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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

S.S

10/20-10/24 1979

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[Redacted] (Entire Text)

TO: The Secretary

FROM: ARA - Viron P. Vaky

SUBJECT: Your Meeting with Argentine Foreign Minister Carlos Washington Pastor

I. INTRODUCTION

Since your last meeting with Foreign Minister Pastor at the September UNGA, there have been significant developments in the internal political situation which could affect further progress on human rights. Minister Pastor may complain that the United States fails to recognize the great efforts made by President Videla and other Argentine leaders to improve the human rights situation. On the nuclear issue, the Minister will likely take the subject under advisement.

II. ISSUES

1. Internal Political Developments and Human Rights

The recent decision of the Argentine Government to release Timerman on September 25 prompted deep divisions within the military. That decision and the armed terrorist attack against Economy Secretary Guillermo Walter Klein and his family were prime factors in precipitating the September 30 rebellion by hardline III Corps Commander General Benjamin Menendez.

While Menendez's dismissal undoubtedly represented a key victory for the more moderate elements within the Argentine leadership, the underlying hardline sentiment still exists. (The senior military leaders initially voted 6-3 against Timerman's release; to reverse the decision, President Videla, the civilian Minister of Justice, and the entire Supreme Court threatened to resign.) Moreover, it is our Embassy's view that recent State Department press releases (such as that on Timerman's release) have left the impression within the GOA of continued U.S. hostility toward Argentina despite recent improvement on human rights, and that this may have tended to strengthen the position of hardline elements in the Argentine Armed Forces.

[Redacted] GDS 10/18/85

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

Although there were a number of disappearances in August and September, there have been no new reports since you last raised this issue with Pastor.

Talking Points

--We were very pleased that the IAHR mission to Argentina received the full support of the government during its visit.

--In the aftermath of the IAHR visit, what further developments do you expect in improving human rights?

2. Treaty of Tlatelolco

In your August 10 meeting with Pastor in Quito, he told you that Argentina planned to ratify the treaty of Tlatelolco within "a couple of months" after Argentina arranged the purchase of a heavy water plant. On October 1, the GOA announced the contract award for the construction of a heavy water plant by the Swiss.

Talking Points

--Now that Argentina has awarded a contract for the heavy water plant, when does Argentina plan to ratify the Treaty of Tlatelolco?

--(If Pastor vacillates) Argentina announced its decision to ratify the treaty of Tlatelolco in November 1977. We do not see the treaty as a bar to the transfer of nuclear technology and would very much like to see Argentina keep its pledge.

3. Inter-American Issues

As time allows, you may wish to discuss current developments on such issues as:

--OAS political issues, including Bolivia's access to the sea efforts.

--Central America, including the latest developments in El Salvador.

--Cuba: Castro's UN speech and Cuban activities in the hemisphere.