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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 ACDA-12 IO-13 PM-05 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01
USIA-06 PRS-01 /087 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3114

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 8396

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, AR, MNUC, PARM, PINS
SUBJECT: UNDERSECRETARY ALLARA'S WASHINGTON PRESS CONFERENCE

1. FONMIN UNDERSECRETARY GUALTER ALLARA'S WASHINGTON VISIT AND PRESS CONFERENCE WERE GIVEN WIDE AND VARIED COVERAGE IN ARGENTINE PRESS. ALTHOUGH ALLARA'S STATEMENT FOLLOW GOA STANDARD PATTERNS, THEY WERE GIVEN GREATER PLAY HERE DUE TO IMPENDING VANCE VISIT. MAJOR POINTS COVERED IN THE PRESS WERE:

(A) HUMAN RIGHTS --
ALLARA STATED THAT RELATIONS HAVE IMPROVED SOMEWHAT BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND THE UNITED STATES. HOWEVER, THERE WAS STILL A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING IN THE U.S. OF THE REAL SITUATION IN ARGENTINA, DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE GOA HAS GIVEN THE U.S. INFORMATION SO THAT THE ARGENTINA SITUATION COULD BE PROPERLY EVALUATED. COMMENTING ON THE SUSPENSION OF U.S. MILITARY AID TO ARGENTINA, ALLARA SAID THAT THE CUTOFF ITSELF IS "UNIMPORTANT BUT FULL OF POLITICAL CONNOTATIONS".

ALLARA POINTED OUT THAT "EXCEPTIONAL PROCEDURES" WERE CALLED

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FOR IN ARGENTINE BECAUSE THE SITUATION WAS EXCEPTIONAL. HE

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

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NOTED THAT WEST GERMANY HAS NOW A BETTER COMPREHENSION OF THE ARGENTINE POSITION DUE TO ITS INITIATING AN ENERGETIC FIGHT AGAINST THE TERRORISM OF THE BADER MEINHOF GANG "WHICH HAS LINKS TO THE MONTONEROS".

ALLARA SAID HE ACCEPTED THE HONESTY AND GOOD FAITH OF GROUPS AND PERSONS WORKING ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE BUT ADDED THAT THEY OFTEN ACTED ON THE BASIS OF LIMITED INFORMATION. HE STRESSED THE CONTINUING INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO DISCREDIT ARGENTINA. HE CITED THE CASE OF A MONTONERO ADVERTISEMENT APPEARING IN THE WASHINGTON POST ASKING FOR THE RELEASE OF EX-PRESIDENT HECTOR CAMPORA. HE EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT A RESPECTABLE NEWSPAPER WOULD PUBLISH AN ADVERTISEMENT FROM SUCH A CRIMINAL GROUP.

SUNDAY'S HERALD WEEKLY POLITICAL COLUMN ATTACKED ALLARA'S CONTINUATION THAT THE U.S. FAILED TO UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION IN ARGENTINA. HERALD COLUMNIST JAMES NEILSON COMMENTED THAT THIS ASSERTION IS FREQUENTLY MADE BUT IT RINGS HOLLOW. ADDED NEILSON "THERE IS NO REASON AT ALL WHY THE WELL INFORMED MEN IN THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE LESS ABLE TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IS GOING ON HERE THAN SUPPORTERS OF THE GOVERNMENT. THEIR SOURCES OF INFORMATION ARE NOT AS SOME PEOPLE AFFECT TO THINK, CONFINED TO THE PROPAGANDA HANDS OUTS OF THE MONTONEROS. IT IS NOT THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT FAILS TO UNDERSTAND, IT IS THAT IT UNDERSTANDS A BIT TOO WELL; BUT IS TRYING, QUIXOTICALLY, BUT AS FAR AS ONE CAN JUDGE SINCERELY, TO APPLY CERTAIN ETHICAL STANDARDS TO AN AREA MOST PEOPLE PREFER TO JUDGE BY FUNCTIONAL CRITERIA ALONE." (COMMENT: THIS IS AS STRONG A DEFENSE AS THE CARTER HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES HAVE RECEIVED IN PRINT IN ARGENTINA.)

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(B) SECRETARY VANCE'S VISIT --
ALLARA INDICATED THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR ENERGY WOULD BE ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL THEMES OF DISCUSSION DURING THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S VISIT TO BUENOS AIRES. HE POINTED OUT THAT ARGENTINA NEEDS TO POSSESS ADEQUATE TECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOP A PEACEFUL NUCLEAR INDUSTRY AND THAT THE COUNTRY WOULD CONTINUE ITS DEVELOPMENT IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD WITHOUT INTERFERENCES.

ALLARA DID NOT REJECT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THERE WOULD BE

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DISCUSSION WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE RETURN OF THE MALVINAS ISLANDS. ALLARA CONJECTURED THAT PERHAPS ARGENTINA CAN GET THE U.S. TO GIVE CERTAIN AID IN THIS MATTER.

(C) INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (IACHR) -- ALLARA AFFIRMED THAT ARGENTINA IS GIVING ITS FULL COLLABORATION TO THE IACHR. HE MENTIONED THAT ONE OF THE REASONS FOR HIS TRIP TO WASHINGTON WAS TO INITIATE A DIALOGUE WITH THE COMMISSION. HE PLEDGED ARGENTINE COOPERATION IN THE PREPARATION OF THE IACHR REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS FOR THE APRIL 1978 OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING; BUT REPLIED THAT IT WAS TOO EARLY TO SAY IF ARGENTINA WOULD ACCEPT A VISIT FROM THE IACHR.

2. THE PRESS ACCOUNTS MENTIONED WITHOUT DETAILS ALLARA'S MEETING WITH UNDERSECRETARY WARREN, ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN, AMBASSADOR CASTRO, AAAS PRESIDENT DADDARIO AND NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE PRESIDENT HANDLER.
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