

assistance program under your Africa section, which is reduced from last year, of \$115 million to \$45 million, and I would like to pursue that later.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

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Mr. Long. Thank you, Mrs. Burke.

The gentleman from Massachusetts, Mr. Conte, is recognized for five minutes.

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Mr. Conte. I usually start out by saying how nice

it is to have you up before this committee, but I won't

do that any more, for your sake.

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Mrs. Benson. I was very pleased. I hope you are

not taking it back.

Mr. Conte. No, God, I always love to have you, either here or any other place. She is a very dear friend of mine, and I am very proud of her.

Last year, this committee, sponsored by Congressman Roybal, put an amendment into the Foreign Appropriation

Act, saying, "provided that none of the funds appropriated under this paragraph shall be used to provide international military education and training to the Government of Argentina." Would that come under your shop?

Mrs. Benson. Yes.

Mr. Conte. It would. I am told that this has been interpreted to mean that even if the Argentine Government wants to pay for this training, that they cannot do it under this amendment?

Mrs. Benson. That is true, and it also means that we have concluded or are in the process of terminating the members of the faculty at schools who are from Argentina.

Mr. Conte. I don't think, and I have to speak for myself, that that was Mr. Roybal's intent. I think his intent was that Argentina could not avail itself of military training programs sponsored by the U.S. and

paid for by the U.S., but I don't believe his intent was that this would deprive Argentina of availing itself of a military program we may have for training officers here in the U.S., if paid for by the Argentine Government.

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General, can you enlighten us on that?

General Fish. Well, I believe here, ^{there} ~~is~~ is a

difference between legality and policy. I think on a policy basis the executive branch decided along the lines you have indicated, whereas the legal position is that we cannot provide the IMET training, ~~but~~ on the PMS side, as I understand it, there is no prohibition legally, but as a policy matter we have decided not to do it.

Have I said it right?

Mrs. Benson. Yes.

Mr. Conte. You better get your act together,

because I just spoke to the American Ambassador to Argentina, who is very upset about this, and I can't blame him. You are not hiding under the law, as you say. The law allows you to do it, so it is really your people down at the State Department that are preventing this program from going into effect.

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Mrs. Benson. There has been, Mr. Conte, a not total agreement within the administration of what should be done. It was finally decided, as General Fish indicated, that we should terminate this training because it seemed to be more in consonance with what the legislation called for and would also be forbidden by the Kennedy Amendment, which comes into force on the 1st of October, 1978.

Unless there is some vast improvement between now and then in the human rights situation in Argentina and in pursuing the effort to be consistent, we also are in the

process of terminating the employment of Argentine nationals as teachers in the Panama Canal schools. Some are in the process of leaving now, and some with contracts that will not be up for another year.

Mr. Conte. I certainly would seem to think that you should check with Mr. Roybal and try to find out what his intent was, because I would rather have some of those military officers trained by our people and mingle with our people and learn something about our democratic way of life in allowance for the kooks they have down there in the military with the Katzenjammer uniforms, locking people up by the thousands.

I think this would be a great influence and a program that really is worth while.

Mrs. Benson. We will be glad to pursue the problem with you and Mr. Roybal.

Mr. Conte. I may be here shortly and will have

more to say on it.

Both the State Department and DOD have now been monitoring the human rights practices of our people that we sell arms to for some time now, and, as you know, this committee has given a great deal of consideration to this issue.

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Have you observed any instances in the past year where assistance has brought about positive changes in a country's human rights situation?

Mrs. Benson. Yes, we have, Mr. Conte. Though we are not willing to claim credit for these improvements, we certainly have observed some improvements.

For instance, the so-called prisoners of conscience have been released in a number of countries, Bangladesh, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guinea, Haiti, Indonesia, Korea -- it is quite a long list. Should I read the whole list?

Madam Secretary, I have four questions, and although they are somewhat unrelated, I am going to put all four of them to you and then hope that you can comment on them briefly within my time period.

First, there have been reports of increased U.S. arm sales to Yugoslavia. What is the status of these talks?

Secondly, has any country to which we did not provide military assistance because of human rights considerations been unable to obtain military assistance from somebody else?

Third, on page 11 of your testimony, I note you say, and I quote, "It should be noted that we are not requesting MAP funds for Greece and Turkey in fiscal year 1979. We will release such funds in conjunction with the entry into force of pending defense cooperation agreements."

I think there was something on the news this noon

military type of things, like trucks. We held back the

more directly war-making equipment like aircraft.

Mr. McHugh. So that was in terms of what we were actually doing.

Mrs. Benson. Yes.

Mr. McHugh. I would like to address for a moment the question of Peru.

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Your budget submission contains the following statement which I quote: "In the 1974 declaration provided to Ayacucho, the Andes Pact countries which include Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela together with Argentina and Panama pledged to cooperate in limiting arms acquisitions to levels clearly necessary for meeting legitimate security needs. Unfortunately, several subsequent meetings have yet to produce any laudable beginning. To the contrary, recent Peruvian purchases of supersonic fighter bombers from the Soviet Union has rekindled an