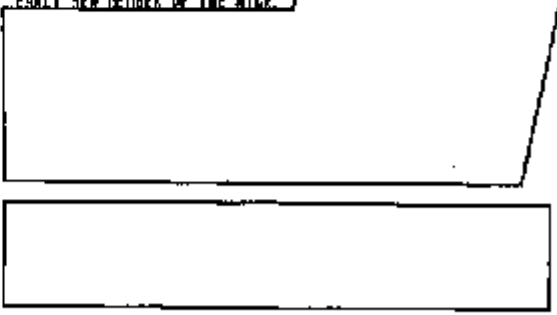
6. GONZALEZ REPLIED THAT THE GOA IS PURSUING SEVERAL NONPROLIFERATION INITIATIVES, INCLUDING BILATERAL AND BILATERAL NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENTS WITH BRAZIL, REGIONAL PACTS ON CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS (THE

MENDOZA DECLARATION), AND THE TERMINATION OF THE CONDOR MISSILE PROGRAM. THE GOA IS SOMEWHAT CONCERNED OVER CHILEAN MILITARY ACQUISITIONS BUT IS PLEASED WITH PROGRESS TO DATE ON SETTLING OUTSTANDING BORDER DISPUTES. GONZALEZ ALSO REGISTERED CONCERN ABOUT REPORTS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN BRAZIL AND RUSSIA ON NUCLEAR PROPULSION SYSTEMS FOR BRAZILIAN SUBMARINES. ARONSON SAID WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN FURTHER INFORMATION ON SUCH COOPERATION.

7. GONZALEZ SAID THE GOA HOPES TO USE THE MERCOSUR MECHANISM TO INCREASE DEFENSE COOPERATION IN THE REGION. THE GOA PLANS TO HOST A MEETING OF MERCOSUR DEFENSE MINISTERS TO DISCUSS REGIONAL COOPERATION. ARONSON SAID THAT, WHILE THE INITIATIVE FOR REGIONAL ARMS CONTROL MUST COME FROM THE COUNTRIES IN THE REGION, THE U.S. WANTS TO SUPPORT SUCH EFFORTS. HE ASKED THAT GONZALEZ LET HIM KNOW IF THERE WERE WAYS IN WHICH THE U.S. COULD BE HELPFUL.

CONDOR

8. ARONSON NOTED THAT THEY HAD DISCUSSED CONDOR AT GREAT LENGTH DURING GONZALEZ'S VISIT IN JANUARY. THE GOA'S DECISION TO TERMINATE THE CONDOR PROGRAM HAD BEEN AN IMPORTANT SIGNAL TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND THE U.S. IS PLEASED THAT ARGENTINA APPEARS LIKELY TO BECOME AN EARLY NEW MEMBER OF THE MERCOSUR.



1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY. DEFENSE MINISTER GONZALEZ MET 7/13 WITH ARA A/S ARONSON TO DISCUSS MILITARY COOPERATION. [REDACTED] AND OTHER ISSUES. GONZALEZ THANKED THE U.S. FOR THE MILITARY ITEMS SUPPLIED RECENTLY

AND ASKED THAT WE KEEP ARGENTINA IN MIND FOR FUTURE ALLOCATIONS. HE SAID THE GOA WANTS TO INCREASE COOPERATION WITH NATO AND U.S. FORCES TO PREPARE FOR FUTURE UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS. GONZALEZ SAID HIS TALKS WITH THE WORLD BANK ON PRIVATIZATION LOANS WERE GOING WELL. ARONSON TOLD GONZALEZ THAT OUR OFFER OF A-4 AIRCRAFT WAS A SIGN OF OUR CONFIDENCE IN PRESIDENT MENEM AND THAT WE WOULD REPLY SHORTLY ON THE NUMBER OF PLANES TO BE AUTHORIZED. HE UNDERSCORED OUR INCREASING CONCERN AT THE LACK OF A GOA GAME PLAN TO WRAP UP ALL OUTSTANDING CONDOR MISSILE ISSUES.

[REDACTED] WE HAVE BEGUN EFFORTS TO PROVIDE SUCH INFORMATION AND WILL RESPOND AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. END SUMMARY.

3. ARA A/S ARONSON MET JULY 13 WITH ARGENTINE DEFENSE MINISTER ANTONIO ERMAN GONZALEZ, WHO IS IN WASHINGTON FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE WORLD BANK ON LOANS TO HELP PRIVATIZE MILITARY INDUSTRIES. GONZALEZ WAS ACCOMPANIED BY ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR ORTIZ DE ROZAS, DEFENSE ATTACHE GALLO, AND EMBASSY COUNSELLOR LILIANA ROCHE. ALSO PARTICIPATING IN THE MEETING WERE ARA DWS MCGLEARY, ARA/SC DIRECTOR PLANTY AND ARA/SC DESKOFF FARRAR (NOTE/TAKER).

U.S. ASSISTANCE

4. GONZALEZ BEGAN THE MEETING BY THANKING THE U.S. FOR PROVIDING MILITARY ITEMS AS EXCESS DEFENSE ARTICLES (EOD)

AND ASKING THAT WE KEEP ARGENTINA IN MIND AS ADDITIONAL ITEMS BECOME AVAILABLE. THE ARGENTINE ARMED FORCES ARE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS
DATE/CASE ID: 14 APR 2004 200204072

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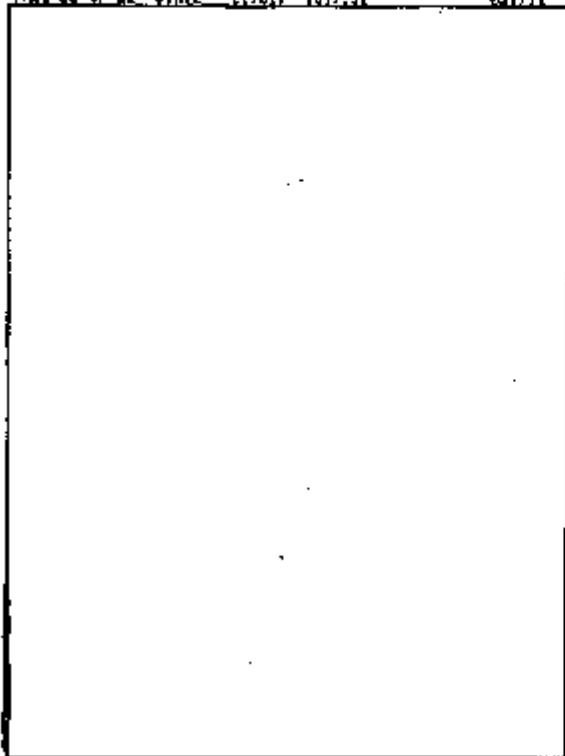
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ARA/NEA REARCS

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11. BRONSON REITERATED THAT

[REDACTED] THE U.S. IS WILLING TO COOPERATE VERY INTENSIVELY WITH THE GOR TO RESOLVE THE OUTSTANDING CONCOR ISSUES. HE ASSURED GONZALEZ THAT THE U.S. WOULD RESPOND AT A VERY HIGH LEVEL TO GONZALEZ'S REQUEST FOR INFORMATION. GONZALEZ AND BRONSON AGREED WE SHOULD WORK TOGETHER TO SOLVE THE CONCOR PROBLEM.

WORLD BANK/PRIVATIZATION

12. GONZALEZ SAID THAT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE WORLD BANK WERE PROCEEDING WELL ON A LOAN PROGRAM TO ASSIST THE PRIVATIZATION OF MILITARY INDUSTRIES. 25 PERCENT OF THE LOAN WOULD BE DESTINED TO HELP FUND THE BRADY PLAN DEBT RESCHEDULING AND 75 PERCENT WILL GO TO RESTRUCTURING OF DEFENSE INDUSTRIES. BRONSON SAID HE WERE PLEASED THE DISCUSSIONS WERE GOING WELL AND POINTED OUT THAT THE USG HAS ENCOURAGED U.S. COMPANIES TO PARTICIPATE IN ARGENTINA'S PRIVATIZATION EFFORTS.

COMMENT

13. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WE WILL PROVIDE A RESPONSE AS SOON AS INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE.
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