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TELEGRAM

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	FROM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES	CLASSIFICATION [REDACTED]
E.O. 11652: TAGS: SUBJECT: ACTION:	N/A SHUM, PEPR, OAS, AR, US ARGENTINE DISTRESS OVER CARTER OAS SPEECH SECSTATE WASHDC	
AMB A/DCM POL 3 POL/R ECOM ICA CHRON RF	[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 4943	
	<p>BEGIN SUMMARY: Argentine concern with the deteriorated state of bilateral US relations is increasingly "going public". For Minister Montes' aggressive speech in the OAS and recent editorials add to signs that Argentina is seeking to play a more assertive role in its relations with the US over the human rights problem. Emphasizing the need to broaden bilateral relations beyond the single contentious issue of human rights monitoring, observers are positing Argentina's potential petroleum and food resources and its strategic importance as counter-balancing assets which US policy makers should take into account. END SUMMARY.</p> <p>1. Argentines registered dismay and displeasure with President Carter's OAS speech June 21. La Opinion, now a government mouthpiece under a retired military</p>	

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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

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OPTIONAL FORM 153
(Formerly FS-413)
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intervenor, has published a series of articles attacking the speech and Carter's human rights policy as presumptuous. On June 25, under the headline "Carter's paternalistic style annoys Latin America," columnist Sergio Ceron excerpted some of Carter's statements concerning the human rights policy, and contrasted them with excerpts of Argentine Foreign Minister Montes' speech on June 23. The Carter statements were described as "paternalistic" and "closer to Theodore Roosevelt's "big stick doctrine" than the "good neighbor policy" of another Roosevelt--Franklin Delano." The Montes reply was clear and unequivocal, states Ceron: "Argentina energetically rejects the attitude of those members of the continental community who assume prerogatives over the problems of others and, furthermore, who take advantage of international organizations, such as this one, to establish positions destined for the exclusive use of their own politics." Elsewhere, Montes complained of "the regrettable power abuse exercised by some powerful nations who use human rights as their single and restricted topic of dialog with other countries, usually those in the developing world."

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2. In the face of US pressures, Argentina is becoming a spokesman for Latin American countries in demanding equal treatment for all nations irrespective of their economic or warlike potential, Ceron wrote. "Argentina has rejected the dangerous paternalism implicit in the American president's statements and invites other Latin nations to take steps to ensure that their relations with the super-powers are not one of subordination." To this end, Montes called for a stronger South American bloc in order that Latin countries will be truly listened to and a party to a dialogue, instead of a monologue with the appearance of a dialogue.

3. Ceron put great store by the visit of Dr. Kissinger to Argentina and the connections maintained by Economy Minister Martinez de Hoz with the Rockefeller group. Perhaps, said Ceron, the Rockefellers understand better than Carter the importance of Argentina in the next few years, in the areas of its petroleum potential, food production, and strategic importance in the southern Atlantic. "It is up to Argentina to know how to insert itself into the international scene as a protagonist

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and not as a subordinate."

4. Comment: Dr. Kissinger during his visit took pains to avoid being placed in position of openly criticizing Carter Administration, but it was inevitable that pro-GOA editorial writers would exploit Kissinger's emphasis on Argentina's potential as a strategic US-ally in the East-West context. End Comment.

5. A La Nacion editorial June 22 also reviewed the unsatisfactory state of bilateral relations, "which are now at a critical point." Citing the Argentine Ambassador's demarche to the State Department and Under Secretary Newsom's subsequent visit to Argentina, La Nacion suggests that the problems have grown mainly due to a lack of listening to what is being said. "Little advantage can be gained from being sorry that Carter prefers action based on messianic impulses over a diplomacy based on strict and coherent ideological content." La Nacion suggests Argentina seek other issues--such as ratification of the Tlatelolco Treaty and a role as a moderating force within the Third World movement and the non-aligned--to reorient its diplomacy with the US. "A clear understanding of what



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the United States wants from us may help to view occasional demands concerning human rights in a broader and more flexible manner, in line with our traditional national and international standards," concludes La Nacion.

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