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#102

333 Argentines



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

25 FEB 1975

In reply refer to:  
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INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

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

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ELLSWORTH

SUBJECT: Visit of the Commander General, Argentina Navy -  
INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

Admiral Emilio Eduardo MASSERA, Commander General of the Argentine Navy, is visiting the U.S. as the guest of Admiral Holloway during the period 23 to 28 February 1975. We have arranged for Admiral Massera to pay a courtesy call in your office 0930 to 1000 hours on 26 February. Attachment A is a listing of those who will accompany Admiral Massera to your office. Appropriate background material, summarized as follows, is provided in additional attachments.

1. Biographic Information - Admiral Massera has commanded the Argentine Navy since December 1973. His appointment by President Juan Domingo Peron forced the retirement of eight flag officers senior to him. He is highly respected by his Service, enjoys the most influential position with President Maria Estela Peron of the three Service Commanders, and is very well disposed toward the U.S. He has served in the U.S. as advisor to the Inter-American Defense Board and as a student at the Inter-American Defense College. His English is rated fair. (Bio at Attachment B).

2. Itinerary - Admiral Massera's schedule includes visits to the Norfolk Military Complex, the U.S.S. Leahy, Washington Navy Yard, the Pentagon, Arlington National Cemetery, and the United Nations. (Detailed itinerary at Attachment C).

3. MAP Grant Training - You will recall that MAP grant training for Argentina was suspended because of the involvement of Argentine flag vessels in trade with Cuba. We recently coordinated on a State paper designed to obtain a Presidential Determination to lift the sanctions. That paper is now stalled at State pending investigation of the possible involvement of Panamanian flag vessels in Cuba trade. It may become necessary to include Panama in the waiver request. At the present time, the suspension of MAP training for Argentina is still in effect. Such training as Argentina is receiving from the U.S. is via FMS cash and credit. No relief on grant training can be offered at this time. (Point Paper at Attachment D).

25 Feb 1975

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4. Foreign Military Sales - Through a combination of more liberalized U.S. arms transfer policies and increased availability of FMS credit, Argentina is turning more to the United States for military hardware. Current requests and status are summarized at Attachment E.

5. R&D Cooperation - Over the past two years, concerted efforts on the part of Defense to establish formal programs of R&D cooperation between the U.S. and Argentine armed forces have failed to achieve the desired results. Our proposal for concluding a formal agreement for the mutual exchange of scientific and technical data, Defense-to-Defense, has been in staffing at State since June 1974. In the interim, the primary exchange has been the accomodation of visits to the U.S. by representatives of Argentina's Defense research and development complex. No substantive improvement to this matter can be offered to Admiral Massera at this time.

6. U.S. Military Group Manning - Because of increased terrorist activity in Argentina, manning in the Military Group was temporarily reduced from 29 to 20 in July 1974. DoD is on record as opposing any further reductions. At this time, any effort to reinstate positions temporarily vacated would be counterproductive.

In spite of problems on grant training and the lack of progress on R&D cooperation, U.S./Argentine military-to-military relationships are excellent at this time.

Office of the Secretary of Defense  
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(SIGNED)  
GEORGE M. WALLACE  
Major General, USA  
Director  
Inter-American Region

Attachments  
a/s

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