

**214. Information Memorandum From the Director of the Bureau of Politico-Military Affairs (Burt) to the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs (Eagleburger)<sup>1</sup>**

Washington, May 3, 1982

SUBJECT

Delivery of Civilian Helicopters to Argentina

Customs informed us today that a Hughes 500-D helicopter was on the dock in Los Angeles awaiting shipment to Buenos Aires where the acknowledged end-user would be the Argentine Air Force. Three engine spares also may be involved.

The 500-D is an unarmed civilian helicopter comparable to the Army's Cobra attack helicopter. The 500-D, however, does not require either a munitions control or a Commerce Department export license.

I have contacted the Commerce Department which has agreed to hold up shipment on the pretext of clarifying whether the helicopter in question is a model 500-D or a model 500-MD (which would require an export license).

I think we have plugged the dike on this one, but it obviously was a close call. We probably will not be so lucky in the future, and we should expect to experience some leakage in our "arms" embargo to Argentina.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Department of State, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Miscellaneous Files, March 1981-February 1983, Lot 83D210, Falklands [Folder 1]. Confidential; Nodis. Drafted by Kanter.