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MSC DELIVERED TO:
CINC
DEP CINC
CofS
DIR J-2
DIR J-3
DIR RM
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CMD SUR
GOV, CZ
CDR 193D
COM USAF SO
CO NAVSO
US AMBASSADOR

P 111424Z MAY 78

FM JCS

TO USCINCSO

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FOR LGEN MCAULIFFE, FROM LGEN BRASWELL

SUBJECT: MILITARY RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINA (U)

REFS: A. JCS 050016Z MAY 78 - *Atch*

B. USCINCSO 051750Z MAY 78 - *Atch*

C. USCINCSO 122306Z ^{APR}MAY 78 - *Atch*

D. AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 172142Z APR 78 - *PA*

1. ~~(S)~~ FOLLOWING IS SECSTATE RESPONSE, DTD 1 MAY 78, TO THE
17 MAR 78 SECDEF LTR, MENTIONED IN REF A:

QUOTE: DEAR HAROLD:

I APPRECIATE YOUR LETTER OF MARCH 17 ON ARGENTINA.
I SHARE YOUR BELIEF THAT WE NEED TO MAKE EFFECTIVE USE
OF THE TIME AND FLEXIBILITY REMAINING BEFORE THE
OCTOBER 1 LEGISLATIVE CUTOFF OF ARMS SALES TO ARGENTINA
TO PERSUADE THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE ITS
HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES.

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Authority: EO 13526
Originator: JS
Date: 6 March 2018

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AUTHORITY OF DOD DIR. 5200.1 R
BY *hmg/gle* ON 2/5/90

THERE HAVE BEEN SOME RECENT IMPROVEMENTS IN THE
HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN ARGENTINA, BUT THESE ARE
MORE THAN OUTWEIGHED BY THE CONTINUING DISAPPEARANCES
AND THE TRAGIC, UNEXPLAINED DEATHS OF TWO NUNS AND
FIVE OTHER WOMEN WHO WERE ABDUCTED IN DECEMBER. IN
VIEW OF THIS SITUATION AND THE STRONG CONGRESSIONAL

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INTEREST IN OUR POLICY ON ARMS TRANSFERS TO ARGENTINA,
WE THINK IT WOULD BE BEST AT THIS TIME NOT TO GO AHEAD
WITH THE PENDING ARMS TRANSFER CASES AND NOT TO GRANT
THE ARGENTINE REQUEST TO PURCHASE TRAINING.

INSTEAD, WE SUGGEST THAT A TEAM CONSISTING OF
SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AND SENIOR U.S.
MILITARY OFFICERS SHOULD MEET AT A HIGH LEVEL WITH
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT. THE
TEAM WOULD EXPLAIN THAT BECAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES
IN ARGENTINA, WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO ACT FAVORABLY

ON EITHER THE LARGE NUMBER OF ARMS TRANSFER CASES THAT
HAS ACCUMULATED OR THE ARGENTINE REQUEST TO PURCHASE
TRAINING, AND THAT ONLY SUBSTANTIAL, AUTHENTIC HUMAN
RIGHTS IMPROVEMENTS IN ARGENTINA WOULD PERMIT US TO
CHANGE OUR POSITION ON THESE MATTERS.

THE TEAM WOULD INFORM THE ARGENTINES THAT IF THEY
CURTAIL THE IRREGULAR DETENTION AND ABDUCTION PRACTICES
USED BY THE SECURITY FORCES, AND ESTABLISH AND MEET A
SCHEDULE FOR CHARGING AND TRYING--OR RELEASING--THOSE
HELD UNDER EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY, WE WILL RESPOND
IN A CALIBRATED AND SEQUENTIAL FASHION, AS THE HUMAN
RIGHTS IMPROVEMENTS OCCUR, WITH APPROVALS OF THE
PENDING MATTERS. DEPENDING UPON ARGENTINA'S RESPONSE
TO THE FOREGOING, THE TEAM WOULD HAVE AUTHORITY TO
INDICATE APPROVAL OF SOME OF THE PENDING CASES.

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I HAVE ASKED THAT PROPOSED INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE TEAM BE PROMPTLY PREPARED IN CONJUNCTION WITH DOD. I THINK THE TEAM SHOULD LEAVE FOR BUENOS AIRES WITHIN THE NEXT TEN DAYS. I HOPE YOU WILL AGREE THAT THE INCLUSION OF SENIOR U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL IN SUCH A TEAM WOULD HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL AND DESIRABLE EFFECT ON THE ARGENTINES.

SINCERELY,

CY

UNQUOTE

2. ~~(S)~~ FOLLOWING IS SECDEF RESPONSE TO THE 1 MAY 1978
SECDEF LTR:

QUOTE: DEAR CY:

I APPRECIATE YOUR VERY THOUGHTFUL AND POSITIVE REPLY TO MY LETTER OF MARCH 17 CONCERNING INITIATIVES TO ENCOURAGE HUMAN RIGHTS IMPROVEMENTS IN ARGENTINA. IN VIEW OF CIRCUMSTANCES SUBSEQUENT TO MY LETTER, I RECOGNIZE THE WISDOM IN THE GRADUATED RESPONSE APPROACH YOU SUGGEST.

WE ARE IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH YOUR PROPOSAL TO SEND A STATE/DOD TEAM TO ARGENTINA AS OUTLINED IN YOUR LETTER. MY REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE MAJOR GENERAL LEE E. SURUT, U.S. ARMY, REPRESENTING THE JCS, AND REAR ADMIRAL GORDON J. SCHULLER, DIRECTOR, INTER-AMERICAN REGION, OSD-ISA. THEY ARE PREPARED TO FULLY COOPERATE AND WORK WITH YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN PREPARATION FOR AND FULFILLMENT OF THE MISSION.

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I AM HOPEFUL THAT THIS INITIATIVE WILL LEAD TO MAJOR PROGRESS TOWARD THE ATTAINMENT OF OUR HUMAN RIGHTS OBJECTIVES IN ARGENTINA, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME SERVING THE BROAD RANGE OF OUR BILATERAL INTERESTS. YOU HAVE THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE IN THIS ENDEAVOR.

HAROLD

UNQUOTE

3. ~~(S)~~ SECSTATE PROPOSAL FOR HIGH LEVEL TEAM, AS INDICATED BY SECDEF RESPONSE, PERCEIVED IN OSD AND TO SOME EXTENT IN J-5 AS POSITIVE INITIATIVE. FEELING IS THAT NOW ARGENTINES CAN GET FAVORABLE RESPONSES FROM USG DEPENDENT UPON CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. IF GEN VIDELA INTENDS TO CONTINUE HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRESS OF HIS GOVERNMENT, AS REPORTED IN REF C, THEN APPROVAL OF SPARE PARTS AND TRAINING REQUESTS SHOULD BE POSSIBLE. GIVEN CURRENT HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION, AS REPORTED REF D, THE 1 MAY STATE RESPONSE SEEMS BEST WE CAN EXPECT AND MAY WORK OUT THOUGH JCS INITIALLY OPPOSED SENDING MILITARY TEAM.

4. ~~(C)~~ CONCERNING WHETHER TEAM WILL BE HELPFUL, AMEMBASSY, BUENOS AIRES VIEWS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED TO STATE. AMBASSADOR CASTRO STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE INITIATIVE.

5. ~~(C)~~ TEAM NOW EXPECTED TO TRAVEL TO ARGENTINA BETWEEN

17 AND 25 MAY 1978. MGEN SURUT WILL PLAN ONLY ON OUT-BRIEF IN PANAMA ON WAY BACK TO WASHINGTON, PER YOUR COMMENT.

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6. (U) GENERAL JONES WAS OUT OF TOWN UNTIL 9 MAY. AS
REQUESTED, YOUR VIEWS BEING CONVEYED TO HIM. WARM
REGARDS.

SSO: DELIVER DURING DUTY HOURS

~~ADS-86~~

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CLASSIFIED DOCUMENT ACCOUNTABILITY RECORD						DATE
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