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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Santiago, Chile  
June 6, 1976  
Secretary's Suite  
8:10 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.

PARTICIPANTS: The United States  
The Secretary  
Under Secretary Rogers  
Under Secretary Maw  
Luigi R. Einaudi, S/P - Notetaker  
Anthony Herbas, Interpreter

Argentina  
Foreign Minister Guzzetti  
Ambassador Carasalles  
Ambassador Pereyra  
Mr. Estrada

DISTRIBUTION: ARA, S/P

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FILE

Guzzetti

If you do not mind, I prefer to speak Spanish. It is difficult for me to express myself in English.

The Secretary

Not at all. I myself negotiate with the Germans in English even though I was 15 when I left Germany.

You realize, of course, that no matter what happens I will be in Argentina in 1978, that is the year the World Cup will take place.

Pereyra

We are waiting for it too.

The Secretary

Argentina will win.

Guzzetti

I am not sure.

NODIS REVIEW  
CLASSIFIED BY DEPT. OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: MEEVIN E SINN  
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 25X6  
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 20 NOV 2013  
DATE/CASE ID: 10 DEC 2003 20020213  
1951-8110224

10/10/78

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
CLASSIFIED BY DEPT. OF STATE, L. R. LEHMAN/GES/AS-A/RPS  
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then stayed 15 days in California, claiming the area for Argentina.

The Secretary

Just a minute now. I want you to know that we bought Hawaii, we paid for it, and we intend to keep it forever.

Of course, if we were to tell our press that we were opening negotiations with Argentina over California and Hawaii that would at least take Panama out of the headlines.

Guzzetti

Our main problem in Argentina is terrorism. It is the first priority of the current government that took office on March 24. There are two aspects to the solution. The first is to ensure the internal security of the country; the second is to solve the most urgent economic problems over the coming 6 to 12 months.

Argentina needs United States understanding and support to overcome problems in these two areas.

The Secretary

We have followed events in Argentina closely. We wish the new government well. We wish it will succeed. We will do what we can to help it succeed.

We are aware you are in a difficult period. It is a curious time, when political, criminal, and terrorist activities tend to merge without any clear separation. We understand you must establish authority.

Guzzetti

The foreign press creates many problems for us, interpreting events in a very peculiar manner. Press criticism creates problems for confidence. It weakens international confidence in the Argentine Government and affects the economic help that we need. It even seems as though there is an orchestrated international campaign against us.

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*Memorandum of Conversation*

DATE: Oct. 6, 1976  
Time: 1:00 PM  
Place: James Madison Room

SUBJECT: U.S. - Argentine Relations

PARTICIPANTS: Argentina

His Excellency Rear Admiral Cesar Augusto Guzzetti,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of the  
Argentine Republic

His Excellency Arnaldo Tomas Musich, Ambassador of  
the Argentine Republic

Colonel Repetto Pelaez, Undersecretary General,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

His Excellency Federico Bartfeld, Chief, Latin American  
Division of Foreign Ministry

United States

The Acting Secretary of State

The Honorable Harry W. Shlaudeman, Assistant  
Secretary for Inter-American Affairs

Mr. Robert W. Zimmermann, Director, Office of East  
Coast Affairs, ARA/ECA

The Honorable Edwin M. Martin, Chairman, Consultative  
Group on Food Production and Investment in  
Developing Countries, EBRD

After an initial exchange of amenities, and mutual expressions of gratification in connection with the rededication of the statue of San Martin that morning, Foreign Minister Guzzetti conveyed his appreciation for this opportunity to exchange views on certain items of mutual interest.

Guzzetti began the substantive conversation by noting that the military government is now six months old and that its antecedents and current situation are well known. Nevertheless, he said, he wished to express his personal views, especially regarding subversion. In this regard he noted that the government had achieved some success and there are hopes that within three to

ARA: ECA: RWZ Zimmermann:lk

(Drafting Office and Office) 10/8/76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J. OLSON  
DATE/CASE ID: 23 OCT 2003 200203891

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four months the government will have dealt with the subversive groups. However, he said, Argentina has other problems as well: educational, social and economic; the most important of which is the need to push economic reform. Argentine economic problems are being effectively attacked by Minister Martinez de Hoz and there already is clear evidence of substantial recuperation.

One of the most important issues facing the government, Guzzetti continued, is the capacity of international terrorist groups to support the Argentine terrorists through propaganda and funds. The armed forces, when they took over in March, found the country destroyed economically and psychologically. It was a country in crisis. But in six months the government is on the road to recovery. The outside world speaks of the Argentine government as rightist and fascist. This is far from reality. Argentina had to face the situation realistically and is trying to find a means to interpret the situation to the outside world. The present regime wishes to establish a democracy; this is the nation's most important task.

Another problem is that of the refugees, Guzzetti continued. Although people often think of the refugees in the same context as the terrorists, these are different problems. In total there are some 10,000 refugees, of which 90 to 95% came to Argentina from Chile some two or three years ago. They live in Argentina without documentation or clear means of support. Argentina is taking seriously the problem of trying to relocate these people and provide them with legal documentation - or allow them to leave if they so desire. But other countries must cooperate and receive some of these people. The problem is both social and humanitarian and Argentina welcomes the help of the United Nations refugee organization. The issue has no real connection with Argentina's subversive problems although, naturally, a few of the refugees perhaps are connected with terrorist groups, just as certain Argentines are so connected. Guzzetti said that in May in Santiago he explained the refugee problem to Secretary Kissinger and believed the latter understood the Argentine difficulties in this area. A solution cannot be found overnight. It depends on assistance from other countries including the U.S., France, and Denmark, for example. Argentina must reeducate the refugees and control them but does not want to return them to Chile. The point is that the refugee problem has become mixed up with the issue of subversion in the eyes of foreigners and has created a highly unfavorable impression of Argentina abroad.

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