

UNCLASSIFIED

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Buenos Aires

10/10/78
AG 053

October 10, 1978

R

Roberta Cohen
HA/HR
Department of State

Dear Roberta:

Thanks for your two notes that arrived in the pouch this AM.

Regarding the refusal of the GOA to permit access to Right of Option applicants, Kiernan received a telegram on this subject directly from a doctor in Palo Alto. This was raised during the AAAS' group's meeting with Arlia, head of the FOWG. I believe that the names of the doctors were also raised. I raised this with the Navy yesterday and they offered to look into the matter immediately. This might help as the Foreign Office is controlled, as you know by the Navy, and the FONOFF has taken an independent line on Human Rights.

The second question regarding torture at La Perla comes from interviews that I had with four members of the Deutsch family. I have delayed in writing the interviews up until the family left the country. Now that they are all out I will put together a Memcon regarding their interrogation at La Perla per your request.

This is a hold your breath period. OUR actions on the EXIM loan and on the last minute tranche of military supplies and training have cleared the air. The ball is now in the Argentine court and we are hoping to see some improvements in the human rights areas. However, as a good negotiator they have upped the ante and are now inquiring when we are going to remove the Arms restrictions. The spare parts pinch is looming down the road, especially for Naval aviation and the Air Force.

The Kiernan visit has gone about as well as can be expected. Unfortunately, the Kaplan visit the week before soured the atmosphere among GOA officials and also showed that they could stonewall when they wanted to. The past response has been to welcome everyone to explain the terrible dirty war they fought and seek understanding. The Kaplan group was the first that they refused to see.

Our fingers are still crossed regarding the IACHR visit. That visit should be a big step forward.

Best regards,

Tex

CC Ambassador Castro, Bumpus

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
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Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
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