

UNCLASSIFIED

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MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
From: George P. Shultz
Subject: Argentine Certification

We believe we should move soon on Congressional certification for Argentina. Their human rights record has greatly improved and we see no serious threat of renewed Falklands hostilities. They have called for elections this October and will turn over power to the civilians next January. Most importantly, we should signal the Argentine military, a bastion of anti-Communism in an unstable domestic environment, that we are now prepared to remove the stigma of the U.S. law prohibiting arms sales.

This action would not mean large, early sales. The Argentines have bought heavily in Europe and seek mostly spare parts. But it would be an important symbolic step toward a nation now on the road back to democracy.

Mrs. Thatcher will not be happy and could seek to delay our decision. We will consult closely with the British. We hope that the lack of significant military sales plus our use of certification as leverage to deter any Argentine thought of renewed hostilities will be persuasive. The British do not intend to negotiate for the foreseeable future with Argentina on the Falklands. We need to build bridges and put this issue behind us in Latin America.

Chile will also be disturbed. We plan to send a special emissary to talk to General Pinochet and reaffirm our strong desire for close relations, even though we cannot now certify Chile. Once these pieces are in place, and following Congressional consultations, we will seek your formal approval for Argentine certification, perhaps early next month.

Chile Project (#S199900030)
U.S. Department of State
Release Excise _____ Deny _____
Declassify: In Part _____ In Full
Exemption(s) _____

1.2.1 Post-Certification

immediate

recently

intention to permit?

when? in foreseeable future?

but these two sentences are a kind of non-requirement of course.

surely W.H. will want a cut in the who + what of this trip.

Wang #2890S

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DECL: OADR

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