

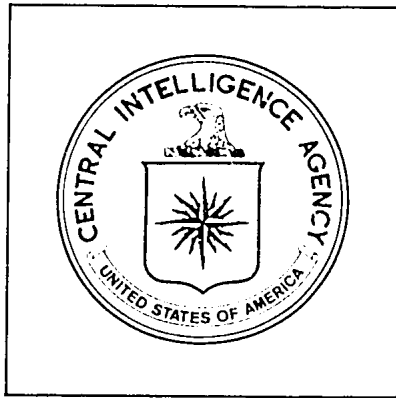
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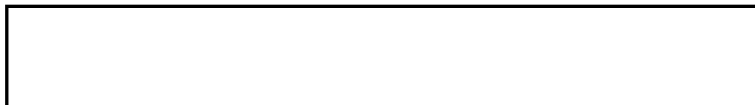
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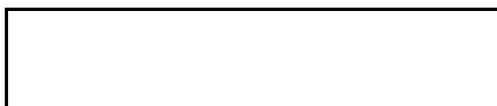
**Top Secret**



## Latin American Trends



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Argentina: Turning the Other Cheek

Peking's pragmatic, non-ideological foreign policy approach to the Third World has long been best exemplified by willingness to ignore international opinion and maintain cordial relations with the rightist military regime in Chile. Recently, however, Chinese diplomacy has been enduring an acid test of different sorts in neighboring Argentina.

In apparent reaction to increased activity by Argentine terrorists, the Peron government this summer began enforcing long-standing but hitherto laxly implemented travel, visa, and censorship regulations on communist news representatives in Argentina. The Chinese ambassador officially protested what he termed "harassment" of NCNA personnel but to no avail. The Argentines not only refused to lift any of the restrictions but also began talking of prohibiting Chinese publications from entering the country. In late October Peking withdrew the NCNA contingent from Buenos Aires and there is no indication of any plans for its return.

That the Chinese have not chosen to make a major issue of the NCNA contretemps is a measure of the continued importance Peking places on maintaining good state-to-state relations in Latin America and the rest of the Third World. Within the past month Peking has

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[redacted] renegotiated a Sino-Argentine maritime transport agreement --important to bilateral trade and especially to any future Argentine grains sales to China--and restated its intention to send a trade delegation to

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December 31, 1975

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[REDACTED]

Buenos Aires this spring. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] ready-made means for China to try to turn the Peron government around on the restrictions on NCNA personnel but Peking was clearly not willing to risk the broader strains on Sino-Argentine ties that might have resulted.

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Chinese patience with Buenos Aires may be tested further. Recently, high-ranking Argentine security officials have publicly voiced suspicions that outside communist elements are supporting the terrorists. At least one official has pinpointed the Chinese in this regard. These accusations coincided with a visit to China by a delegation from the Argentine Revolutionary Communist Party.

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[REDACTED]

Conservative elements in Buenos Aires, however, undoubtedly see some linkage between the Argentine delegation's visit and increased terrorism and will probably continue to make bureaucratic life hard for the Chinese mission in Argentina. If recent developments are any sign, Peking can be expected to roll with the punches.

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[REDACTED]

December 31, 1975

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