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MEMORANDUM

August 21, 1980

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
(X) Release () Excise () Deny
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TO : FILE
FROM : POL - Townsend B. Friedman
SUBJECT:

A source in Argentine intelligence services reviewed the following subjects with me:

601 Command

Col. Mucio presides over but does not rule at the 601. Mucio, he said, dithers a lot and finds it difficult to make decisions. As a result, his subordinates operate pretty much as they wish presenting Mucio with faits accomplis. Mucio's immediate subordinate is Col. Bellini, a hardline political troglodyte. Under Bellini is Col. Roldon and below him is Col. Arias Duval. Roldon is a cut above Bellini and the relationship between he and Arias Duval is a bad one. Duval and Bellini seem to be trying to blame Roldon for the kidnappings of the Montoneros in Peru as a power play against Roldon.

The 601 has personnel abroad, however their function is restricted to the anti-terrorist campaign. An operation like Bolivia would have involved Army G-2 and not the 601.

The Montoneros

My source said the Montoneros have no more than 20 activists and 20 sympathizers within Argentina. Last month security services rolled up 12 Montoneros who tried to infiltrate the country. The two Montoneros who committed suicide at the Argentine border were being sent into Argentina to try to find out whatever happened to the other twelve. Firmenich is having trouble finding recruits to come into the country. The PLO continues to train Montonero operatives. On the other hand the Argentine security services now have three teams operating abroad with the specific mission of killing Firmenich.

Military Politics

My source claimed that there is great unrest among junior officers (major and below) over several issues. First, they are unhappy with what they view as

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the government's pro-Soviet foreign policy. Second, they are unhappy with their own salaries (a major earning no more than \$1,500 a month). Third, they are unhappy with Martinez de Hoz's policy in general.

Rumors are, he said, that General Bussi has made known that he no longer supports the Viola candidacy for president. On the other hand, the Navy, he said, was going to go all out to block Viola too. My source was nervous about what he viewed as the rising levels of political tension within the country.

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