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#4-111

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

~~CONFIDENTIAL - SPECIAL EXCLUSIVE~~  
FOR AMBASSADOR HILL FROM SECRETARY RUMSFELD  
SUBJECT: WORLDWIDE MAAG REQUIREMENTS

REF: BUENOS AIRES 4156

1. YOUR CLEAR STATEMENT OF CURRENT AND CONTINUING 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.

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

Office of the Secretary of Defense 5 U.S.C. § 552  
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS  
Date: 01 Sep 2017 Authority: EO 13526  
Declassify: X Deny in Full: \_\_\_\_\_  
Declassify in Part: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reason: \_\_\_\_\_  
MDR: 17 -M- 2345

2 July 76

JAMES C. THOMAS, COLONEL, USAF  
COUNTRY DIRECTOR, OASD/ISA/IA

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*[Handwritten signature]*

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INTERNATIONAL  
SECURITY AFFAIRS

**ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE**  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

2 JUL 1976

SEC DEF HAS SDTH

In reply refer to:  
1-6875/76

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE**

**SUBJECT: Worldwide MAAG Requirements - ACTION MEMORANDUM**

(U) 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.

*Fryer*

Attachments  
a/s

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*[Signature]*  
~~Assistant Secretary, Inter-American Region (ISA)~~  
~~SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF~~  
~~EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652, AUTHORITY FOR DECLASSIFICATION~~  
~~ON THE PART OF INDIVIDUALS, DECLASSIFIED ON 12-31-82~~

SEC DEF COMR No. X-1987

# DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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SECT 60 OF 04156

ACTION

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ASD:PA&E(01) ASD:PA(01) GC(01) DIA: DIA(15) CMC

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- CNO WASH DC
- CSA WASH DC
- ANMCC FORT RITCHIE MD
- PTC FILE(1)

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6123  
BT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 4156

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHLAUDERMAN FROM HILL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TAGS: MASS, AR

SUBJECT: WORLD-WIDE MAAG REQUIREMENTS

REF: (A) BUENOS AIRES 3314, (B) BUENOS AIRES 2913

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 UNFORTUNATE DECISION AND ASK YOUR PERSONAL REVIEW, TO PHASE OUT THE MILGP, I BELIEVE, WOULD HAVE A CRUCIAL AND

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TAB B

# DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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## 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 AGREEMENTS 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 (60) PERSONNEL TO THE PRESENT FOURTEEN (14). BECAUSE THE ARGENTINE ARMED FORCES UNDERSTANDS THESE PROBLEMS THEY HAVE WITHOUT COMPLAINT TOLERATED THESE ACTIONS. THEY HAVE, HOWEVER, EXPRESSED VERY STRONGLY THEIR CONCERN ABOUT THE SITUATION.

B. 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 GOA INTO REPRESSIVE MEASURES WHICH WILL THEN BE EXPLOITED BY THESE ELEMENTS TO DISCREDIT THE GOA WORLD-WIDE AND WEAKEN ITS POPULAR SUPPORT.

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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 CONTINUE TO GOVERN UNTIL THE CHAOS CREATED BY THE FORMER REGIME HAS BEEN CLEARED UP. ONLY THEN WOULD A

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RETURN TO FULL REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT BE POSSIBLE. A UNILATERAL MOVE BY THE US, SO OBVIOUSLY COUNTER TO THE PERCEIVED NEEDS OF THE GOA 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 APPROPRIATIONS 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.

J. 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

BT

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SECT 61 OF 60272

ACTION

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NMIC SECDEF: ASD:LA(01) ASD:ISA(07) ASD:PA&E(01) ASD:PA(01)  
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- CNO WASH DC  
- CSA WASH DC  
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TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 3377  
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ STATE 160272

~~LIMITS~~ FOR AMB. HILL FROM ASST. SECRETARY SHLAUDEMAN

~~SECRET~~

TAGS: 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

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TAB B

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