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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WASHINGTON D C 20301

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL Authority: EO 13526

Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS

Honorable Cyrus R. Vance

Secretary of State Department of State Washington, D. C. 20520

Date: JAN 1 2 2018

17 JUL 1978

Office of the Secretary of Defense	5 U.S.C.	55	2
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Date: 12JAN2018 Authority: EC	13526	*	
Declassify: X Deny in Full:			
Declassify in Part:			
Reason:			
MDR: 17 -M- 2104			

Dear Cy:

I am forwarding for your consideration a letter just received by Dave Jones from General Agosti, Air Force member of the ruling junta in Argentina. I think it bears careful reading, because it constitutes the clearest statement we have seen from the Argentine leadership on a number of points.

Agosti as Air Force Commander points out the practical consideration of keeping his force operationally ready. Clearly he prefers the U.S. as the prime source. Agosti as junta member points out the approaching requirement for a hard political decision to turn to Europe for new equipment—a decision which would also involve considerable monetary cost, as well as detracting from our own efforts to reduce arms trade in the hemisphere. Agosti the man expresses deep concern over the current course of events, encouraging further dialogue aimed at a "new current of understanding."

It is Agosti's call for further dialogue which I see as seeking and offering us an opportunity to continue what was started by the Newsom mission, which you recommended. I think this is encouraging—in sharp contrast to the Montes reaction described in Ambassador Castro's message (BA 5169). Clearly Agosti represents a moderate element in the leadership closely akin to the approach of President Videla (BA 5209). My view is that we should seize on this opportunity and try to work with Agosti.

First, I recommend that we respond to him promptly, reaffirming our own deep concerns and expressing the hope that mutual respect, common interests and the search for mutual understanding will lead to early solutions. Second, I believe we must be prepared to assure him that meaningful Argentine initiatives, including an opening for the IAHRC visit, will be recognized by prompt and positive steps on our part. Finally, I believe we should invite Agosti to Washington and hear him out. General Allen would host the visit. Charles Duncan or I would find time to meet with him, as would Dave Jones. You might also wish to receive him, countering the Montes charge that GOA officials are slighted in Washington.

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Date: JAN 1 2 2018



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I hope you will agree to this approach, and will so advise me at your very earliest convenience. I am available to discuss this further if you wish.

Sincerely,

Hurold

Attachment a/s



Tuerza Airea Argentina Comandante en Tefs

Page determined to be Unclassified Reviewed Chief, RDD, WHS IAW EO 13526, Section 3.5

Date: JAN 1 2 2018

BUENOS AIRES, June 28th 1978.

Dear General Jones:

Deeply concerned with the development of the re lations between our Governments, I have considered convenient to let you know these opinions on the matter.

I have taken into account for this the true communication that we have established in our previous meetings, iden tified by the true vocation characteristic of an authentic military man, and conscious of our responsibility on decisions of the outmost importance for our countries.

The present situation of the relationship betwee our countries is not encouraging and it is hard for me to clearly understand the meaning of the policy of the United States towards Argentina.

In all the fields it is essential to know where our friends and enemies are. Above the difference in some importar cases, most of the Argentine have believed in the friendship of yo country, based on the defense of mutual values.

But beyond those considerations, we have believe to find the existence of common interests on which we could build up our relationship. We haven't asked special favors or concession but only to work within a frame of mutual respect.

We could even understand your indiference toward us. But we cannot do it in front of an attitude that sometimes see harder than that bestowed to potential enemies.

We think we are really understanding and ready exchange ideas. Nevertheless we cannot accept impositions on decisions that are only ours; that would mean to give up a principle . sovereingty always claimed by our countries.



Tuerxa Aérea Argentina Comandante en Tefs Page determined to be Unclassified Reviewed Chief, RDD, WHS IAW E0 13526, Section 3.5 Date: JAN 1 2 2018

The continuity of present conditions will unfortunately lead to a restatement of Argentine position towards the United States. Anyhow, up to this point, the damage caused to our trust in your country will be very difficult to repair.

As you know, dear General, as military men, we have the unavoidable responsibility of being permanently prepared for the fulfillment of our mission.

For that reason, it is particularly serious not to count today with guaranties in order to be able to keep in working conditions the material acquired in the U.S.

Therefore the Air Force will not be able to neglect in the future the need to resort in a higher degree to other source for its equipment.

We are looking forward to the surging of a new current of understanding that will strengthen the relations between our Governments.

Because I believe in that possibility, because I wis to remain confident in that result, because reasonable conditions are given to that end, it has been my wish to let you know my concern for the present situation.

Wishing you success in your ardous functions and your personal happiness, I remain,

Sincerely yours,





ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL Authority: EO 13526

Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS

Date: JAN 1 2 2018

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In reply refer to: 1-20142/78

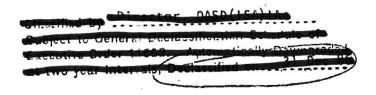
MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

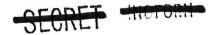
SUBJECT: Military Relations With Argentina

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 IAHRC 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 Vancer-to continue the efforts which we have started.





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Date: JAN 1 2 2018

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

David E. McCiffert
Assistant Secretary of Defense
International Security Affairs

COORDINATION:

Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

· Chief of Staff, USAF

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DepSecDef
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CESSIAIE VIENDS LIMIS (16/6/1 July)

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Page determined to be Unclassific Reviewed Chief, RDD, WHS IAW EO 13526, Section 3.5 Date: JAN 1 2 2018

GENERAL DAVID C. JONES

CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

MEMORANDUM TO: Say We Ciffet DATE July Have - attached letter is from Gen agosti, Chief of agentine air Fore and mor of Junta (the most modrate one) - I have come to know agosta quite well dwing three extended meetings wath fatin american Chiefe. The attacke delived this premally and all I total him was I would real corefully, give it serious consideration and would answer. I hand like to hang your advice I plan to let Hard know I'm working

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SUBJECT:							CURRENT SUS		TE:		
Military Relations with Argentina						i					
SUMMARY (Describe briefly the requirement, background and action recommended):											
ORIGIN: General Agosti, Argentine Air Force Commander and member of the Junta, has written to General Jones expessing his concerns over the course of events in our bilateral relations, pointing out the practical consideration of keeping his Air Force operational, and pleading for a continuation of the dialogue aimed at finding solutions. Proposed letter to SECDEF forwards a letter intended to call Secretary Vance's attention to the letter and seeking SECSTATE agreement for an invitation to Agosti to come to Washington as an earnest of U.S. Interest in reaching mutual understanding. PURPOSE: Obtain ISA approval on the package to SECDEF. COORDINATION: Chairman, JCS; Chief of Staff Air Force RECOMMENDATION: That ASD(ISA) sign forwarding memo next under. RECOMMENDATION: That ASD(ISA) sign forwarding memo next under. G. J. SCHULLER RADM USN Chairman Sekuli											
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COL JAMES C. THOMAS, OASD/ISA-IA, X-53607											