

INCOMING AIRGRAM

Department of State

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FROM: Amembassy PARIS
TO: Secstate WASHINGTON
NO: G-1369
Rechar: BUREAU AIRSS

Date Sent: JUNE 16, 1962
Rec'd:

Subject: Quai Latin American Official on Special Visit

Bonafous, South American desk officer at the Quai, tells us the French hope to avoid any discussion of the Richman issue during Argentinian President Frondizi's visit to Paris June 22 to 25. The French share the general opinion that Richman should be tried, and they have reproached Argentina in the past for giving asylum to numerous notorious Nazis. Nevertheless, while understanding the Imperial desire to bring Richman to justice, the French recognize that the Imperial acted illegally toward a friendly country. Bonafous says the French will not raise the matter, and hopes that the Argentinians, who are very sensitive to the charge that they shelter many former Nazis, will not either. The French have no wish, Bonafous said, to act as arbitrator or intermediary in this matter. They enjoy excellent relations with both countries and fear that any action on their part would only cause ill will for them on both sides without solving anything. Bonafous indicated the French fear they may be asked to support Argentina on the matter at the United Nations.

Bonafous thinks that a meeting between Ben-Davies and Frondizi is unlikely during the latter's visit to France, since his program is already so filled that he will have scarcely a spare minute.

Bonafous says that the protocol requirements of this October visit leave scarcely any time for substantive discussion. The French will, however, raise a matter of compensation for French property nationalized at the start of Boerio during the war. He thinks this will go smoothly since Argentina last year satisfactorily settled another long outstanding dispute of the same nature.

The French also intend to reassure the Argentinians that the ECQ will not allow the markets of the Six to the Argentine products nor channel European capital to other regions of the world such as Africa. This appears to be a recurring theme in French talks with Latin America. It will be recalled that the French were at pains to reassure Peru's President Prado of the ECQ's good intentions toward Latin America at the time of his visit here in February.

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Secretary said the Organization might be a bit pleased at the fact that Kennedy's visit is only for 48 hours. However, he said with the heavy diplomatic schedule and the travel in the world of so many leading personalities this was all the Soviet could do. In an interesting sidelight on the preparations for the visit, Secretary said that the Foreign Ministry had consulted the plans with other countries. He said in order to make sure that all the arrangements would be at the same level in each country.

Secretary also mentioned that from the visits of Khrushchev and Khrushchev to Moscow, a visit by de Gaulle to Latin America at some unspecified time in the future would not be altogether unexpected. He pointed out that on the way to Moscow no plans are presently being made for such a trip.

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