



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

#39

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

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5 MAY 1981

Chile

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Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: NOV 19 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF, UNITED STATES ARMY

SUBJECT: US Policy Toward Chile (U)

(U) I appreciate your views on US-Chilean relations and share your concern about Chilean perceptions. It is indeed necessary that we pursue a balanced approach toward Argentina and Chile, given their historically competitive relationship and their relative importance in the region.

As you know, a reorientation of our policy is underway as indicated by the testimony of the Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs before Congress on 10 March 1981. In effect, we have changed our policy toward Chile through interagency consensus rather than using the IG mechanism. The actions you highlighted that have already been taken reflect the changes in our policy. Nevertheless, even though Chile's human rights records is somewhat better than that of Argentina, the Letelier-Moffitt case continues to pose difficulties, necessitating a more deliberate approach in the case of Chile. For that reason, the Administration has decided to move first on repeal of restrictive legislation on Argentina, while working to achieve support on the hill for subsequent Congressional initiatives to deal with legislation on Chile. Certainly, we would not want to jeopardize the Argentine legislation or the progress we have made on changes to our Chilean policies.

Meanwhile, DoD is quietly pursuing several initiatives with the Department of State to improve our overall military relationship with Chile. Among these are high-level military visits, reestablishing personnel exchange programs, and supporting wherever possible efforts in Congress to repeal the legislative restrictions on security assistance.

A principal long range objective in our military relations with both Argentina and Chile should be to develop cooperative arrangements which will further our security objectives in the region. The initiatives in your action plan, some of which are

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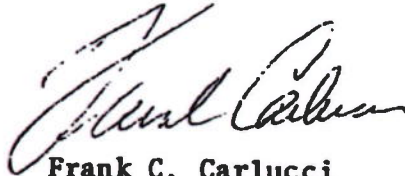
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already underway, will be most helpful in furthering those efforts. My office will continue to work closely with your staff, the other services, and the Joint Staff in developing such programs and resolving the impediments which hinder the restoration of close US military ties with both the Chilean and Argentine armed forces.



Frank C. Carlucci
Deputy

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