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DRAFTED BY S/AS:AMB. SMITH, ARA/ECA:JBUMPAS, HA:MSCHNEIDER
APPROVED BY S/S - MR. TARNOFF
PM:GOPLINGER
T:DR. NYE
D:DLAMB
ARA:TTODMAN
ARA/ECA:RZIMMERMAN
THE SECRETARY (SUBS)
THE DEPUTY SECRETARY (SUBS)

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O.122239Z NOV 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES NIACT IMMEDIATE

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DECAPTIONED

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PARM, TECH, NUC, ENRG, AR, SHUM

SUBJECT: SECRETARY VANCE'S VISIT

REF: BUENOS AIRES: 8523

1. SECRETARY VANCE HAS PERSONALLY REQUESTED THAT YOU MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER AS SOON AS FEASIBLE TO PROTEST IRREGULAR DETENTION OF ASSOCIATED PRESS NEWS EDITOR OSCAR SERRAT AND THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO SUSPEND THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF JACOBO TIMERMAN AND ASSUME CONTROL OVER HIS ASSETS.

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2. YOU SHOULD STRESS THAT THE DETENTION OF SERRAT WAS HIGHLY IRREGULAR AND AT VARIANCE WITH PAST ARGENTINE ASSURANCES THAT THEY WERE MOVING TOWARD

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RESTORATION OF THE RULE OF LAW.

3. YOU SHOULD STATE THAT WE VIEW THE ACTION AGAINST TIMERMAN, WHICH APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN MADE WITHOUT DUE LEGAL PROCESS, TO BE EXCEPTIONALLY UNFORTUNATE AT THIS TIME.

4. YOU SHOULD INFORM THE ARGENTINES THAT WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER LACK OF PROGRESS ON DETAINEES, THE VERY

SLOW AND LIMITED APPLICATION OF THE RIGHT OF OPTION, AND CONTINUED DISAPPEARANCES AND REPORTS OF TORTURE. WE HAVE EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN ABOUT ALEJANDRO DEUTSCH, EPIFANIO MENDEZ, AND MANY OTHER DETAINEES AND DISAPPEARED. YET WE HAVE HAD ONLY LIMITED RESPONSE. INCIDENTS SUCH AS THE ONES MENTIONED ONLY REEMPHASIZE THE CONTINUING CRITICAL STATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

5. YOU SHOULD TELL THE ARGENTINES THAT THE SECRETARY HAS STATED THAT HE VIEWS THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION AS A HIGH PRIORITY ITEM ON HIS AGENDA FOR HIS VISIT.

6. WITH REGARD TO NUCLEAR MATTERS YOU SHOULD INFORM FOREIGN MINISTER THAT THERE IS APPARENT MISUNDERSTANDING REGARDING PRESIDENT CARTER'S INTENTION IN ADVISING VIDELA ABOUT EFFECT THAT ARGENTINE ACTION ON TLATELOLCO WOULD HAVE ON OUR ABILITY TO EXPORT HEAVY WATER TECHNOLOGY TO ARGENTINA. PRESIDENT CARTER INDICATED WE COULD EXPORT NON-SENSITIVE NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY AND HEAVY WATER, NOT "HEAVY WATER TECHNOLOGY." WE ALSO UNDERSTAND

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THAT VIDELA'S STATEMENT RE TLATELOLCO PRECEDED PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT AND WAS NOT CONDITIONED ON SPECIFIC STEPS FROM OUR SIDE.

7. IN OUR VIEW, WE SHOULD SUGGEST TO ARGENTINA A TWO-STAGE APPROACH ON NUCLEAR MATTERS. THE FIRST STAGE WOULD HAVE ARGENTINA ACT ON TLATELOLCO (MEANING BRINGING THE TREATY WITH ITS ATTENDANT SAFEGUARDS INTO EFFECT) IN RETURN FOR WHICH THE UNITED STATES WOULD SUPPLY ARGENTINA WITH HEAVY WATER AND URANIUM OF SUFFICIENT ENRICHMENT FOR USE IN PROJECTED ARGENTINA RESEARCH REACTORS FOR EXPORT. THE SECOND STAGE WOULD HAVE ARGENTINA AGREE TO DEFER REPROCESSING IN RETURN FOR WHICH

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THE UNITED STATES COULD TAKE THE UNPRECEDENTED STEP OF EXPORTING THE TECHNOLOGY FOR PRODUCTION OF HEAVY WATER IN ARGENTINA.

8. BEFORE FINAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE FOR THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO ARGENTINA, WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ARGENTINA AGREEMENT TO THE FIRST STAGE TRANSACTION MENTIONED ABOVE WHICH WOULD BE ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY EITHER DURING OR SHORTLY AFTER THE SECRETARY'S VISIT. WE APPRECIATE THAT SECOND STAGE IS MORE COMPLEX AND WOULD REQUIRE MORE TIME, BUT WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ARGENTINE AGREEMENT TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE DURING THE SECRETARY'S VISIT.

9. FYI. YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT DURING HIS NOVEMBER 4 MEETING WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER, DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ALLARA INDICATED THAT THERE WERE PRACTICALLY

NO IMPEDIMENTS TO GOA RATIFICATION OF TLATELOCO. VANCE

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