

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
Department of State

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

PAGE 01  
ACTION INRD-08

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INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 ISO-00 /009 W -----092988 101640Z /47

O 101450Z OCT 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCIION  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4219

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ASUNCIION 4375

~~ROGER CHANNEL~~

E. O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM  
SUBJECT: CHIEF OF STAFF ON LETELIER CASE

REF: ASUNCIION 4325

**FILE**

**SPECIAL HANDLING**

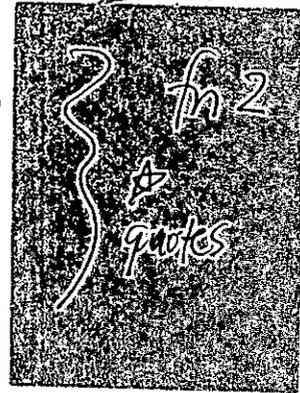
#1-ARA

1. AT SEND OFF RECEPTION FOR DEPARTING BOLIVIAN AMBASSADOR OCTOBER 9, PARAGUAYAN ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, GENERAL FREITAS DAVALOS BROUGHT UP THE LETELIER CASE AND TOLD ME HE HOPED COL. GUANES' PART IN THAT REGRETTABLE AFFAIR WAS OVER. IN RESPONSE TO HIS QUERY, I SAID USG WAS NOT TOO HAPPY WITH CHILEAN LEGAL PROCEDURES, ESPECIALLY THE SECRECY ANGLE. FREITAS DAVALOS SAID HE TOLD CHILEANS THEY SHOULD HAVE PUBLIC TRIAL AND CONDEMN CONTRERAS TO GIVE YEAR SENTENCE TO SATISFY PUBLIC OPINION, THEN RELEASE HIM A YEAR LATER.

2. THIS PROVIDED OPENING TO ASK FREITAS ABOUT THE RECENT MEETING OF SOUTHERN CONE INTELLIGENCE CHIEFS IN ASUNCIION. I SAID THAT WASHINGTON WAS VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN WHAT HAD GONE ON. FREITAS SAID HE FELT THESE MEETINGS WERE A WASTE OF TIME AND MONEY BUT, ALTHOUGH HE WAS IN MEXICO FOR MOST OF THE MEETING, HE COULD ASSURE ME THAT THE PURPOSE WAS IN NO WAY RELATED TO THE LETELIER CASE. NOT ALL THE SOUTHERN CONE INTELLIGENCE CHIEFS ATTENDED; ONLY ARGENTINA, CHILE AND PARAGUAY. HE OFFERED TO SUPPLY ME WITH THE ACTA OR WRITTEN RECORD OF THE MEETING AND SAID AGAIN THAT WHILE THE LETELIER CASE MIGHT HAVE COME UP CASUALLY, IT WAS IN NO WAY THE PRINCIPAL TOPIC OF THE MEETING.

3. I SAID IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL IF HE COULD GIVE US A COPY OF THE ACTA AND FREITAS DAVALOS PROMISED TO SPEAK TO THE PRESIDENT TOMORROW TO OBTAIN HIS PERMISSION, WHICH HE FELT WOULD BE FORTHCOMING.

4. COMMENT: FREITAS DAVALOS IS ONE OF THE VERY FEW PARAGUAYAN GENERALS WITH CONFIDENCE ENOUGH IN HIS POSITION AND HIS RELATIONSHIP TO THE PRESIDENT THAT HE SPEAKS TO US WITH GREAT CANDOR. HE AND I HAVE A RELATIONSHIP OF MUTUAL TRUST AND I BELIEVE THAT HE HAS TOLD ME THE TRUTH AS HE UNDERSTANDS IT. I RECOMMEND THAT WE WAIT BEFORE SENDING SCHERRER TO ASUNCIION TO SEE IF FREITAS DAVALOS FOLLOWS THROUGH ON HIS COMMITMENT. IT IS CLEAR TO ME THAT PRESIDENT STROESSNER THROUGH PAPPALARDO IS CONTROLLING EVERY DETAIL OF THIS CASE.  
WHITE



~~Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP~~  
Change to \_\_\_\_\_  
() Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny () Declassify  
Exemptions b ( ) ( ) E.O. 13526 25x ( ) ( )  
Declassify after \_\_\_\_\_  
With concurrence of: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ obtained \_\_\_\_\_ not obt.  
IPS by Q Date 12-2-16

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INR/IL (Newington)

~~Roger Channel~~

Asuncion 1969-79