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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

448

AUG 11 1978

(OO Control #)

(Date)

CNO COMMENT SHEET

Subj: U.S./Argentine Relations

Ref: (a) AMEMB BUENOS AIRES 031434Z AUG 78

I. The CNO made the following comment/notation on referenced material:

Explain "the steady worsening relationship between the Argentine Navy and the U.S. Navy" described in para 4 of ref (a).

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Reviewed by DON/AA DRMD
IAW EO 13526, Section 3.5
Date: OCT 19 2017

F 5710

Action:

06

Copy to

09

MSB 8/11 0800
MSB 8/11 w/ref (a)

Please provide answer/comment/report action taken not

later than

25 AUG 78

verbal action

MSB

Department of the Navy 5 USC 3552
DON/AA DRMD +
Date: 19 OCT 1978 Authority: EO 13526
Declassify: Deny in Full:
Declassify in Part:
Reason: FOIA Ex 3: 10 USC 3132
MDR 2018 -M-0021

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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

(OO Control #)

(Date)

CNO COMMENT SHEET

Subj: U.S./Argentine Relations

Ref: (a) AMEMB BUENOS AIRES 031434Z AUG 78

1. The CNO made the following comment/notation on referenced material:

~~Please comment on strained relationship between USN/ARGNAV described in reference (a).~~

Explains "the steadily worsening relationship between the Argentine Navy and the USN." described in para 4 of ref. a.

Action: 06

Copy to: 09

Please provide answer/comment/report action taken not

later than _____

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IAW EO 13526, Section 3.5
Date: OCT 19 2017

NAVAL MESSAGE ~~*****CONFIDENTIAL*****~~ NAVY DEPARTMENT

ROUTINE
R 031434Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

INCOMING EF

00/1/8
8 AUG 1978

TO CNO WASH DC USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ NOFORN BUENOS AIRES 5988

FROM: COMUSMILGP/NAVSEC
E.O. 11652; GDS - 86
SUBJECT: VISIT OF ADMIRAL MASSERA TO THE UNITED STATES
REF: A. CONVERSATION BETWEEN ADM MASSERA AND
CAPT [REDACTED] AT 1215, 20 JULY 78
B. CONVERSATION BETWEEN RADM LUCHETTA AND
CAPT [REDACTED] AT 1000, 21 JULY 78

Don FOIA Ex 3: 10 USC 3130b

1. CHNAVSEC WAS REQUESTED TO CALL ON ADMIRAL MASSERA AS INDICATED IN REFERENCE A, WHEREIN THE FOLLOWING WAS DISCUSSED:

A. HE ADVISED THAT HE HAD TO CANCEL THE TRIP TO CONUS. HE SAID THE TRIP WAS AT HIS OWN URGING AND THE RECENT US DECISIONS (PRIMARILY THE LATEST EXIM BANK LOAN REFUSAL) HAD FORCED HIM TO WITHDRAW HIS REQUEST FOR A VISIT.

B. HE WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE AN INVITATION FROM OUR CNO TO VISIT AS THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE NAVY PRIOR TO HIS RETIREMENT ON 15 SEPTEMBER.

C. INDICATED THAT HE FEELS "PICKED ON" BECAUSE INVITATIONS TO OTHER CHIEFS OF THE ARMED FORCES HAVE BEEN ISSUED, MENTIONING AGOSTI. HE HOPED THAT THE US GOVERNMENT SEES FIT TO STOP THEIR ANTI-MASSERA CAMPAIGN.

D. HE INDICATED THAT IF US WILL NOT ALLOW HIM VISIT OR INVITE HIM NOW, HE WILL TRY TO VISIT THE US AS A CIVILIAN AFTER RETIREMENT.

action

2. RADM LUCHETTA, A MEMBER OF ADM. MASSERA PERSONAL STAFF, FOLLOWED-UP ADM MASSERA'S REMARKS IN REF B AND INDICATED:

A. THAT HE COULD NOT SCHEDULE A VISIT TO CONUS FOR ADMIRAL MASSERA WITH US EMBASSY PERSONNEL.

B. THAT THE NAVY WAS AWARE THAT BRIGADIER AGOSTI HAD BEEN INVITED FOR VISITS TO CONUS THE LAST TWO YEARS AND THAT ANOTHER INVITATION TO VISIT THIS YEAR WAS BEING

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STARTED.
C. HE OUTLINED THE LONG STANDING FRIENDSHIP AND RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE US NAVY AND THE ARGENTINE NAVY; THE LONG STAY OF THE NAVAL ADVISORS IN COUNTRY SINCE 1935, OUR COMMON TRADITION, ETC. AND REQUESTED THAT AN INVITATION FROM OUR CNO TO ADMIRAL MASSERA FOR A VISIT BE MADE, HE ALSO INDICATED THAT ADM MASSERA IS INTERESTED TO VISIT AS THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE NAVY AND DOES NOT WANT TO VISIT WITHOUT SUCH FORMAL INVITATION.

3. COMMENTS:

A. THE RELATIONSHIPS AND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE USN/ARGNAV HAVE BEEN SEVERELY STRAINED IN THE LAST TWO YEARS. VISITS BY THE US CNO AND THE COMMANDANT OF THE US MARINE CORPS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF RADM SCHULLER, WHO WAS QUITE EMPHATIC IN INDICATING THAT HE WORE A PURPLE SUIT AND REPRESENTED DOD, NO SENIOR US/FLAG NAVAL OFFICER HAVE VISITED THE COUNTRY IN THE TIME FRAME.

B. THE SANCTIONS AS APPLIED IN ARGENTINA SEEMED TO ALLOW SPARE PARTS FOR A 4 AIRCRAFT TO THE AIR FORCE WHILE DENYING SPARES FOR THE SAME AIRCRAFT TO THE NAVY. SUCH ACTIONS ARE SEEN AS REBUFFS TO THE NAVY AND PROVIDE AMMUNITION FOR THEIR FEELING THAT ADM MASSERA/THE NAVY ARE BEING SINGLED OUT FOR PUNISHMENT.

C. THE ARGENTINE NAVY PEOPLE DO NOT DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THE ARGENTINE NAVY AND MASSERA. ADM MASSERA IS THEIR LEADER AND A MOST RESPECTED NAVAL OFFICER. TRADITIONS IN THE NAVY ARE STRONG AND LASTING; LOYALTY TO THE BOSS IS EXPECTED FROM EVERYONE. REBUFFS/INSULTS TO ADM MASSERA, WHETHER TRUE OR IMAGINED ARE FELT BY THE WHOLE NAVY.

4. STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT INVITATION IN THE TERMS REQUESTED BE MADE AND THAT THE VISIT BE APPROVED. A RETRUN VISIT BY THE US CNO SHOULD BE PLANNED AFTER 15 SEPTEMBER AFTER ADM LAMBRUSCHINI TAKES OVER THE HELM. SUCH ACTIONS AT THIS TIME WILL DEFINITELY IMPROVE THE STAEIDLY WORSENING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE ARGENTINE NAVY AND THE USN. THIS COULD RESULT IN CANCELLATION OF UNITAS; TERMINATION OF OMEGA OR FINISHING THEIR ASSOCIATION WITH THE NAVY SECTION, NONE OF THESE ALTERNATIVES APPEAR ATTRACTIVE.

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5. THE AMBASSADOR HAS REVIEWED THIS MESSAGE AND EMBASSY COMMENT FOLLOWS:

6. EMBASSY COMMENT; GENERAL VIDELA WAS INVITED TO A PAN AMERICAN EVENT AS PRESIDENT, AND GENERAL AGOSTI TO THE INTER-AMERICAN AIR FORCE CHIEFS' MEETING. SOME AIR FORCE AND NAVY SOURCES HAVE THE PERCEPTION THAT THE USG

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IS SUPPORTING MASSERA RATHER THAN PICKING ON HIM, EMBASSY DOES NOT CONCUR IN RECOMMENDATION THAT USG INITIATE AN OFFICIAL INVITATION TO MASSERA TO VISIT THE US AT THIS TIME. SHOULD ANOTHER ARGENTINE SERVICE CHIEF BE INVITED TO THE US, WE WOULD RECONSIDER THIS POSITION, SHOULD MASSERA PROCEED TO THE US ANYWAY WITH PLANS FOR A "PRIVATE VISIT" BEFORE SEPTEMBER 15, HE SHOULD BE RECEIVED AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL IN THE US NAVY -- THE CNO -- WHILE IT SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR THAT THE INITIATIVE FOR THE VISIT WAS WITH MASSERA. [REDACTED]

DoN FOIA Ex 3:
10 USC 1130b

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