

1/16/80

BA 472

Castro discussion  
w/ Viola

Viola emphasizes  
importance of US  
HR report

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*Xtra  
return to  
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E.O. 12065: GDS 1/16/86 (CASTRO, RAUL H.) OR-M  
TAGS: AR, SHUM, EEWI, EAGR, OCON  
SUBJECT: USG AND GOA RELATIONS

1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT.

2. IMMEDIATELY ON RETURN FROM HOME-LEAVE, I CONTACTED GENERAL VIOLA, NOW RETIRED MEMBER OF JUNTA AND ARMY, TO SEEK AN AUDIENCE. I MET WITH HIM LAST NIGHT AND WE COVERED WATER-FRONT REFERENCE STATUS OF USG-GOA RELATIONS. IT IS ACCEPTED IN ALL QUARTERS VIOLA WILL SUCCEED VIDELA AS PRESIDENT IN 1981. SUBJECTS DISCUSSED FOLLOW:

3. DETERIORATION OF USG-GOA RELATIONS: VIOLA APPEARED DEEPLY PERTURBED ABOUT ADVERSE TURN OF EVENTS IN USG-GOA RELATIONS.

HE ATTRIBUTED THESE EVENTS TO LACK OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN EXECUTIVES AND FORMERS OF BOTH COUNTRIES. VIOLA STATED IT WAS IMPERATIVE A DIALOGUE BE ESTABLISHED ASAP BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND PRESIDENT VIDELA. HE STATED SAME HOLDS TRUE OF SECT. VANCE AND FORMER PASTOR. VIOLA REAFFIRMED ARGENTINE SENSITIVITIES TO NOT BEING CONSULTED PRIOR TO THE OCCURRENCE OF AN ACT. AT THIS MOMENT THERE ARE A FEW HURT FEELINGS. HE FIRMLY EXPRESSED BOTH USG AND GOA CANNOT FORM THEIR POLICY BASED ON PAST ACTS. VIOLA INSISTED IT IS IMPERATIVE BOTH COUNTRIES LOOK AT EACH OTHER ON CONDITIONS AS THEY EXIST NOW AND LOOK INTO THE FUTURE. HE ADDED EFFORT MUST BE MADE TO LOOK FOR SOLUTIONS AND NOT KEEP REFERRING TO ERRORS OF THE PAST.

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4. GRAIN EMBARGO: VIOLA REGRETTED NUMBER OF PUBLIC STATEMENTS MADE BY BOTH USG AND GOA REFERENCE RESTRICTION OF GRAIN SALES TO USSR. IN HIS OPINION THESE DECLARATIONS HAVE ADDED FUEL TO THE FIRE. HE ALSO FELT THERE WERE MANY MISINTERPRETATIONS OF USG OBJECTIVES ON SUBJECT. VIOLA INSISTED GOA MUST COOPERATE WITH USG BUT NOW GOA IS BOXED-IN ITS POSITION. A FACE-SAVING DEVICE MUST BE FOUND FOR GOA SO AS NOT TO APPEAR IT TO BE A COMPLETE CAVE-IN TO US. HE AGAIN STRESSED NEED FOR DIALOGUE BETWEEN PRESIDENTS CARTER AND VIDELA. VIOLA AGREED TO DO WHATEVER HE COULD TO GET GOA'S COOPERATION ON RESTRICTION OF GRAIN SALES TO USSR. VIOLA IS OUT OF GOVT SERVICE NOW BUT TOLD ME HE WOULD WORK THROUGH GENERAL GALTIERI, HIS SUCCESSOR AND CLOSE FRIEND.

5. GENERAL GALTIERI: VIOLA STATED HE HAD ALREADY SPOKEN TO GENERAL GALTIERI, WHO WILL MEET WITH ME THIS FRIDAY (JAN. 18), AND ASKED HIM TO MAINTAIN CLOSE TIES WITH ME. VIOLA MENTIONED GALTIERI WOULD RECEIVE ME WHENEVER NEED DICTATED IT. HE EMPHASIZED GALTIERI IS THE ARMY REPRESENTATIVE IN JUNTA AND WILL ALSO BE RESPONDING TO SOME EXTENT TO VIOLA'S THOUGHTS.

6. HUMAN RIGHTS: VIOLA EXPRESSED SERIOUS CONCERN OVER DEPT'S HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON ARGENTINA. HE STATED USG REPORT IS MORE CRUCIAL THAN UN OR OAS REPORTS. VIOLA'S CONCERN WAS WORDING OF US REPORT COULD PRECIPITATE A WAVE OF EMOTIONALISM AND ANTI-AMERICANISM IF ARGENTINES FELT REPORT WAS AN UNFAIR EVALUATION OF COUNTRY. VIOLA TOLD ME VIDELA AND OTHER MEMBERS OF JUNTA ARE LIKEWISE PREOCCUPIED OVER TENOR OF OUR HUMAN

RIGHTS REPORT. I TOLD VIOLA US REPORT NOT CONCLUDED THUS I WAS UNABLE TO COMMENT ON IT.

7. DISAPPEARED: VIOLA WAS MOST EMPHATIC IN TELLING ME GOA HAD NO SOLUTION TO PROBLEM OF DISAPPEARED. HE STATED MAKING AN ACCOUNTING OF DISAPPEARED WAS AN IMPOSSIBILITY FOR THEM. HE HOPED THIS WOULD NOT BE THE IRRITANT WHICH COULD PROVE TO BE THE INSURMOUNTABLE STUMBLING BLOCK IN RELATIONS BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES. VIOLA STATED HE HOPED GOA COULD BE JUDGED ON ITS PERFORMANCE NOW AND IN THE FUTURE. HE SPOKE CONFIDENTLY DISAPPEARED WAS A THING OF THE PAST. HE SAID THE 44 PERSONS WHO SUPPOSEDLY DISAPPEARED LAST YEAR WERE UNQUESTIONABLY HARD-CORE TERRORISTS.

8. VIOLA'S HEALTH: THE GENERAL APPEARED QUITE TRIM AS HE HAS LOST QUITE A FEW POUNDS. HE STATED HE WAS FEELING FINE AND HAD NO HEALTH PROBLEMS. HE NARRATED AN EPISODE ON HOW ELEVATORS IN HIS APARTMENT WEREN'T WORKING SO HE CLIMBED SIX FLOORS. HE SAID AT THE END OF THE JOURNEY HE WAS BREATHING HARD BUT FELT FINE.

9. CAMPAIGN STRATEGY: VIOLA STATED HE WOULD REST UNTIL MARCH. FROM THAT MONTH HE WOULD COVER ARGENTINA EXTENSIVELY GETTING PROPER PUBLIC EXPOSURE. HE MADE IT CLEAR HE DIDN'T INTEND TO BE A POPULIST NOR OVERDO HIS PUBLIC APPEARANCES. CASTRO

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