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SAN SALVADOR FOR AMBASSADOR BOWDLER

E.O. 12065: GDS 7/19/86 (EATON, SAMUEL D)

TAGS: AR

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED AGENDA FOR ASSISTANT
SECRETARY BOWDLER'S VISIT WITH AMBASSADOR AJA ESPIL

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT
2. DAS EATON DISCUSSED THE PROPOSED AGENDA FOR ASSISTANT
SECRETARY BOWDLER'S VISIT WITH AMBASSADOR AJA ESPIL ON
JULY 16 WITH THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPAL RESULTS.
3. EATON SAID THAT THE OVERALL CONCEPT OF THE VISIT WOULD
BE A CONTINUATION OF THE PATTERN OF CONSULTATIONS BEGUN
WITH THE GOODPASTER VISIT. IN THIS CASE THE PRESUMED
PURPOSES WOULD BE TO HAVE A BROAD TOUR D'HORIZON COM-
BINED WITH A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE OF OUR RELATIONS. AJA
ESPIL AGREED, PARTICULARLY EMPHASIZING THE LOOK AT THE
FUTURE.

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4. EATON SAID HE ASSUMED ASSISTANT SECRETARY BOWDLER
WOULD SEE ROUGHLY THE SAME SET OF PEOPLE WHOM AMBASSADOR
SMITH HAD SEEN. AGAIN, AJA ESPIL AGREED AND SAID HE
WOULD BEGIN THE PROCESS FOR ARRANGEMENTS FOR SEEING

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PRESIDENT VIDELA. HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR BOWDLER FIRST TO VISIT THE FOREIGN MINISTER, NEXT VIDELA

AND THEN COMMANDERS OF THE ARMED FORCES. HE SAID IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE FOR HIM TO SEE EACH ARMED FORCE COMMANDER SEPARATELY. IN ADDITION, HE SHOULD SEE VIOLA PRIVATELY, WITHOUT PUBLICITY, AND MARTINEZ DE HOZ.

5. AJA ESPIL AND EATON SINGLED OUT HUMAN RIGHTS, NUCLEAR COOPERATION AND GRAINS AS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT BILATERAL ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED. ON HUMAN RIGHTS AJA ESPIL PROBED ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A QTE POSTPONEMENT UNQTE OF OASGA CONSIDERATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION REPORT ON ARGENTINA. EATON TOLD AJA ESPIL HE DID NOT THINK THAT WOULD BE WISE OR ACHIEVABLE. RATHER HE THOUGHT ARGENTINA SHOULD SEEK AN OBJECTIVE RESOLUTION THAT WOULD RECOGNIZE PAST PROGRESS AND CALL FOR FURTHER PROGRESS. AJA ESPIL SAID THAT A CENTRAL PROBLEM FOR THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT WAS THAT IT DID NOT WANT TO AGREE TO A RESOLUTION PASSED BY AN INTERNATIONAL BODY THAT COULD BE USED AGAINST IT AT SOME POSSIBLE FUTURE JUDGEMENT DATE. EATON SAID IT SEEMED TO HIM THAT WAS A MATTER OF WORDING THAT COULD BE NEGOTIATED. NO ONE WANTED TO CONTRIBUTE TO A SITUATION WHICH MIGHT HOLD BACK POLITICAL LIBERALIZATION IN ARGENTINA BECAUSE OF MILITARY FEAR OF FUTURE RETRIBUTION FOR PAST ACTS.

6. THE CONVERSATION THEN TURNED TO DISAPPEARANCES WITH EATON POINTING OUT TO AJA ESPIL THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE

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CONTINUING DISAPPEARANCES. THIS WAS AN ISSUE THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH DURING BOWDLER'S VISIT. AJA ESPIL, AS IS HIS CUSTOM, PROFESSED IGNORANCE ON ANY RECENT DISAPPEARANCES AND SAID THAT THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT WAS COMMITTED TO THERE BEING NO MORE. HE ASKED FOR NAMES, WHICH EATON PROMISED TO PROVIDE. EATON ALSO SAID THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY BOWDLER WOULD WANT TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF PROVISION OF INFORMATION ON PAST DISAPPEARANCES.

7. WITH REGARD TO GRAINS EATON SAID THAT THIS WAS AN IMPORTANT SUBJECT WITH WHICH BOWDLER WOULD WISH TO DEAL UNLESS IT WAS RESOLVED BEFORE HIS VISIT. EATON NOTED THE GRAINS AGREEMENT SIGNED ON JULY 10 AND SAID THAT NOW THAT THIS HAD OCCURRED IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE

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ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT TO COMMIT ITSELF NOT TO GO BEYOND, IN COMING CROP YEARS, THE LEVEL OF THE AGREEMENT OR THE LEVEL OF THIS CROP YEAR'S SHIPMENTS. IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT TO STATE THE MAXIMUM LEVELS PUBLICLY. AJA ESPIL DEMURRED ON A PUBLIC STATEMENT BUT EATON ARGUED IT WOULD NOT BE ALL THAT DIFFICULT NOW THAT ARGENTINA HAD AN AGREEMENT WITH PRECISE

FIGURES THAT COULD BE USED AS A PEG.

8. ON NUCLEAR COOPERATION AJA ESPIL SAID THAT HE WAS CONVINCED ARGENTINA WAS VERY CLOSE TO RATIFICATION OF TLAHELCO TREATY AND EATON SAID, OF COURSE, THAT WOULD BE A VERY POSITIVE STEP.

9. AJA ESPIL SAID THAT HE WOULD SUBMIT THE TENTATIVE AGENDA PROPOSAL THAT EATON HAD GIVEN HIM TO HIS GOVERNMENT AND PROVIDE COMMENTS WITHIN A FEW DAYS. (THE TENTATIVE AGENDA IS PROVIDED SEPTEL.) CHRISTOPHER

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