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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

ADS
JGJ
W
CM-146-74
13 November 1974

#4-51

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: US Military Presence in Argentina (U)

1. I have been informed that Ambassador Hill plans further reductions in the official US presence in Buenos Aires from 123 to 96 personnel. He apparently is under strong pressure from the Department of State because of concern over the terrorist threat in Argentina. The Ambassador's plans, arrived at without consultation with General Rosson, Commander in Chief, US Southern Command, call for an additional reduction in the US Military Group from 20 to 13 - a strength at which, in the opinion of General Rosson, the MILGP will be incapable of performing its mission satisfactorily. As you probably know, the present austere MILGP manning level represents a temporary reduction from the authorized strength of 29.
2. While I fully appreciate the seriousness of the terrorist situation in Argentina, I am concerned that these reductions are being made unilaterally, without prior consultation with Department of Defense, and in disregard of the formal mission agreements in effect between the Government of Argentina and the United States. As an illustration of this latter point, I recently received a personal communication from General Hector Luis Fautario, Commanding General of the Argentine Air Force, requesting the re-establishment of two personnel removed from the Air Force Mission as a result of the temporary reduction of US personnel in July 1974. General Rosson advises me that the Chief, US Navy Mission, has received a letter from Rear Admiral Roccatagliata of the Argentine Navy Staff proposing that a US Navy advisor to the Argentine Naval War College be restored.
3. Service in high risk areas is a necessary and accepted aspect of military service. For the United States military to back down in the face of a threat that the Argentine military faces in greater measure casts us in a decidedly unfavorable light. In this regard, I am not persuaded that the terrorist threat will be lessened appreciably by a reduction from 20 to 13 military personnel.

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

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~~SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652~~
~~AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO~~
~~YEAR INTERVALS~~
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4. (S) I strongly recommend that every effort be made to forestall further reductions in the current temporary Manning level of 20 for the US Military Group in Argentina and request your support in this endeavor.


GEORGE S. BROWN, General, USAF
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS

Date: 01 Sep 2017 Authority: EO 13526

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