



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

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September 27, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: D - Mr. Dennis Lamb
 FROM: PM - Richard A. Ericson, Jr.
 SUBJECT: Arms Transfers to Argentina

This is in response to your informal request of Saturday. I am making only this one copy.

The Secretary's decision of July 25 drew a clear line between two categories of items for Argentina: 1) covering articles and services which could be used by police and other civil law enforcement agencies which were to be denied; and 2) all other items which were to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

HRH is now seeking to ensure, solely on human rights grounds, that all items in the second category are also to be denied. It is in effect again opening up the issue which the Secretary has already decided.

PM's official position therefore must remain as stated in Les Gelb's memorandum of September 15. The point here is that the cases submitted for review have all been scrubbed from the point of view of their intended end use, and those that would contravene the Secretary's July 25 decision have been eliminated. In recent months, we have denied many articles which might be used by Argentine agencies for internal security purposes, including a police computer system, handguns, submachine guns, rifles, small arms ammunition, grenades, crowd control equipment (tear gas, Mace, rubber bullets), electronic tubes for image intensifier equipment, infrared night vision devices and passive radar surveillance systems.

Nonetheless, if necessary there could be some distinctions in the treatment of the items contained in Gelb's memorandum.

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- It seems to me the item that must be approved is the periscopes. These have no human rights implications and to deny this sale would be to extend our embargo to German-manufactured equipment.* We certainly would not wish to complicate this situation with problems with the Germans.
- The requests regarding KC-130 tanker aircraft and Chinook helicopters involve advisory opinions only. The Chinook could, of course, be used for transporting troops in some undesirable activity, but this is pretty farfetched; they are also capable of performing a multitude of other logistical tasks. You might wish to approve these requests for an advisory opinion, but to warn that the approval of any resultant sale might be conditioned on an improvement in the human rights situation.
- The torpedoes, except insofar as they are destined for the Navy, are unobjectionable on human rights grounds.
- There could be no valid human rights objections to the bombs or artillery ammunition, except possibly to the 10 500-lb. general purpose MK-82 bombs.
- Since the Navy is the hardnosed outfit in Argentina, and since the caliber 50 ball and tracer cartridges come the closest of any items on the list to being useful for the suppression of dissidents, you might wish to disapprove their sale. We would, of course, sigh and shake our heads.
- The 4.2 inch mortar is not a weapon to be employed against dissidents unless you are speaking of organized military concentrations (in which case they become revolutionaries, not dissidents). The request for ammunition for these should be approved.

})

good point

add
to
list
of
items
to
be
approved
by
the
C.I.A.
✓

* The submarines are being constructed in Germany and the periscopes would be exported from here to there.

PM:RAEricson,Jr:bpw
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