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ARGENTINA: CONTRAVENTIONS OF ARMS SALES AGREEMENTS WITH THE UNITED STATES

1 FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE LETTER SENT ON 30 APRIL BY POWELL MOORE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS, TO SENATOR PERCY, CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE:

I AM PROVIDING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 3(C)(2) OF THE ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT (OF 1976).

ON APRIL 2 ARGENTINE MILITARY FORCES OCCUPIED THE FALKLAND ISLANDS (KNOWN AS THE ISLAS MALVINAS), WHICH HAVE BEEN THE SUB. IT OF A LONGSTANDING DISPUTE BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND ARGENTINA. ARGENTINE FORCES TAKING PART IN THESE OPERATIONS WERE REPORTEDLY EQUIPPED WITH A VARIETY OF DEFENCE ARTICLES THAT HAD BEEN FURNISHED TO ARGENTINA UNDER THE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES PROGRAMME, INCLUDING DESTROYERS, SUBMARINES, AND LANDING CRAFT, AND C-136, A-4, AND S-2 AIRCRAFT. THE USE OF THESE ITEMS BY ARGENTINA IS LIMITED, UNDER THE AGREEMENTS GOVERNING THEIR SALE, TO PURPOSES CONSISTENT TWITH THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER AND THE INTER-AMERICAN TREATY OF RECIPROCAL ASSISTANCE, (THE RIO TREATY)

IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, I MUST REPORT ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT, PURSUANT TO SECTION 3(C)(2), THAT A SUBSTANTIAL VIOLATION BY ARGENTINA OF THESE AGREEMENTS MAY HAVE OCCURRED.

AS YOU KNOW, US SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO ARGENTINA REMAINS SUBJECT TO THE PROHIBITION CONTAINED IN SECTION 725 OF THE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION ACT OF 1981. IN ADDITION, THE DEPARTMENT IS SUSPENDING UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE ALL DELIVERIES TO ARGENTINA OF DEFENCE ARTICLES AND SERVICES FOR WHICH COMMITMENTS WERE MADE PRIOR TO OCTOBER 1 1978.

THE ADMINISTRATION INTENDS TO CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE AND ASSIST IN A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THIS DISPUTE AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT.

FCO PASS SAVING: ASUNCION, BOGOTA, BRIDGETOWN, BUENOS AIRES, RIO DE JANEIRO, GUATEMALA CITY, KINGSTON, LA PAZ, LIMA, QUITO, MONTEVIDEO, PANAMA CITY, PORT AU PRINCE, PORT OF SPAIN, CARACAS, SAN JOSE, SAN SALVADOR, SANTO DOMINGO.

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