



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ~~NOFORN~~

3-33

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

2 MAR 1976

Mr. Lewis J. Lapham
Director, Political Research
Directorate of Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Mr. Lapham:


I appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on Mr. Gardiner's research paper on the future of Argentina's political system. This type of research is useful to us in a number of ways.

It reemphasizes, in this case, the very important role of the Argentine military in the affairs of the nation. It provides a brief synopsis of the events and forces which have shaped Argentina's past, and those which are likely to be instrumental in the shaping of Argentina's future. It forces a shift in focus from the immediate in the developing crisis to some of the possible major turns in events for the future. By shifting the focus, it forces us to examine the implications for U.S. interests in Argentina once the military are moved to assume control.

I tend to agree that the tacit understandings of the past - the rules of the game - have been violated too much and too often for the status quo to continue. I think Gardiner's scenario is not only plausible but compelling.

Office of the Secretary of Defense ^{SUSCPS2}
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
Date: 02 JAN 2018 Authority: EO 13526
Declassify: X Deny in Full: _____
Declassify in Part: _____
Reason: _____
MDR: 17 -M- 2141

Sincerely,


Robert Ellsworth

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL
Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: JAN 02 2018

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ~~NOFORN~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ~~NOFORN~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ~~NOFORN~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ~~NOFORN~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ~~NOFORN~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~NOFORN~~

SEC DEF CONTR No. X-0633



INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ~~NOFORN~~
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

26 FEB 1976

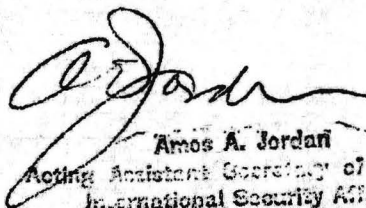
In reply refer to:
I-1771/76

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ELLSWORTH

SUBJECT: Research Study - Argentina

Mr. Lewis J. Lapham of the Central Intelligence Agency has requested your comments on the attached research study dealing with political and economic developments in Argentina (TAB C). A summary of the study is provided at TAB B. TAB A is our proposed reply.

Recommend you sign the proposed reply at TAB A.


Amos A. Jordan
Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense
International Security Affairs

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL
Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: JAN 02 2018

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ~~NOFORN~~
SEC DEF COMR No. X-0633

53/11

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ~~NOFORN~~

SUMMARY

"Whither Argentina: New Political System
or More of the Same?"

- Argentina on the verge of repeating familiar political cycle - military intervention to replace an ineffectual civilian government.
 - Politically, basic deficiency is lack of respected institutions through which conflict can be mediated.
 - Economically, no group has sufficient strength to enforce measures necessary to revitalize economy.
- Paper argues that basic changes in system likely to occur during next one to three years. Old consensus rested on two implicit rules:
 - Violence permissible only if carefully limited.
 - No political group seeks total elimination of any other group.
- Terrorist groups, by changing kind and intensity of violence, have brought about breakdown in political rules. System is further threatened by worst inflation Argentina has ever experienced.
- Three alternatives are seen:
 - Continuation of status quo.
 - Civil war.
 - Indefinite takeover by military, much harsher and more authoritarian than ever.
- With growing hardline mentality on the part of military, splintering of Peronist ranks and major splits within labor ranks, author considers that the military constitute the only force capable of bringing order out of the present chaos - and only through extended authoritarian rule.

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL
Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: JAN 02 2018

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ~~NOFORN~~