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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

MAY 26 1976

The Honorable Robert C. Hill
American Ambassador
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Dear Bob:

Thank you for your letter of 30 April 1976, in which you summarized your visit with the new Argentine Minister of Defense on 27 April.

Concerning Argentina's difficulties with respect to the Security Assistance Program, State has established a funding level of \$318,000 for the FY 1976 International Military Education and Training (IMET) program for Argentina. The basis for this level is the provision contained in the Senate Appropriations Committee report on FY 1976 appropriations for foreign assistance and related programs. We shall do our best to improve on this situation next year, and need all the help which can be mustered to convince Senator Inouye of the need for additional MAP training for Argentina.

As you know, we directed a strong, but fruitless appeal to Senator Inouye last February to request Committee reconsideration of their limitations. We have carefully considered the possibility of restoring at least some of the cuts by redirecting funds from other Latin American programs but have finally determined such an action would in all probability have overriding negative repercussions on other DOD legislative programs. Furthermore, taking money from other Latin American country programs might strengthen the hand of those who want to make further cuts in Latin American MAP training.

On 18 May 1976, Under Secretary Maw approved an additional \$25.0 million in FY 1976 FMS credit for Argentina. This approval, coupled with the \$9.0 million in credit approved by State earlier this year, means that we can now proceed with final consummation of the total \$34.0 million loan agreement with Argentina. We are doing so expeditiously. We would welcome Argentine requests to finance training requirements from this source.

ARGENTINA
09/11/76
(30 Apr 76)

Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
Date: 23 Oct 2018 Authority: EO 13526
Declassify: X Deny in Full: _____
Declassify in Part: _____
Reason: _____
MDR: 17 -M- 2330

S.U.S.C.
+ \$552

The Minister correctly perceived the fact that the U.S. is looking at security assistance from a global viewpoint. Please assure him that we will provide Argentina such assistance as is feasible within the context of funding restraints included in the worldwide security assistance program.

With respect to the upcoming trips by Argentine officials, you may want to point out to the GOA that we will assist in necessary planning and arrangements.

Best personal regards,

Sincerely,

SIGNED

BILL

✓ISA
✓SATSD
✓ChRM

Original returned to ISA for Dispatch 5/27/76

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Bill
Deputy
Come see me! We all miss you