

~~SECRET~~

8 MAY 78 10 51

J
(XB)



INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL
Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: SEP 01 2017

8 MAY 1978
In reply refer to:
I-2196/78

(1-5)

9 MAY 1978
SECDEF HAS SEEN

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Military Relations with Argentina--ACTION MEMORANDUM

Your letter of 17 March to Secretary Vance (TAB B) recommended approval of existing Argentine requests to purchase training and spare parts, to be offered to the Argentines as an incentive for near term substantial improvements in human rights practices in that country. A sequence of intervening events in Argentina--continuing disappearances, news of the death of two nuns, etc.--have tempered Secretary Vance's response (TAB C).

The present proposal is that we send a high level team of State Department officials and senior U.S. military officers to voice to GOA officials our continuing concerns, and to identify a range of concrete responses which the USG is prepared to make, in the form of graduated approval of their purchase requests, in exchange for specific GOA commitments to correct their human rights practices.

We have worked with the JCS to identify the DoD officials to participate in this joint mission. Major General Lee E. Surut, Director, Strategy Plans and Policy, Department of Army, would represent the JCS, and Rear Admiral Gordon J. Schuller, Director, Inter-American Region, ISA, would be the OSD representative. I believe Secretary Vance's proposal is sound, and that we should cooperate fully toward that end.

I recommend you sign the letter to Secretary Vance, next under.

Office of the Secretary of Defense *5 U.S.C. § 552*
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
Date: *01 Sep 2017* Authority: EO 13526
Declassify: *X* Deny in Full: _____
Declassify in Part: _____
Reason: _____
MDR: *17 -M- 2312*

David E. McCliffert
David E. McCliffert
Assistant Secretary of Defense
International Security Affairs

COORDINATION:

Director, J-5 *Alford* concurs

~~SECRETARY OF DEFENSE~~
~~SECRETARY OF DEFENSE~~
~~SECRETARY OF DEFENSE~~
~~SECRETARY OF DEFENSE~~
~~SECRETARY OF DEFENSE~~

(1-5)

~~SECRET~~

SEC DEF CONTR No. X-1345

~~SECRET~~

Argie

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

9 MAY 1978

40
70

Honorable Cyrus R. Vance
Secretary of State
Washington, D. C. 20520

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.

17 Mar 78

Argentina 0913

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.

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

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL
Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: SEP 01 2017

~~Classified by Director, IA(VN)GAS~~
~~Subject to Control under Executive Order 11652~~
~~EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION~~
~~APPLICABLE TO THIS INFORMATION~~
~~EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE~~
731 Dec 86

9/11/16

330-81-0202, box 52, Argentina, 1978

~~SECRET~~

SEC DEF CONTR No. X-1345