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FROM: USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ //SCSA//

TO: CJCS WASH DC

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Originator: SOUTHCOM
Date: 6 March 2018

~~SECRET NOFORN~~

PERSONAL FOR GEN BROWN FROM LTG MCAULIFFE. DELIVER DURING
DUTY HOURS.

SUBJECT: Reaction to Human Rights Issues (U)

1. ~~(C)~~ I am very concerned over the reaction of many of the governments
of Latin America in response to the examination of their human rights
practices by the US Congress. I have been following the reactions
throughout the region carefully, and can foresee a detrimental effect
unless this matter is handled in a cautious and understanding manner by
the U.S.

2. ~~(S/NFD)~~ It appears that in most cases the renunciation of Mutual
Assistance Agreements and/or security assistance for FY 78 is a defensive
mechanism to prevent public airing of our government's evaluation of
their performance in the preservation of internationally accepted human
rights standards. They consider our evaluation a gross interference in

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DD FORM 173

REPLACES DD FORM 173, 1 JUL 68, WHICH WILL BE USED.

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their internal affairs, and think that the rejection of security assistance will get them out of the spotlight and avoid the blow to their national pride that would accompany any reduction or elimination of programs by the U.S. on human rights grounds. I further note that many of these nations, and in particular their military leaders, are saddened and resentful at a perceived major change in their relationship with the United States. Moreover, the apparent inconsistency of our initiatives toward normalized relations with Cuba without regard to human rights will be the subject of increasing criticism in this region.

3. ~~(S/NFD)~~ A summary of actions taken to date by nations in the region is as follows:

a. Chile: The U.S. suspended military assistance to Chile ^{EFFECTIVE} on 1 July 1975, and in October 1976 President Pinochet formally rejected all U.S. economic aid for 1977. He recently banned all political parties and extended the state of siege for six more months; actions which will almost

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<p style="text-align: center;">FROM: 7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TO:</p> <p>certainly result in further charges of repression by Chile's critics in the U.S. and the world. Chilean efforts to purchase military equipment from non-US suppliers are intensifying as they note Peru's growing Soviet arsenal and their own inventory continues to deteriorate. Considering the situation as it now stands, Chile is not likely to move any more against the U.S. than it already has.</p> <p>b. Argentina: The Argentine government has officially rejected the \$15 million military sales credits offered for FY 78, but apparently plans to utilize available IMET funds as well as credits remaining from previous years. The government is particularly concerned that the US does not understand the extent of the internal threat to Argentina, and view the US policy of seeking rapprochement with the Cuba as inconsistent with stated human rights goals. Argentina's primary objective right now appears to be the strengthening of relationships with the other nations of Latin America, particularly in the Southern Cone, as opposed</p>							
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<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">UNCLASSIFIED</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FROM:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TO:</p> <p>to any dramatic lessening of ties with the United States.</p> <p>c. Uruguay: The Mendez government has officially refused any further US military or economic assistance, and has rejected, in advance, the U.S. State Department report to Congress on the human rights situation in Uruguay. Most Uruguayan officials believe that their position on human rights is correct, is not causing excesses, and that continued tight control is necessary. There are some moderates, however, who believe that improvements are called for, but they believe current U.S. tactics are hampering their efforts to make improvements from within.</p> <p>d. Brazil: Brazil's abrogation of the 1952 Security Assistance Agreement with the U.S. is probably the most straightforward and clearly definable reaction given by any Latin American government thus far. The Brazilians are capable of supplying most of their own defense needs through domestic production or procurement from traditional suppliers in Western Europe. The status of JBUSMC (and in</p>									
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<p style="text-align: center;">FROM: UNCLASSIFIED</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TO:</p> <p>particular, the US Element of it, and the US Security Assistance Group)</p> <p>is not affected by the treaty abrogation, and most Brazilian officers seem</p> <p>to feel that relations with US military personnel will change very little.</p> <p>Although some problems in the areas of maintenance and spare parts for</p> <p>such U.S. systems as the F-5 fighter aircraft could develop, the Brazilian</p> <p>military continue to indicate that decisions affecting the situation have been</p> <p>political, and that any hard feelings will subside before such problems</p> <p>become critical.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">e. Guatemala: The Guatemalan government has declined, in advance,</p> <p>any aid or sale of military equipment that is conditioned on judgments that</p> <p>any foreign government might make on matters that they believe to be</p> <p>exclusively an internal concern--namely human rights. There have been</p> <p>no details yet as to the nature of this refusal or how it will affect US-</p> <p>Guatemalan military relations, but it is probably a public, bandwagon-</p> <p>type stance. Indications are that military relations will probably</p>							
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continue as in the past. However, according to a Guatemalan press report, the Office of the Presidency stated that future arms requirements could be satisfied by purchases from Israel or the Soviet Union.

f. El Salvador: El Salvador has publicly renounced U.S. military aid which is tied to the human rights issue, claiming that the U.S. position constitutes disrespect for El Salvador's sovereignty and right of self-determination. In a move thus far unique to El Salvador, there have been official questions raised as to how much they benefit from the presence of the US Military Group (USMILGP), and there have even been unofficial suggestions that perhaps the MILGP should be withdrawn. The recent press announcement that the Ministry of Defense has recalled all Salvadoran military personnel studying in the US and the Canal Zone may presage more severe reactions.

4. ~~(C)~~ With the possible exception of Paraguay and Nicaragua, I believe we have seen the extent of this round of Latin American reaction unless

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<p style="text-align: center;">FROM:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TO:</p> <p>additional factors are introduced at the Washington level. The situation here, nevertheless, is both sensitive and volatile. My sensing is that it is in our interest to keep our Military Groups intact and functioning, albeit in a low profile manner, to prevent a chasm in our relationships which will be difficult to bridge in the future. The members of our Military Groups are in a unique position to serve as a moderating influence with their military counterparts, which I have instructed them to do in the appropriate cases. Working in concert with the US Ambassador, they can quietly counsel against human rights excesses and urge national efforts to enhance the protection of human rights.</p> <p>5. (C) With the possible exception of El Salvador, host country military leaders have not yet officially questioned the continued presence of our Military Groups. It is probable, however, that these kinds of questions may yet arise, and may certainly do so in Washington. Therefore, I recommend that you and the other members</p>											
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<p style="text-align: center;">FROM:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TO:</p> <p>of the Joint Chiefs of Staff take whatever opportunities occur to urge that our military teams in Latin America be left intact and allowed enough flexibility to function as effectively as the changing situation will permit. I do not subscribe to their conducting "business as usual" in the affected countries, but functioning in a low profile, in concert with the Ambassador and Country Team. My objective is to avoid adding to the turbulence already created and the strains now extant in our relationships in Latin America.</p> <p>6. (U) An expanded version of our country-by-country assessment has been forwarded to DIA and OJCS/J-5. Additionally, although I have not addressed these thoughts to GEN Haig or ADM Welsner, you may wish to pass them along if the subject is impacting in their regions.</p> <p>Warm Regards.</p> <p>7. (U) CDS 85 CLASSIFIED BY [redacted] 22 Mar 77 SUBJECT TO SPECIAL ECLIPSE [redacted] 1982 EXEMPTED AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED AT TWO YEAR INTERVAL DECLASSIFY ON 31 DECEMBER 1982</p>									
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