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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

March 19, 1980

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(Entire Text)

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI
THE WHITE HOUSE

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Subject: Presidential letter to President Videla of Argentina

Ambassador Gerard C. Smith will be traveling to Argentina March 23 to continue the high level bilateral consultations begun by President Carter's special emissary, General Andrew J. Goodpaster.

We believe it would be useful for Ambassador Smith to carry with him a letter from President Carter to President Jorge Rafael Videla of Argentina. Attached is a suggested draft expressing appreciation for the willingness of the Argentine Government to receive Ambassador Smith, stating our hopes for the continued strengthening of our bilateral relations and reiterating our concern over Soviet aggression in Afghanistan.

Peter Tarnoff
Executive Secretary

Attachment:

Suggested Draft Letter. Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP

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Cleared: ARA: SDEato
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Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP

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Dear Mr. President:

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Date 12-19-66

I very much appreciate your Government's willingness to receive my special representative, Ambassador-at-Large Gerard C. Smith. I have asked Ambassador Smith to continue the productive discussions begun during General Goodpaster's recent visit, and I understand that a broad four-point agenda has been agreed upon, covering all major items of mutual interest, ranging from world security to human rights. Ambassador Smith will be in a position to give you and your officials our current views on these issues. Our hope is that the talks will continue to strengthen relations between our two countries, clarify pending issues, and lead to greater bilateral and multilateral cooperation. In this time of world crisis I believe that a harmonization of Argentine-United States views on central issues of foreign policy would be an important contribution to world peace.

As you know, we remain greatly concerned over the continuation of Soviet aggression in Afghanistan in callous disregard of the overwhelming condemnation by the world community.

His Excellency
Jorge Rafael Videla,
President of the Argentine Nation,
Buenos Aires.

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I look forward to Ambassador Smith's report
of his visit with great interest.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Carter

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