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TELEGRAM

8/4/78

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FROM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES CLASSIFICATION

O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SHUM, AR  
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: NOTE OF PROTEST FROM FOREIGN MINISTER  
ACTION: SECSTATE WASH DC NIACT - IMMEDIATE

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~~BUENOS AIRES 6025~~

1. Pursuant to a request from the Foreign Minister, I met him at his office, with no one else present, at 1900 hours tonight (Thursday, August 3). Promptly at 1900 hrs he walked into the VIP room and it required his walking from one end of the hall to the other end where I was standing. I carefully observed him. He looked grim and his expression was as if he had just attended a funeral. This prompted my extending him my condolences for the untimely death of Admiral Lambruschini's daughter.

2. Leaving him no alternative, ForMin Montes thanked me. He then said in a stern manner "I'm handing you a note of protest against your Government. The last incident of EXIM Bank denying credits to GOA is more than we can tolerate. We consider that an intrusion into the affairs of a sovereign government."

DRAFTED BY: Ambassador Castro:mmp DRAFTING DATE: 8-3-78 TEL. EXT.: 200 CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED: Ambassador Castro

REFERENCES:

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4-12-76

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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)  
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS  
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director  
 Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny  
Exemption(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Declassify: ( ) In Part  In Full  
( ) Classify as \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) Extend as \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) Downgrade to \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Declassify on \_\_\_\_\_ Reason \_\_\_\_\_

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While the FonMin was talking, he lowered his head in a most dramatic fashion, spreading out his arms as if to give me my last sacrament, saying "I had hoped this would never happen between our two countries".

3. Realizing it was best to shift into a less emotional subject, I suggested to FonMin relations between USG and GOA could still continue in harmony. I expressed to Montes the process was simple. First every effort should be made so IAHRG would visit Argentina. I stressed relations between both countries were not contingent on a good or bad report from IAHRG. Of course, we all wished for the best, but it was incumbent GOA's invitation to IAHRG be accepted. I explained once that occurred military training would follow. Subsequently, based on other positive steps, release of spare parts, etc. would be considered. He nodded his head and said he understood the process. It was made clear positive acts would be considered under any circumstances.

4. I then inquired into the status of the Commission. Montes explained seven interrogatories had been propounded by IAHRG and had been submitted to Videla. I then inquired if any action had been taken by the President. He replied negative. Comment: For obvious reasons, I did not inform FonMin that General Bignone, on behalf of President Videla, had given to me the proposed answers to the seven questions. Bignone told me about a week ago these proposed answers were being sent to

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FonOff with instructions for immediate submission to  
IAHRC.

5. I again suggested to FonMin of importance on a positive approach. I commended him for his newspaper interview in which he stated relations with USH were normal and hopefully would reach an optimum point soon. Montes explained he had been invited to be a speaker at American Chamber of Commerce. He said he declined so as to avoid being asked questions on relations with US G. He concluded saying he was alarmed by the anti USG attitude prevailing at the Lambruschini daughter funeral. He said if care was not exercised the "Braden-Peron" atmosphere would again reign.

6. On my departure from FonOff the press was waiting for me. On being questioned, I used the no comment approach and indicated I was just making my usual visits to the FonOff. This, of course, didn't sell.

7. Fearing international press may have copy of note, I am transmitting note contents verbatim in Spanish so as to avoid differences of opinion on translation. Note follows:

~~(attached)~~  
~~XXX~~

~~SECRET~~

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BUENOS AIRES, 3 de agosto de 1978.

"SEÑOR EMBAJADOR:

"Tengo el agrado de dirigirme a Vuestra Excelencia con el objeto de hacerle llegar algunas reflexiones sobre las relaciones bilaterales de nuestros países, en adición a las que le expresara el señor Subsecretario de Relaciones Exteriores, Capitán de Navío Gualter O. Allara, durante la entrevista del pasado miércoles 19 de julio.

"Resulta de todo punto de vista imposible conciliar las apreciadas manifestaciones de Vuestra Excelencia sobre el interés del Gobierno de los Estados Unidos de mantener una cordial relación con el Gobierno Argentino, con actitudes como la de dar a conocer un comunicado de prensa el día 18 de julio último, en el que se hacen apreciaciones carentes de todo contenido amistoso, al informar sobre la denegación de una carta de intención solicitada por la Empresa Allis Chalmers Cor. al Eximbank.

"No es el caso señor Embajador, de replantear las gumentaciones que desde hace bastante tiempo vienen siendo presadas con paciente serenidad por mi Gobierno al de Vuestra Excelencia en ocasión de las distintas visitas de funcionarios estadounidenses a Buenos Aires, como así también en las entrevistas de funcionarios argentinos con funcionarios del Departamento de Estado en Washington. El Gobierno de la República

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gentina se halla impu<sup>do</sup> de firmes convicciones democráticas y por ello empeñado decididamente en devolver a la República -como lo viene haciendo- la completa normalización jurídica en su proceso de reorganización institucional. Se trata de un imperativo de nuestra manera de ser, una aspiración que se entronca con el comienzo de nuestra historia independiente y que tiene plena autonomía, ya que no está determinado por factores externos.

"Me veo ahore, señor Embajador, ante la obligación de expresar por vuestro intermedio al Gobierno de los Estados Unidos de América, que su actitud hacia la República Argentina, ejemplificada en el comunicado de prensa de referencia es una nueva intromisión en los asuntos internos de una Nación soberana.

"Mi Gobierno lamenta la presente situación, señor Embajador, y tenga Vucencia la certeza de que este sentimiento es compartido por todo el pueblo argentino, dolido por esta nueva muestra de incomprensión por parte del Gobierno de Vuestra Excelencia.

" Resulta penoso advertir que los sacrificios y penurias por los que pasara y pasa aún hoy el pueblo argentino para alcanzar la libertad y seguridad tan anheladas y a las que no renunciará, sean desconocidos de una manera tan flagrante.

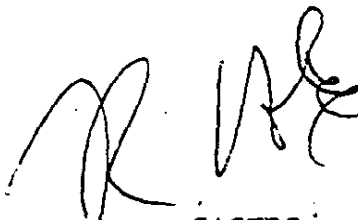
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"Quiero no obstante afirmar mi convicción de que a pesar de los actos de incomprensión que menciono, finalmente habrá de prevalecer el sentimiento de justicia que anima a su pueblo y que las relaciones de nuestros dos países podrán volver a los niveles de amistad tradicionales.

"Saludo a Vuestra Excelencia con mi consideración más distinguida."

MONTES "



CASTRO

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