

RELEASE IN FULL

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 5750EO 12065: GDS 8/4/87 (SHLAUDEMAN, HARRY W.) OR-M
TAGS: PEPR, PORG, AR, OVIP (KIRKPATRICK, JEANE)
SUBJECT: (U) AMBASSADOR JEANE KIRKPATRICK'S VISIT TO BUENOS AIRES

1. (U) AMBASSADOR KIRKPATRICK TOOK ON AN INTENSE SCHEDULE IN HER VISIT HERE AUGUST 1-4: ADDRESSES TO THE ARGENTINE COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS AND TO A SELECT GROUP OF MILITARY OFFICERS AT LUNCHEON AND DINNER MEETINGS RESPECTIVELY; A PRIVATE MEETING OF MORE THAN TWO HOURS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CAMILION FOLLOWED BY AN HOUR'S SESSION INCLUDING OTHER PARTICIPANTS ON THE FORTHCOMING UNGA; CALLS ON ARMY CINC GALTIERI AND NAVY CHIEF LAMBRUSCHINI, TWO OF THE THREE MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING JUNTA (THE THIRD, AIR FORCE GENERAL GRAFFIGNA, WAS OUT OF TOWN); A HEAVILY-ATTENDED PRESS CONFERENCE AND FINALLY A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT VIOLA. MEDIA COVERAGE HAS BEEN EXTENSIVE AND, TO DATE, LARGELY FAVORABLE. THE EXCHANGES WITH THE GOA LEADERS WERE MARKED BY BOTH CANDOR AND WARM GOOD WILL. THE VISIT WAS EXTREMELY VALUABLE TO THE EMBASSY AS A MEANS OF PROVIDING TO THE GOA BOTH AN AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY AND AN UNCLOUDED PERCEPTION OF THE THINKING BEHIND THAT POLICY.

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2. (U) THE AMBASSADOR'S BASIC MESSAGE BOTH PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY WAS THAT THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION IS DETERMINED TO REVERSE THE LONG SLIDE IN U.S.-LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS; THAT THE ADMINISTRATION REGARDS LATIN AMERICA AS A REGION FULLY AS IMPORTANT AS ANY OTHER IN THE WORLD, AND ARGENTINA AS NO LESS IMPORTANT THAN ANY OTHER COUNTRY IN LATIN AMERICA; AND THAT THIS ADMINISTRATION APPROACHES RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES GENERALLY AND ARGENTINA SPECIFICALLY WITH NO "HEGEMONIC PREDICPOSITION", BUT RATHER IN A SENSE OF FULL EQUALITY. SHE ALSO LEFT NO DOUBT THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN AND HIS COLLEAGUES SEEK A COLLABORATIVE RELATION-

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Marvin Russell, Senior Reviewer
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SHIP WITH ARGENTINA IN WHICH MUTUAL INTERESTS CAN BE PURSUEED STEADILY AND EFFECTIVELY.

3. (C) THE REACTION FROM THE ARGENTINE LEADERS TO THIS MESSAGE WAS POSITIVE AND FOTHCOMING. PRESIDENT VIOLA WAS PARTICULARLY WARM IN PRAISING THE ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN THE RELATIONSHIP DESPITE THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED. HE SAID HE WOULD CONTINUE TO VALUE MOST HIGHLY THESE MANIFESTATIONS OF FRIENDSHIP WHATEVER THE OUTCOME MIGHT BE ON THE HUMPHREY-KENNEDY AMENDMENT. GALTIERI AND LAMBRUSCHINI EMPHASIZED THEIR SATISFACTION AT THE RESUMPTION OF NORMAL INTERCHANGES BETWEEN THE ARMED SERVICES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES. FOREIGN MINISTER CAMILION SAID BOTH PRIVATELY AND PUBLICLY THAT THE GOA WELCOMES THE END TO THE INTERVENTIONIST POLICIES OF THE LAST U.S. ADMINISTRATION, WHILE VOLUNTEERING THAT HE RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANCE THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION ATTACHES TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RULE OF LAW.

4. (C) AMBASSADOR KIRKPATRICK'S COMMITMENT TO A RELATIONSHIP BASED ON COOPERATION AND MUTUAL RESPECT WAS QUITE CLEARLY ACCEPTED AS VALID BY THE ARGENTINES. BUT THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF THE PAST ADMINISTRATION'S POLICIES WERE ALSO ENTIRELY EVIDENT. LAMBRUSCHINI OBSERVED THAT EVERY ACTION PRODUCES A REACTION. THE CONFIDENTIAL

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ARGENTINE REACTION HAS BEEN TO TURN AWAY FROM THE UNITED STATES AND, THE ADMIRAL SAID, IT WILL TAKE TIME TO REVERSE THAT COURSE. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT MADE THE SAME POINT IN CONTACTS WITH AMBASSADOR KIRKPATRICK AND HER PARTY. ONE GENERAL WENT SO FAR AS TO EXPRESS SKEPTICISM THAT THE RELATIONSHIP COULD EVER BE FULLY RESTORED. IN SUM, IT WILL TAKE CONTINUING PERSEVERANCE ON OUR PART TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE.

5. (C) SEPTELS DEAL WITH THE MORE SIGNIFICANT THEMES IN AMBASSADOR KIRKPATRICK'S CONVERSATIONS HERE: THE SINAI MFO, BOLIVIA, ARGENTINA AND THE NAM, VENTRAL AMERICA, AND THE UNGA.

6. (U) AMBASSADOR KIRKPATRICK HAS NEITHER SEEN NOR CLEARED THIS MESSAGE. SHLAUDEMAM

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