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DOCUMENT ID: 177205732  
INQNO: DOC43D 00281668  
DOCNO: TEL 026023 97  
PRODUCER: SECTO  
SOURCE: STATE  
DOCTYPE: IN  
DOR: 19971002  
TOR: 040745  
DOCPREC: P  
ORIGDATE: 199710020703  
MHFNO: 97 9284811  
DOCCLASS: C  
CAVEATS: EXDIS

HEADER

PP RUEAIIB  
ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZ  
GGI815  
PP RUEHLO RUEHSG RUEHBR RUEHBU RUEHC  
DE RUCNGG #6023/01 2750703  
ZNY CCCCC ZZ  
P 020703Z OCT 97 ZFF4  
FM USDEL SECRETARY  
TO RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY  
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY  
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
BT

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTO 026023

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/25/07

TEXT

TAGS: OVIP (ALBRIGHT, MADELEINE), PREL, MARR, KNNP, ETRD,  
PGOV, AR  
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH ARGENTINE FOREIGN  
MINISTER DI TELLA, SEPTEMBER 26, 1997, NEW YORK

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY ALEX WOLFF, DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
REASON 1.5 (D).
2. (U) DATE OF MEETING: SEPTEMBER 25, 1997. PLACE:  
WALDORF-ASTORIA HOTEL, NEW YORK CITY.
3. (U) U.S. PARTICIPANTS: THE SECRETARY, USUN PERMREP  
RICHARDSON, ACDA DIRECTOR HOLUM, UNDER SECRETARY PICKERING,  
UNDER SECRETARY WIRTH, ARA ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIDOW, LTG  
FOGLESONG, USOAS AMBASSADOR BABBITT, POLICY PLANNING  
DIRECTOR CRAIG, IO ASSISTANT SECRETARY LYMAN, NSC  
REPRESENTATIVE DOBBINS, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT HALE, AND  
ARA/BSC DEPUTY DIRECTOR HEG (NOTETAKER).

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after \_\_\_\_\_  
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IPS/CR/IR by DA Date: 8/30/01

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ARGENTINE PARTICIPANTS: FOREIGN MINISTER DI TELLA, AMBASSADOR TO U.S. GUEJAR, UN PERMREP PETRELLA, UNDER SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS DAVEREDE, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS RICARDES, AND DEPUTY PERMREP RAMIREZ.

4. (C) SUMMARY: DURING THEIR SEPTEMBER 25 MEETING, SECRETARY ALBRIGHT AND ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER DI TELLA CONCURRED ON THE MAJOR OUTLINES OF THE PRESIDENT'S UPCOMING OCTOBER VISIT TO ARGENTINA. DI TELLA AGREED TO WORK WITH THE U.S. ON A POSSIBLE JOINT STATEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE. HE LABELLED AS "RIDICULOUS" ALLEGATIONS THE U.S. WANTED TO DIVIDE MERCOSUR, AND EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THE U.S. PLANNED TO NOTIFY MNA TO THE CONGRESS BEFORE PRESIDENT CLINTON'S TRIP TO ARGENTINA. BRAZILIAN FM LAMPREIA'S SPEECH TO THE UNGA WHICH CALLED FOR A PERMANENT UNSC SEAT FOR BRAZIL CAUSED DI TELLA TO CALL IN HIS SPEECH FOR A ROTATING SEAT RATHER THAN OMITTING REFERENCE TO THE ISSUE AS HE HAD INTENDED. DI TELLA SAID THE GOA WOULD NOT ASK THE U.S. TO INTERVENE ON THE FALKLANDS/MALVINAS DURING THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP, CONTRARY TO ARGENTINE PRESS REPORTS, BUT THAT U.S. ADVOCACY OF GOA-UK TALKS WOULD BE HELPFUL. HE SAID THE OUTLOOK FOR A SOFTWARE PROTECTION LAW WAS GOOD, AND ACKNOWLEDGED THE GOA WOULD NEED TO TURN ITS ATTENTION TO PATENT PROTECTION AFTER THE LATE OCTOBER LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS. DI TELLA SAID THE SECRETARY'S DECISION TO MEET AT UNGA WITH RIO GROUP FOREIGN MINISTERS HAD REINVIGORATED THAT ORGANIZATION. ON CUBA, THE GOA WOULD PUSH FOR A SET OF CONDITIONS FOR HOLDING THE 1999 RIO GROUP SUMMIT IN HAVANA, AND CONFIRMED ARGENTINA WOULD ACCEPT SOME REFUGEES FROM GUANTANAMO. END SUMMARY.

THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP  
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5. (C) THE SECRETARY NOTED THE PRESIDENT WAS SENDING COUNSELOR MCLARTY TO THE REGION THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 29 TO COORDINATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR HIS OCTOBER TRIP. THE PRESIDENT WOULD WANT A TOWN HALL MEETING IN BUENOS AIRES, AS WELL AS MEETINGS WITH THE JEWISH COMMUNITY AND THE OPPOSITION. WE WOULD LAUNCH A BILATERAL CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM, AND VARIOUS AGREEMENTS (SATELLITES, PARK SERVICE, NUCLEAR COOPERATION) WOULD BE SIGNED. DI TELLA SAID THIS WAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOA EXPECTATIONS.

6. (C) THE SECRETARY ASKED FOR A JOINT STATEMENT DURING THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT ON CLIMATE CHANGE. U/S WIRTH NOTED ONGOING TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOA. A/S DAVIDOW SUGGESTED A CLIMATE CHANGE STATEMENT COULD BE DONE AS PART OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL EVENT IN BARILOCHE. DI TELLA REPLIED THAT THIS WAS A VERY IMPORTANT IDEA TOWARD WHICH WE NEEDED TO WORK.

U.S. POLICY TOWARD THE SOUTHERN CONE  
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7. (C) THE SECRETARY TOLD DI TELLA THE U.S. DID NOT OPPOSE

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NOR WAS TRYING TO DIVIDE THE SOUTHERN CONE COMMON MARKET (MERCOSUR). DI TELLA SAID THAT THE U.S. HAD "BETTER THINGS TO DO" AND CALLED SUGGESTIONS OF SUCH U.S. MALEVOLENCE "ABSOLUTELY RIDICULOUS." THE SECRETARY SUGGESTED THAT WE MIGHT ANNOUNCE A REVIVAL OF THE FOUR-PLUS-ONE CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM DURING THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO DISCUSS BOTH TRADE AND POLITICAL ISSUES IN THAT FORUM. DI TELLA APPROVED. HE NOTED THE SEA CHANGE IN ARGENTINE ATTITUDES TOWARD THE U.S.: A GENERATION AGO, A VISIT BY THE U.S. PRESIDENT SO SOON BEFORE AN ELECTION WOULD HAVE BEEN DISASTROUS FOR THE GOVERNMENT CANDIDATES. NOW, THE OPPOSITION WAS CONCERNED THE VISIT WOULD HELP THE GOVERNMENT.

MAJOR NON-NATO ALLY STATUS FOR ARGENTINA  
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8. (C) THE SECRETARY TOLD DI TELLA THAT WE PLANNED TO MAKE

A FORMAL NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS OF OUR INTENTION TO GRANT MAJOR NON-NATO ALLY (MNNA) STATUS BEFORE THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP. THIS WOULD BE THE FIRST DESIGNATION OF A COUNTRY AS AN MNNA LARGELY FOR THAT COUNTRY'S ACTIVITIES IN PEACEKEEPING. MNNA WOULD RECOGNIZE ARGENTINA'S COOPERATIVE SPIRIT AND CONTRIBUTION TO MEETING GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITIES. MNNA WAS NOT INTENDED TO BE DIVISIVE, BUT WE WERE CONCERNED ABOUT A RIPPLE EFFECT IN THE REGION. WE WOULD TRY TO REASSURE ARGENTINA'S NEIGHBORS.

9. (C) DI TELLA SAID THE TIMING OF THE PLANNED U.S. NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS WOULD WORK WELL FOR THE GOA. ARGENTINA'S NEIGHBORS HAD "NEVER COMPLAINED" DURING THE PERIOD ARGENTINA SOUGHT MNNA STATUS. DISCONTENT AROSE FROM A COMBINATION OF THE "FLASHY TITLE" AND THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNAL OPPOSITION IN CHILE WHICH HAD PUT FREI ON THE DEFENSIVE. MNNA WAS A SYMBOL FOR ARGENTINA OF THE END OF DECADES OF ANTAGONISM WITH THE UNITED STATES. THE REGIONAL PROBLEMS WERE EASING: CHILEAN FM INSULZA HAD NOT MADE AN ISSUE OF MNNA DURING HIS RECENT MEETING WITH DI TELLA.

UN ISSUES  
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10. (C) DI TELLA RAISED UNSC EXPANSION, NOTING THAT HE HAD NOT PLANNED TO MENTION IT IN HIS SPEECH TO THE UNGA. HOWEVER, AFTER BRAZILIAN FM LAMPREIA USED HIS SPEECH TO CALL FOR A PERMANENT SEAT FOR BRAZIL UNDER AN EXPANDED UNSC, HE INSERTED INTO THE TEXT A CALL FOR A ROTATING SEAT FOR LATIN AMERICA. WHAT THE U.S. HAD SAID ON UNSC EXPANSION WAS "ENOUGH." ARGENTINA THOUGHT A ROTATING SEAT WOULD RESOLVE RATHER THAN CREATE TENSION IN THE REGION. THE SECRETARY REPLIED THAT WE ALL NEEDED TO WATCH HOW THE ISSUE EVOLVED. THE U.S. WAS INTERESTED IN UN REFORM AND A REDUCTION IN ASSESSMENT RATES FOR THE U.S. SUCH A REDUCTION WOULD RESULT IN ONLY A SMALL INCREASE IN ARGENTINA'S ASSESSMENT. DI TELLA SAID THE GOA'S FIGURES

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SHOWED OTHERWISE. AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON UNDERTOOK TO SHARE OUR CALCULATIONS WITH THE ARGENTINE MISSION TO THE UN.

**THE FALKLANDS/MALVINAS**  
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11. (C) DI TELLA REFUTED RECENT PRESS REPORTS IN ARGENTINA THAT THE GOA WOULD ASK FOR U.S. INTERVENTION OR MEDIATION TO RESOLVE THE DISPUTE DURING THE POTUS TRIP. THE MOST THE GOA MIGHT DO, UNDER PRESSURE FROM PUBLIC OPINION, WOULD BE TO ASK THAT THE U.S. REAFFIRM SUPPORT FOR UN RESOLUTIONS CALLING ON BRITAIN AND ARGENTINA TO RESOLVE THE DISPUTE THROUGH DIRECT TALKS. THE GOA WOULD OF COURSE KEEP THE U.S. INFORMED OF ITS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE UK, AND DI TELLA HOPED THERE MIGHT BE GOOD NEWS TO REPORT WITHIN THE NEXT YEAR. THE SECRETARY EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THIS CLARIFICATION OF GOA INTENTIONS, NOTING IT WOULD BE MOST UNFORTUNATE IF THERE WERE TO BE A PUBLIC CALL FOR U.S. INTERVENTION IN THE DISPUTE DURING THE POTUS TRIP. WE WANTED TO EXPLORE WAYS TO BE HELPFUL WITHOUT PUTTING US "SMACK IN THE MIDDLE" OF THE ISSUE. DI TELLA SAID HE WAS WELL AWARE OF THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE UK.

**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**  
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12. (C) THE SECRETARY SAID WE HOPED FOR SWIFT PASSAGE OF SOFTWARE PIRACY LEGISLATION AND FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF REGULATIONS ON DATA CONFIDENTIALITY. DI TELLA SAID THE OUTLOOK WAS GOOD FOR EARLY PASSAGE OF THE SOFTWARE BILL. ON DATA CONFIDENTIALITY, THE GOA HAD ASKED THE U.S. EMBASSY IN BUENOS AIRES WHETHER IT WAS BETTER TO IMPLEMENT NOW OR AFTER THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP, AND WAS TOLD THE LATTER. A/S DAVIDOW SAID WE WOULD CLARIFY THE POINT. THE SECRETARY SAID WE WANTED TO WORK WITH THE GOA TO IMPROVE PATENT PROTECTION IN GENERAL. DI TELLA SAID AFTER THE ELECTIONS THE GOA WOULD NEED TO DISCUSS WHAT NEEDED TO BE DONE.

**NAZI GOLD**  
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13. (C) THE SECRETARY EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH THE GOA WAS CONDUCTING RESEARCH INTO ITS WARTIME ROLE. DI TELLA THANKED HER, SAYING HE WAS CLOSE TO THE ISSUE AND HAD THE FULL BACKING OF PRESIDENT MENEM. FOR ARGENTINA, THE PAST COULD NOT BE CHANGED, BUT ATTITUDES TO THAT PAST COULD. HE SAID THE LONDON CONFERENCE WOULD BE VERY IMPORTANT FOR ARGENTINA.

**THE RIO GROUP**  
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14. (C) POINTING TO HER MEETING LATER THAT DAY WITH RIO

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GROUP FOREIGN MINISTERS, THE SECRETARY WANTED TO FIND WAYS TO WORK CONSTRUCTIVELY ON REGIONAL ISSUES OF COMMON CONCERN. DI TELLA SAID THE SECRETARY'S DECISION TO MEET WITH THE RIO GROUP HAD GENERATED AN EXTREMELY POSITIVE REACTION. THERE HAD BEEN A FEELING THAT THE U.S. WAS NOT INTERESTED IN THE GROUP, AND THAT THE GROUP ITSELF WAS BECOMING DIRECTIONLESS. NOW, THE RIO GROUP FOREIGN MINISTERS FELT A RENEWED ENERGY FOR COORDINATION ON REGIONAL ISSUES.

CUBA  
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15. (C) DI TELLA SAID WE NEEDED TO DISCUSS CUBA, IN LIGHT OF THE SCHEDULED 1999 MEETING OF THE IBERO-AMERICAN SUMMIT IN HAVANA. "I DON'T THINK I'LL GO," THE SECRETARY QUIPPED. DI TELLA SAID THE GOA HOPED TO GENERATE A CONSENSUS IN FAVOR OF PRESENTING CUBA WITH A LIST OF CONDITIONS FOR HOLDING THE SUMMIT IN HAVANA, SUCH AS THE VATICAN HAD DEMANDED FOR THE POPE'S VISIT. HE MENTIONED AS CONDITIONS FREE ACCESS BY THE PRESS AND TELEVISION TIME FOR FOREIGN LEADERS. A/S DAVIDOW ASKED WHETHER THE NEXT RIO GROUP MEETING IN MARGARITA MIGHT DECIDE ON SUCH CONDITIONS AND PRESENT THEM TO CUBA. DI TELLA SAID HE EXPECTED THEY WOULD NEED TO USE THE MARGARITA MEETING TO AGREE ON THIS APPROACH. THE SECRETARY RECALLED THE EFFECT THAT THE POPE'S FIRST VISIT HAD HAD ON POLAND UNDER COMMUNISM, BUT NOTED THAT THE CHURCH IN CUBA HAD LESS OF A ROLE IN NATIONAL LIFE THAN IN POLAND.

16. (C) DI TELLA CONFIRMED THE GOA HAD DECIDED -- AS REQUESTED BY THE U.S. -- TO ACCEPT SOME OF THE CUBAN REFUGEES CURRENTLY IN GUANTANAMO, AND WAS TAKING STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THAT DECISION. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT WAS VERY GOOD NEWS.

U.S. POLICY ON ARMS SALES  
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17. (C) THE SECRETARY DESCRIBED THE NEW U.S. POLICY ON ADVANCED ARMS SALES AS ONE OF A CASE-BY-CASE REVIEW, IN THE CONTEXT OF RESTRAINT. SHE CALLED FOR SUPPORT FOR THE OAS RESOLUTION ON ARMS TRANSPARENCY. DI TELLA SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE OAS INITIATIVE TO ADVANCE IN PARALLEL WITH THE NEW U.S. POLICY. THE SECRETARY NOTED THAT WE DID NOT WANT TO IMPOSE A POLICY ON THE REGION AND ARE LOOKING FOR COOPERATIVE ACTION TO BE GENERATED BY THE LATIN THEMSELVES.

ALBRIGHT

ADMIN  
END OF MESSAGE

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