

~~SECRET EYES ONLY~~

0 051750Z MAY 78 ZFF 4 & 1

FM SSO PANAMA

Declassified in Full

TO SSO DIA

Authority: EO 13526

ZEM

Originator: SOUTHCOM

Date: 6 March 2018

CLASSIFIED TO:
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LTG D.P. MCAULIFFE, USCINCSO SENDS FOR LTG A.W. BRASWELL, DIRECTOR JCS J-5

SUBJECT: MILITARY RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINA (U)

A. YOUR VDIR-022-79 DTG 050016Z MAY 78 (S)

1. (S) I AM EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTED AT OUR FAILURE TO PROVIDE AT LEAST A PARTIAL RESPONSE TO ARGENTINA'S REQUESTS TO PURCHASE TRAINING (AT THEIR EXPENSE) AND SPARE PARTS. AS I NOTED FOLLOWING MY RECENT VISIT THERE, THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT UNDER GEN VIDELA HAS MADE SOME PROGRESS IN HUMAN RIGHTS (OBVIOUSLY THERE HAVE BEEN SOME NEGATIVE STEPS ALONG WITH THE POSITIVE) AND OUR APPROVAL OF AT LEAST THE TRAINING REQUEST WOULD HAVE BEEN FAR MORE USEFUL THAN THE CONTINUATION OF OUR PATTERN OF TURN DOWNS. THIS ACTION IS PARTICULARLY UNFORTUNATE IN THAT IT COMES AT A TIME WHEN THE "FOURTH MAN" ISSUE APPEARS TO BE SETTLED, AND I AM FEARFUL THAT IT WILL TEND TO ISOLATE US FROM THE ONE MAN, GEN VIDELA, WHO APPEARS TO BE CAPABLE OF LEADING THE COUNTRY OUT OF ITS PROBLEMS AND ON A COURSE TOWARD RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.
2. (S) I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE PROPOSED "HIGH-LEVEL TEAM" WILL BE HELPFUL, AS IT WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE SEEN AS ONE MORE EFFORT BY THE U.S. TO INTERFERE IN ARGENTINA'S INTERNAL GOVERNMENT PROCESSES. HOWEVER, ASSUMING IT DOES GO, I WOULD CERTAINLY LIKE FOR MAJ GEN SURUT TO STOP BY SOUTHCOM ON HIS WAY BACK FROM ARGENTINA. THERE IS LITTLE ADVANTAGE TO HIS COMING BY ON THE WAY DOWN, AND IT MAY ONLY COMPLICATE HIS TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS.

3. (U) REQUEST THAT MY VIEWS BE CONVEYED TO THE ACTION CHAIRMAN,

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JCS. WARM REGARDS.

~~OPS 86~~

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