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SECDEF WASH DC AMEMB BUENOS AIRES ARGENTINA INFO SECSTATE WASH DC DISTR ASD:ISA

CHILDEN FOR AMBASSADOR HILL FROM SECRETARY RUMSFELD SUBJECT: WORLDWIDE MAAG REQUIREMENTS REF: BUENOS AIRES 4156 1 YOUR CLEAR STATEMENT OF CURRENT AND CONTINUING 1. NEED FOR U.S. MILITARY GROUP IN EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IS HELPFUL AND MOST TIMELY. YOU MAY BE SURE THAT, AS WE HAMMER OUT AGREED INTERAGENCY POLICY ON THIS ISSUE, DOD WILL TAKE INTO FULL ACCOUNT VIEWS WHICH YOU HAVE EXPRESSED AS CHIEF OF MISSION. 2. (U) WARM REGARDS. CD 1003

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Office of the Secretary of Defense Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS + 5 U.S.C 5552Date: OI See 2017 Authority: EO 13526 Declassify: _____ Deny in Full: _____ Declassify in Part: _____ Reason: ______ MDR: 17 _-M-2326

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JAMES C. THOMAS, COLONEL, USAF Country Director, OASD/ISA/IA

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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301



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BECURITY AFFAIRS

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In reply refer to: I-6875/76

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Worldwide MAAG Requirements - ACTION MEMORANDUM

The proposed message at Tab A comments on Ambassador Hill's message (Tab B) concerning the continuing need for our U. S. Military Group in Argentina.

(U) Tab C is State's response to Ambassador Hill's message indicating State's (ARA) willingness to reconsider.

(U) I recommend you sign the message at Tab A.

Attachments a/s

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5. SEP CONTR No. 1937

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF MESSAGE CENTER

VZCZCMAY816ILM124 C-33372 MULT SECT 60 OF 04156 ACTION DISTR IADB(01) CJCS DJS SJCS(02) J3(14) J4(08) J5(02) NMCC SECDEF(07) NMIC SECDEF: ASDIIL(01) ASDILA(01) ASDIISA(07) ASDIPAGE(01) ASDIPA(01) GC(01) DIAL IDIA(15) CMC CSAF WASH DC CNO WASH DC CSA WASH DC ISA ANMCC FORT RITCHIE MD PTC FILE(1) SI (062) D XO 10 TRANSIT/2413202/2513192/023159TDR1771314 LOS DE RUESBAA #4156 1761350 (37 ZNY GROOM ZOC STATE ZZH TESA9148AA462 0 RR RUEHC ED DE RUESBA #4156 1761350 AD ZNY THING ZZH Iá R 241320Z JUN 76 NA FN AMEMBASSY BUENDS AIRES 20 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6123 **B**T Fi. BUENOS AIRES 4156 F7 PC 17 IT FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHLAUDERMAN FROM HILL B 1 -----TAGSI MASS, AR TC SUBJECT: WORLD-WIDE MAAG REQUIREMENTS TS :1 REF: (A) BUENOS AIRES 3314, (B) BUENOS AIRES 2913 195 1. ON 26 MAY 1976, ARA RECOMMENDED THAT ARGENTINA NOT_BE INCLUDED AMONG THOSE COUNTRIES IN WHICH RETENTION OF A MILGP IS OF TOP PRIORITY, I AM DISAPPOINTED AT THIS UN-FORTUNATE DECISION AND ASK YOUR PERSONAL REVIEW. TO PHASE OUT THE MILGP, I BELIEVE, HOULD HAVE A CRUCIAL AND 00111110 PAGE 1

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF MESSAGE CENTER

PAGE 2

GONTIDE INTERNE

DESTRUCTIVE EFFECT ON OUR OBJECTIVES HERE,

2. IN ADDITION TO THE REASONING OUTLINED IN REFERENCE A AND B FOR MAINTAINING A TOP PRIORITY OF THE MILGP, I WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE THE FOLLOWING:

A. US MILITARY MISSIONS ARE PRESENT IN ARGENTINA AT THE EXPRESS REQUEST OF THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT, THIS IS A RESULT OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS OF LONG STANDING -NAVY, 1935, AIR FORCE = 1956, AND ARMY 1961. THESE AGREE-MENTS HAVE FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS BEEN CONSISTENTLY IGNORED BY THE US AS REGARDS TO MANNING LEVELS, DUE TO BUDGETARY AND SECURITY CONSTRAINTS THE MILGP HAS DECREASED FROM APPROXIMATELY SIXTY (6B) PERSONNEL TO THE PRESENT FOURTEEN (14), BECAUSE THE ARGENTINE ARMED FORCES UNDERSTANDS THESE PROBLEMS THEY HAVE WITHOUT COMPLAINT TOLERATED THSE ACTIONS, THEY HAVE, HOWEVER, EXPRESSED VERY STRONGLY THEIR CONCERN ABOUT THE SITUATION,

8. THE ARGENTINE ARMED FORCES, IN POWER SINCE MARCH 1976, ARE HEAVILY COMMITTED TO STRAIGHTENING OUT THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CHAOS LEFT BY THE PRECEDING GOVERNMENT, RECENT LEFT AND RIGHT WING TERRORIST ACTS ARE PLAINLY DESIGNED TO FORCE THE GDA INTO REPRESSIVE MEASURES WHICH WILL THEN BE EXPLOITED BY THESE ELEMENTS TO DISCREDIT THE GDA WORLD-HIDE AND WEAKEN ITS POPULAR SUPPORT.

C. ALL THREE COMMANDERS OF THE ARGENTINE ARMED FORCES (NOW MEMBERS OF THE RULING JUNTA) AND THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE HAVE CONSISTENTLY EXPRESSED THEIR REQUIREMENTS AND DESIRE FOR THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF US MILITARY PERSONNEL. ANY COURSE OF ACTION WHICH WOULD APPEAR TO SLIGHT THIS GOVERNMENT, WHICH IS STILL FEELING ITS WAY, WOULD HAVE A STRONG ADVERSE REACTION.

D. IT WASN'T UNTIL THE PERONIST REGIME HAD BROUGHT ARGENTINA TO THE VERY BRINK OF DISASTER THAT GENERAL VIDELA AND THE ARMED FORCES RELUCTANTLY ASSUMED THE RESPONSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT, NOW, HOWEVER, THEY BELIEVE THAT THEY MUST CONTIFUE TO GOVERN UNTIL THE CHAOS CREATED BY THE FORMER REGIME HAS BEEN CLEARED UP. ONLY THEN WOULD A

PAGE 2

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF MESSAGE CENTER

PAGE 3

CONTINENTIA

RETURN TO FULL REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT BE POSSIBLE. A UNILATERAL MOVE BY THE US, SO OBVIOUSLY COUNTER TO THE PERCEIVED NEEDS OF THE GDA LEADERS, IS BOUND TO HAVE ADVERSE EFFECTS ON THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

E, OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS THE OPERATIONS OF VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE FAA AND DECISIONS OF THE SENATE APPROPRIA-TIONS COMMITTEE HAVE HAD THE EFFECT OF IRRITATING AND ANTAGONIZING THE ARGENTINE MILITARY FOR REASONS THAT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THEM, ANOTHER SITUATION IN WHICH THEY SEE US TREATING OUR MILITARY RELATIONS AS UNIMPORTANT OR INSIGNIFICANT COULD BE DEVASTATING, OUR COMMITMENTS TO THE ARGENTINE MILITARY INSTITUTIONS NOW AND LATER WILL BE A MAJOR DETERMINANT OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS IN THE FUTURE.

3. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE AND PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THIS EMBASSY, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT LONG-TERM US INTERESTS WOULD BEST BE SERVED BY PLACING ARGENTINA IN THE HIGH PRIORITY CATEGORY OF COUNTRIES IN WHICH THE MILGPS WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE, I BELIEVE THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH SHOULD AT LEAST RECOMMEND THIS TO THE CONGRESS, I HOPE YOU AGREE, HILL

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PAGE 3

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF :10 MESSAGE CENTER VZCZCMLT288ILN013 MULT 37504 SECT 61 OF -68272 ACTION DISTR IADB(01) CJCS(04) DJS(03) SJCS(02) J3(14) J5(02) SECDEF(07) NMIC SECDEF: ASDILA(01) ASDIISA(07) ASDIPAGE(01) ASDIPA(01) DIA: IDIA(15) CMC CSAF WASH DC CNO WASH DC CSA WASH DC PTC FILE(1) (059) TRANSIT/2821062/2901552/004:49T0R1810153 / DE RUEHCAA #0272 1802245 ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZH TRR RUESBA DE RUEHC #0272 1802245 ZNY CCCC ZZH R 282106Z JUN 76 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 3377 BT T ... L STATE 160272 FOR AND, HILL FROM ASST. SECRETARY SHLAUDEMAN B-BALADET TAGSI MASS, AR SUBJECT: BUENOS AIRES 4156 I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN. I HAVE TAKEN NO FINAL POSITION ON THE QUESTION OF MILGRP-MAAG RETENTIONS AND WILL GIVE YOUR VIEWS THE MOST CAREFUL CONSIDERATION. BEST REGARDS. ROBINSON 81 **DECLASSIFIED IN FULL** #0272 Authority: EO 13526 ANNOTES Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS DLS 332 Date: SEP 0 1 2017 PAGE 1 00111011 NNNN 290155Z TABC

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