

~~SECRET~~ ~~INFORM~~



INTERNATIONAL  
SECURITY AFFAIRS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

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1-7

*Argentina*

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Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS  
Date: SEP 01 2017

18 JUL 1978

In reply refer to:  
1-20142/78

17 JUL 1978

SECDEF HAS SEEN

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
SUBJECT: Military Relations With Argentina

We continue to look for ways to take advantage of whatever momentum we have gained toward the resolution of fundamental problems with Argentina. I firmly believe we did gain some ground through the State/DoD mission to Argentina, although it has been a daily battle to follow through for tangible results. As you know, the matter of a visit by the IAHRIC is still being negotiated between the GOA and the Commission. Indications from the Argentine Army and Air Force are encouraging; from the Navy through Foreign Minister Montes--a Navy man--the outlook is most pessimistic. Attached are two messages from Ambassador Castro relating his conversations with Army Chief of Staff Viola (President Videla's alter ego) and with the Foreign Minister. I think the messages reveal the very deep divisions within the Junta and the lack of communication between them (TAB B).

Two of the three junta members appear to be trying desperately to avoid a break with the U.S. Admiral Massera, the political spoiler, is making it extremely difficult. Somehow I believe we must take full advantage of our openings with the moderate elements if we are to achieve important gains in human rights, arms control and other important interests.

General Agosti, the Air Force Commander and Air Force member of the Junta, has written to Dave Jones (TAB C) baring his soul on the whole complex issue and calling for additional dialogue aimed at mutual understanding and finding solutions. I believe this represents an opportunity which we should not pass up. In addition to providing a prompt and positive response to his letter, I believe we should invite Agosti to Washington to meet with us--you or Charles, General Jones, General Allen and possibly Secretary Vance--to continue the efforts which we have started.

~~Classification: Director, 01001/0177~~  
~~Subject to General Declassification Schedule~~  
~~Secret: 01001/0177~~  
~~State/DoD Mission to Argentina, Declassified~~

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I recommend that you sign the letter to Secretary Vance, next under, proposing the Agosti visit.



David E. McGiffert  
Assistant Secretary of Defense  
International Security Affairs

COORDINATION:

Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

Chief of Staff, USAF

 \_\_\_\_\_ Concur  
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