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INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY AFFAIRS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

3-35

2 SEP 1976

In reply refer to:
1-24051/76

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE CLEMENTS

SUBJECT: Meeting with U.S. Ambassador to Argentina

(*) As you know, Ambassador Hill has been in the United States since mid-July, and is in Washington for consultations this week. He has met with Secretary Rumsfeld, with me, with Major General Cavazos, Director, Inter-American Region (ISA), and will meet with the Joint Chiefs of Staff at 1500 hours on 3 September, just prior to calling on you.

(*) From our conversations with him thus far, we know that Ambassador Hill's primary concerns center around the mounting problem of human rights violations in Argentina and the expected impact of that problem on U.S./Argentine relations. Of Defense interest, our ability to continue with grant training and Foreign Military Sales credits, our U.S. Military Group presence, and the planned exchange of scientific and technical data with the Argentine armed forces may well be affected.

(*) Specific items which Ambassador Hill might raise with you are as follows:

1. Human Rights. Recent reports from Buenos Aires indicate a wave of extremist actions against the sizeable Jewish community, against Catholic clergy and against various elements in Argentina suspected of Marxist connections and activities against the ruling government. A number of priests have been assassinated, apparently at the hands of extreme right wing elements. Leftist bombings and assassinations continue, with the extreme right countering in kind. Meanwhile, the moderate leadership seems unable or unwilling to take the necessary actions to bring extremist elements under control.

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Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: JAN 12 2018

~~Classified by [redacted] Inter American Region (ISA)~~
~~Subject to Central Declassification Schedule on~~
~~Interim Review Date: Indefinitely Downgraded~~
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A new and unprecedented wave of anti-Semitism and a flood of Nazi literature on the news stands bring added dimensions to the problem. The U.S. Congress is reacting in expected fashion. So it is the problem of giving the right message in the right manner to the Argentina leadership - our concerns over the human rights situation and the certain impact of that situation, if not brought under control, on Defense and other U.S. programs in Argentina - which must be resolved.

2. Future of U.S. Military Group, Argentina. The future of our Military Group in Buenos Aires is currently under review, under NSSM 243, as are all MAAG's, Military Groups, Military Missions, and similar organizations worldwide. I expect Ambassador Hill to stress to you the importance of our Military Group in Argentina, primarily for its continuing value as a channel of communication with the military government of Argentina. He will also stress the importance of Congressional perceptions of the human rights situation to the future of the Military Group.

3. Scientific and Technical Data Exchange. In April 1973, John Davis Lodge, then U.S. Ambassador to Argentina, wrote to Defense Secretary Elliott Richardson suggesting the need for improved military-to-military cooperation between the armed forces of the U.S. and Argentina. He specifically suggested collaboration in the areas of co-production and in the exchange of scientific and technical data. While progress in the latter area has been slow, it appears that a formal agreement is in the offing.

4. Continuation of Grant Training (IMETP) for Argentina. The Grant Training Program for Argentina has been fraught with difficulties since August 1973 when the GOA concluded a \$1.2 billion trade agreement with Cuba. Under the terms of the agreement, flag vessels of both countries were to transport goods between the two countries. Under the provisions of Section 620(a)(3), Foreign Assistance Act, the United States is prohibited from providing assistance to any country which permits its flag carriers to transport goods to or from Cuba. Following confirmation that Argentine vessels were engaged in such trade, grant training for Argentina was suspended in May 1974 and remained under suspension until lifted by Presidential Determination in May 1975. For this reason, Argentina was able to use only \$100,000 of the total \$700,000 grant training funds programmed for FY 1975. Subsequently, in December 1975, the Senate Sub-Committee on Foreign Operations directed a fiscal year 1976 ceiling for Argentina not to exceed actual obligations for the previous year. The Committee further expressed the view that, in view of Argentina's significant economic progress in recent years, that country should not be a recipient of grant training in the future. The facts concerning Argentina's economy do not support the Committee position.

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5. Exclusion of Latin America from Attendance at the Senior International Joint Intelligence Course. Argentina, together with all other countries in Latin America, has been excluded from attendance at the Senior International Joint Intelligence Course. Ambassador Hill has voiced his objections, but to no avail. Defense made a formal reclama to State, but to no avail.

6. Curtailment of Tour of Naval Attache. Ambassador Hill has requested the curtailment of the tour of duty of his Naval Attache, [REDACTED] I have instructed my people to advise DIA that I support the request and expect a favorable decision.

(U) In addition to the Meeting Information Sheet and Biography, I have attached the talking points which we provided to Secretary Rumsfeld in preparation for his meeting with Ambassador Hill.



Eugene V. McAuliffe
Assistant Secretary of Defense
International Security Affairs

Attachments

- Tab A - Meeting Info Sheet
- Tab B - Biographical Sketch
- Tab C - Talking Points

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DIA FOIA 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(3); 10 U.S.C. § 424

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INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY AFFAIRS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

2 September 1976

MEETING INFORMATION SHEET

NAME AND TITLE OF VISITOR: Honorable Robert C. Hill
U S. Ambassador to Argentina

TIME AND DATE: 1600, 3 September 1976

LOCATION: Office of DepSecDef Clements

HOW TO ADDRESS VISITOR: Mr. Ambassador

ATTENDEES: The U.S. Ambassador to Argentina

The Deputy Secretary of Defense, Mr. Clements
Military Assistant

Director, Inter-American Region (ISA),
Major General R.E. Cavazos, USA
Country Director, Argentina,
Colonel J.C. Thomas, USAF

APPOINTMENTS WITH OTHER SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS:

Secretary of Defense, 2 September
Assistant Secretary of Defense (ISA), 2 September
Joint Chiefs of Staff, 1500, 3 September
Director, Inter-American Region (ISA), 0845, 31 August

PREVIOUS MEETING (WITH PRINCIPAL): N/A

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

NAME: Robert C. Hill

POSITION: U.S. Ambassador to Argentina

BIRTH: 30 September 1917; Littleton, New Hampshire

FAMILY: Wife: Cecelia
Son: William
Son: James

EDUCATION: New England College, Henniker, New Hampshire, Doctor of Law Degree, 1957
St Mary's University, San Antonio, Texas, Doctorate of Law Degree, 1960
University of Dallas, Dallas, Texas, Honorary Doctorate of Humanities Degree
Academy of International Law (Mexican), Honorary Degree

CAREER:

1943-1945 Vice Consul, Foreign Service of America
1947-1949 Clerk with the Senate Committee on Banking and Currency
1949-1953 Engaged in private business as an Asst Vice President of a company in New York
1953-1954 U.S. Ambassador to Costa Rica
1954-1955 U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador
1955-1956 Under Secretary of State for Mutual Security Affairs
1956-1957 Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations
1957-1961 U.S. Ambassador to Mexico
1961-1962 Member of the New Hampshire House of Representatives
1965-1968 Chairman of the Republic National Committee Foreign Policy Task Force, and later Member, Republican Coordinating Committee's Task Force on National Security
1969-1973 U.S. Ambassador to Spain
1973-1974 Assistant Secretary of Defense (ISA)
1974-Present U.S. Ambassador to Argentina (Feb 74)

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PRIVATE MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR HILL

This brief meeting with Ambassador Hill will be his opportunity to stress to you the importance of military-to-military relations between the armed forces of the United States and Argentina as a vital channel of communication with the military government of this important South American country.

We suggest that you take the lead by emphasizing that we recognize the importance of Argentina in the affairs of the Americas and that we shall continue to work with him toward the preservation of U.S. interests there. In this regard, state that we consider our U.S. Military Group in Argentina to be a vital channel of communication with the present military government of Argentina.

ISSUES AMBASSADOR HILL IS LIKELY TO RAISE

- Human Rights. Inform Hill that we are following the human rights situation in Argentina closely and shall cooperate fully with him to articulate the proper message to Argentine officials regarding the need for an early resolution of this problem.

-- Recognize the expected impact of continued human rights violations on the future of our Military Group, on our ability to gain Congressional support for grant training and Foreign Military Sales credits for Argentina, and on our ability to enter into a meaningful program for the exchange of scientific and technical data with the armed forces of Argentina.

-- Assure Hill that we shall be responsive to his recommendations on this issue.

- Disestablishment of U.S. Military Group. Inform Hill that we consider our Military Group in Argentina to be one of the first priority category for retention.

-- We are aware of continuing problems regarding the safety of our people. However, we feel that it is important to restore Military Group manning from the present temporary level of 15 to the near term objective strength of 20 as soon as conditions permit. Solicit his views as to the timing of such increase.

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-- Offer additional manning in the skills required on a priority basis. Among these might be an officer with extensive background in research and development.

-- Point out our difficulties in gaining interdepartmental agreement for manning increases while NSSM 243 is in development.

-- Assure him that the next initiative is his.

- Scientific and Technical Data Exchange.

-- Inform Hill that we have developed a formal Data Exchange Agreement for presentation, with his approval and that of State, to the Argentine Ministry of Defense. Along with this, we have a draft agreement for the first project on the subject of solid propellants, as well as joint State/Defense guidelines for the administration of data exchange matters. Both he and the Department of State shall have opportunity for prior review of all initiatives.

-- Stress that this proposed data exchange is not tied to Security Assistance.

-- Stress that the data exchange should not be confused with co-production.

- Continuation of Grant Training for Argentina. Emphasize to Hill the importance of State support on the hill for continuation of grant training for Argentina.

- Exclusion of Latin America from Attendance at the Senior International Joint Intelligence Course. Inform Hill that it was State's decision, over our objections, to eliminate the armed forces of all of the Americas from attendance at this course.

ISSUES YOU SHOULD BRING UP

- The Political and Economic Future of Argentina. Solicit Hill's views on the outlook over the next two years.

Office of the Secretary of Defense 5 U.S.C. § 552
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