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SECURITY AFFAIRS

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

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

01 OCT 1982

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

THROUGH THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR POLICY **PI** 1 OCT 1982

SUBJECT: Status of Argentine/Chilean Certification - INFORMATION MEMORANDUM (U)

A draft NSDD on US Policy Toward South America, submitted to State by the Executive Secretary on 20 Sep 82, states the United States will "certify Argentina and Chile jointly, to preserve regional political and military balance, before the end of 1982; if unable to certify both, then at least obtain certification for Argentina." Although the final NSDD has not been published, the above position on the complex certification issue reflects the consensus of the SIG.

We do not know if the certifications required to enable the US to resume a Security Assistance Program with Argentina and Chile can be accomplished before the end of 1982.

- Although our strategic interests and their human rights progress appear to warrant certification, political considerations (Argentina, Chile) and certification requirements (Chile) will require considerable liaison efforts with Congress by State and DOD to stress the importance of moving toward normal bilateral relations, to discuss the many varied US interests involved, and to gain support to overcome the known opposition of certain Senators and Representatives.

- In the case of Chile, State and Justice are unable to agree on wording which would satisfy the Letelier-Moffitt certification requirement.

- In the case of Argentina, the improvements in human rights and proposed elections in March 1984 have defused those issues; however, the South Atlantic Conflict has severely complicated the certification process.

After the November elections, we expect State, in coordination with DOD, to initiate discussions with Congress to determine if certification is feasible.

Coordination: None required
Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
Date: 01 Sep 2017 Authority: EO 13526
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+ 5 U.S.C. § 552

F. J. West, Jr.
FRANCIS J. WEST, JR.
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
(INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS)

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D C 20301

20 SEP 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR L. PAUL BREMER, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT
OF STATE

SUBJECT: Draft NSDD on U.S. Policy Toward South America

Attached are the Department of Defense comments on the
above subject Draft NSDD.


R. J. Affourtit
LTC, USA
Acting Executive Secretary

Attachment

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US POLICY TOWARD SOUTH AMERICA IN THE WAKE OF THE FALKLANDS CRISIS

1. (S) US national interests in Latin America and the Caribbean include a region free of Soviet-dominated or other hostile governments; the development of stable and democratic political systems and institutions with respect for human rights; cooperative bilateral relations to deal with security and other issues flowing from geographic proximity; enhancement of major US trade and investment while working to resolve the region's dire economic problems; access to raw materials; prevention of nuclear proliferation and encouragement of a stable balance of power among the states in the region; and receptivity to US leadership.
2. (S) The Falklands crisis strained, to varying degrees, our relations with most Latin American countries, and highlighted the potential for instability in South America. Our policy must address the following specific problems:
 - Instability and irredentism in Argentina, which imply new opportunities for the USSR to gain access to a strategic position in the Southern Cone;
 - Disillusionment with US leadership in Venezuela and elsewhere, which provides tempting opportunities for Cuba to reduce further its inter-American isolation.
 - At a time when economic pressures are eroding our ties and influence in Brazil, its importance as a potential stabilizing factor in South America is increasing.
3. (S) The highest United States priority in Latin America is to maintain access and influence by preventing further inroads by the Soviet Union or its client states in our immediate environs -- Central America, the Caribbean and Mexico.
4. (S) To restore and assert US influence in South America, the United States will:
 - Resolve Congressional and statutory limitation issues affecting US-Latin American relations.
 - Maintain its diplomatic position on the fundamental Falklands issues as it was before the crisis; specifically: US neutrality on the question of sovereignty over the islands and support for negotiations or other peaceful efforts to resolve this dispute. Further, the US should not apologize for its actions in support of international law principles.
 - Lift the military pipeline embargo on Argentina.
 - Certify Argentina and Chile jointly, to preserve regional political and military balance, before the end of 1982: if unable to certify both, then at least obtain certification for Argentina.
 - Develop a closer relationship with Brazil, to include Cabinet-level consultations, renewed cooperation in military training and trade, and a dialogue on nuclear issues.

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- Use flexibility within NSDD 5 guidelines to respond promptly to arms transfer requests supportive of US interests. Measures should be sought to lessen Peru's dependence on Soviet arms supplies.
- Promote US military influence, training and doctrine through the expansion of military exchanges and increased IMET.
- Develop and implement a strategy to generate public support for expanded, closer relationships with the governments of the region.
- Seek to play a supportive role, to the extent resources permit, in such economically weak states as Bolivia, Ecuador; and Paraguay.
- Pursue a more active bilateral diplomacy throughout the continent, while seeking to preserve and enhance multilateral cooperation of the Inter-American System.

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