

UNCLASSIFIED

1/28/78

Action #7TH

File

BB045

(S) 28

R

NNNNVV ESB020BRA583
RR RUESBA
DE RUEHC #3405/1 0281748
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R 282329Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO RUESBA/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 9714/9715
INFO RUESNA/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 1684
BT

LIMDIS

TO	ACT	INF	TO	ACT	INF
FWD					
DCM			L. GATT		
EA			PPA		
ECOM	3		TAB		
PO/R			AD		
CO-5			MLGP		
ADM			PE		
USIS			GSD		
SCI			B&F		
BT			CHRCM		
			HF		

STATE 023405/1

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBO, PGOV, PINT, SHUM, AR, CI

SUBJECT: ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR COMMENTS ON BEAGLE CHANNEL, NTA POLITICS AND HUMAN RIGHTS JUNTA POLITICS AND HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMARY. UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIS GOVERNMENT TO EXPLAIN ARGENTINA'S REJECTION OF THE BEAGLE CHANNEL ARBITRATION DECISION, AMBASSADOR AJA ESPIL CALLED ON ARA DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY MCNEIL ON JANUARY 25. THE AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED THAT CHILE AND ARGENTINA ARE CONTINUING THEIR EFFORTS TO REACH A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION OF THE BEAGLE PROBLEM DESPITE ARGENTINA'S ACTIONS. FRESH FROM TEN DAYS IN BUENOS AIRES, AJA ESPIL SAID THAT PRESIDENT VIDELA CONSIDERS THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MEMBERS OF THE "MOTHERS OF THE PLAZA DE MAYO" AND TWO FRENCH NUNS TO BE BARBARIC. DISAPPEARANCES HAVE PAISON OF DETELA, AJA ESPIL CLAIMED, TO ORDER THE PUBLICATION OF DETENTION LISTS. MCNEIL REITERATED THE DEPARTMENT'S CONCERN OVER THE DECEMBER DISAPPEARANCES AND EXPRESSED OUR INTEREST IN THE TIMERMAN, DEUTSCH AND VOGLER CASES. END SUMMARY.

2. BEAGLE CHANNEL. AJA ESPIL HANDED MCNEIL AN AIDE MEMOIRE WHICH OUTLINES ARGENTINA'S POSITION. COPIES WILL BE POUCHED TO ADDRESSEES. AJA ESPIL STATED THAT THE ARBITRATION COURT WAS ONLY SUPPOSED TO DECIDE WHO

OWNS THE BEAGLE CHANNEL AS WELL AS THREE DISPUTED ISLANDS. THE COURT WENT BEYOND THE TERMS OF REFERENCE, HOWEVER, AND REJECTED THE EXISTENCE OF A DIVIDING LINE BETWEEN THE ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC OCEANS. AJA ESPIL SAID THAT ARGENTINA WAS PREPARED TO SHARE THE CHANNEL AND RECOGNIZE CHILEAN SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE THREE ISLANDS, AS THE COURT DECIDED, BUT THAT BOTH ARGENTINA AND CHILE HAD LONG RESPECTED THAT THE FORMER WAS AN ATLANTIC STATE WHILE THE LATTER WAS PACIFIC. AS A RESULT OF THE COURT'S ARGUMENTATION, CHILE HAD SOUGHT TO EXTEND ITS TERRITORIAL SEAS 200 MILES INTO THE ATLANTIC (FROM THE EASTERN-MOST ISLAND IN THE CHANNEL.) AJA ESPIL COMMENTED THAT THIS EXTREME CHILEAN POSITION WAS DUE TO THEIR NAVY AND BLAMED THE ARGENTINE NAVY FOR OVER-REACTING TO CHILE'S PRETENSIONS. AJA ESPIL GAVE THE ARGENTINE AND CHILEAN PRESIDENTS CREDIT FOR RESTORING CALM TO THE DISPUTE, WHICH CAN NOW BE SETTLED THROUGH ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS.

3. MCNEIL EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT THE TWO PRESIDENTS MET TO SET IN MOTION A PROCESS TO RESOLVE THE DISPUTE, COMMENTING THAT THE U.S. HAD EXPRESSED ITS CONCERN THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES RESOLVE THEIR DIFFICULTIES IN A PACIFIC FASHION.

4. AJA ESPIL NOTED THAT THE BEAGLE ISSUE IS ONLY ONE OF VIDELA'S CURRENTLY DIFFICULT PROBLEMS. THE AMBASSADOR STATED THAT NAVY MINISTER MASSERA IS ALSO STIRRING UP TROUBLE BY ATTACKING MARTINEZ DE HOZ' ECONOMIC POLICIES. AJA ESPIL OPINED THAT THE NEXT FEW MONTHS WOULD BE DECISIVE IN THE ARGENTINE STRUGGLE AGAINST INFLATION. (A COMMENT WHICH OAS AMBASSADOR ORFILA ALSO MADE TO MCNEIL IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION LATER IN THE DAY).

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

LOT 81F93

(7/7) 52/52

UNCLASSIFIED

BA-9
4-12-76

UNCLASSIFIED

5. DISAPPEARANCES AND PRISONER LISTS. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THE PROBLEM OF HUMAN RIGHTS PERSONALLY WITH PRESIDENT VIDELA, WHO CHARACTERIZED THE DECEMBER DISAPPEARANCES OF 13 INDIVIDUALS AS BARBARIC. VIDELA ASSURED AJA ESPIL THAT HE WOULD GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS, AND AJA ESPIL PROMISED TO KEEP MCNEIL INFORMED.

MCNEIL REITERATED THE DEPARTMENT'S CONCERN OVER THE DISAPPEARANCES NOTING THAT THEY HAD UNDERMINED SOME OF THE POSITIVE IMPACT CAUSED BY THE RELEASE OF 300 PERSONS. AJA ESPIL REPEATED VIDELA'S CONCERN AND DECLARED THAT AS A RESULT OF THE LATEST DISAPPEARANCES, VIDELA HAD DECIDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOW PUBLISH A LIST OF ALL THOSE UNDER DETENTION. THIS WOULD SPARE OTHER

MOTHERS THE UNCERTAINTY DRAMATIZED BY THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE PLAZA DE MAYO MOTHERS. AJA ESPIL ADDED THAT THE DECISION TO PUBLISH A LIST WAS PRECIPITATED BY THIS DOMESTIC EVENT, I.E., THE DECEMBER DISAPPEARANCES, RATHER THAN FOREIGN PRESSURE. MCNEIL NOTED THAT THE PUBLICATION OF LISTS OF DETAINEES WOULD INDEED BE VERY IMPORTANT AND ENCOURAGING.

6. NEW BUENOS AIRES POLICE CHIEF. THE AMBASSADOR ALSO CITED THE REPLACEMENT OF HARDLINE CHIEF OF POLICE CAMPS BY RICCIERI (PHONETIC) AS ANOTHER POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT. AJA COMMENTED THAT RICCIERI WOULD MAKE SURE THAT THE POLICE RESPECTED ORDERS AND DID NOT ACT ON THEIR OWN.

7. TIMERMAN. IN RESPONSE TO MCNEIL'S QUERY, AJA ESPIL FORESAW NO EARLY ACTION ON TIMERMAN. AJA ESPIL EXPLAINED THAT THERE CONTINUES TO BE HARDLINE ARMY OPPOSITION TO TIMERMAN'S RELEASE. THE AMBASSADOR COMMENTED THAT BUENOS AIRES GOVERNOR SAINT JEAN IS A KEY ACTOR AND THAT AMBASSADOR CASTRO SHOULD USE HIS PERSUASIVE POWERS ON SAINT JEAN WHO RESPECTS CASTRO. ESPIL SEEMED FRUSTRATED THAT MEN LIKE SAINT JEAN AND GENERAL SUAREZ MASON (BUENOS AIRES COMMANDER) HAVE SUCH HARD POSITIONS. HE SAID THAT SUAREZ MASON COULD BE "REDEEMED" AND URGED THAT HE BE INVITED TO THE UNITED STATES. MCNEIL STATED FLATLY THAT WE COULD NOT RECEIVE A MAN AS IDENTIFIED WITH REPRESSION AS SUAREZ MASON.

8. DEUTSCH. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE DEUTSCH FAMILY, AJA ESPIL SAID THAT HE IS TRYING TO ASCERTAIN THEIR EXACT STATUS. HE SAID THAT A LOWER COURT ORDERED THEIR RELEASE BUT THAT THE MATTER HAD UNDOUBTEDLY BEEN APPEALED.

9. VOGLER. MCNEIL ALSO MENTIONED OUR INTEREST IN THE WELFARE OF LILIANA VOGLER, NOTING OUR HOPE THAT SHE MIGHT BE PERMITTED TO JOIN HER FAMILY IN CALIFORNIA. AJA ESPIL PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THIS CASE PROMPTLY.

10. TRACKER AIRCRAFT. AJA ESPIL MADE ANOTHER PLEA FOR THE RELEASE OF THREE S-2E (SUBMARINE SURVEILLANCE) AIRCRAFT, TWO OF WHICH ARE FOR CANNIBALIZATION AND THE OTHER FOR TRAINING PURPOSES. HE EXPLAINED THAT HE IS IN A VERY EMBARRASSING POSITION WITH THE NAVY BECAUSE

BOTH THE ARMY AND AIR FORCE WERE ABLE TO OBTAIN SOME EQUIPMENT RECENTLY (BRIDGES FOR THE ARMY AND 8 COMMERCIAL

HELICOPTERS FOR THE AIR FORCE). HE SAID THAT HE REALIZED THAT THE NAVY HAS NOT BEEN SINGLED OUT FOR A NEGATIVE RESPONSE BUT ASKED THAT WE UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE NAVY (WHICH RUNS THE FOREIGN MINISTRY). AJA ESPIL SAID THIS IS TRICKY FOR HIM BECAUSE OF HIS PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP WITH VIDELA. MCNEIL SAID THAT HE COULD PROMISE NOTHING BUT WE WOULD REVIEW THE MATTER. CHRISTOPHER

BT
#3405

LIMDIS

UNCLASSIFIED

BA-9
4-12-76