

The original documents are located in Box 1, folder “Argentina - President Jorge Rafael Videla” of the National Security Adviser’s Presidential Correspondence with Foreign Leaders Collection at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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1A

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 16, 1976

Dear Mr. President:

I am very grateful to your Government for its cooperation with the United States in bringing to justice three notorious narcotics trafficking fugitives who found sanctuary in Argentina for many years. The United States has long sought to prosecute them for their part in several widespread conspiracies to import large amounts of heroin and cocaine into the United States.

Your prompt and effective response to our renewed request for assistance in apprehending these narcotics fugitives is an indication that you share the high priority which we attach to the international effort to control illicit traffic in narcotic drugs. The activities of narcotics traffickers of this type undermine the social peace, public order, and even the morality of a country, and the effort to end their international operations requires the close cooperation of all governments.

We are particularly grateful to your Minister of Interior and the members of his staff who worked so tirelessly to ensure that these fugitives be brought to justice in a manner consistent with the legal requirements of both our countries. Their dedication and diligence have won the respect of all concerned.

I would also like to thank you for the sentiments expressed in your letter to me in connection with your National Day and our Bicentennial celebrations. It is gratifying to know that the values on which our nation was founded are shared by you and the people of Argentina.

Sincerely,



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



1980's

NATIONAL SECURITY CO. 1B

Date II's done

Letter ~~July 16~~
issued to State
for despatch

mm



Permalife

5296 COTTON CONTENT

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 15, 1976

MR PRESIDENT:

Phil Buchen and Jim Cannon
concur in Brent Scowcroft's
recommendation that you sign
the attached letter to President
Videla.

Jim Connor



MEMORANDUM THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

3657

87/16/76

10

UNCLASSIFIED

ACTION

July 12, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT *BS*
SUBJECT: Letter to Argentine President Videla

In late May the Argentine Government cooperated in turning over to us three of the most highly sought-after drug traffickers then at large. They were flown back to the U.S. and are now being charged in our courts. Ambassador Hill and the State Department have recommended that you express our appreciation to the Argentine Government by means of a letter to President Videla. The Argentines are aware of the letter you sent to President Senghor of Senegal at the time of the most recent previous drug trafficker apprehension. The State Department also believes that such a letter will encourage the Argentine Government to take further similar steps against other traffickers.

Most recently President Videla sent you a handwritten letter expressing his friendship and admiration for the American people and congratulating us on the occasion of the Bicentennial. The text of the letter is attached at Tab B.

Attached at Tab A is a suggested letter from you to President Videla thanking him for his letter and expressing appreciation for the cooperation of the Argentine authorities in apprehending the drug traffickers. Doug Smith of Robert Hartmann's office has cleared the text of the proposed letter.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the letter at Tab A.

UNCLASSIFIED





Department of State

TELEGRAM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 5502

PAGE 01 BUENOS 04182 251639Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 NSC-05 PA-01 SS-15 USIA-06

PRS-01 CU-02 MMO-01 ARAE-00 /043 W

122587

P 251631Z JUN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6138

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 4182

R.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, AR, US
SUBJECT: LETTER FROM PRESIDENT VIDELA TO PRESIDENT FORD

REF: BUENOS AIRES 4181

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF HANDWRITTEN LETTER FROM PRESIDENT JORGE VIDELA TO PRESIDENT FORD WITH REFERENCE TO US BICENTENNIAL. SEE REPTEL FOR CIRCUMSTANCES OF DELIVERY.

2. BEGIN TEXT

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I WISH TO THANK YOUR EXCELLENCY, IN MY OWN NAME AND IN THAT OF THE ARGENTINE PEOPLE, FOR THE GOOD WISHES YOU SENT ON THE OCCASION OF OUR NATIONAL DAY. ERRORS IN HANDLING MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR MY PERSONAL THANKS TO REACH YOUR EXCELLENCY IN A MORE TIMELY FASHION. IT IS A SOURCE OF PARTICULAR SATISFACTION TO ME TO POINT TO THE TIES WHICH UNITE OUR TWO NATIONS AND TO ASSURE YOU THAT MY GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO CONSOLIDATE THOSE TIES THROUGH COOPERATION AND FRIENDSHIP, THUS CONTRIBUTING TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR COMMON OBJECTIVES AND ASPIRATIONS-- OBJECTIVES AND ASPIRATIONS WHICH ARE BASED ON SIMILAR CONCEPTIONS OF LIBERTY AND THE DIGNITY OF MAN. THE EXALTATION OF THOSE VALUES AS FUNDAMENTAL PROPERTIES HAS CONSTANTLY INSPIRED THE AMERICAN PEOPLES. IN THIS CONTEXT, THE CELEBRATION OF THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE



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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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PAGE 02 BUENOS 04182 251639Z

INDEPENDENCE OF YOUR GREAT COUNTRY MARKS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF MAN'S STRUGGLE FOR SELF-REALIZATION.

IT IS FOR THIS REASON, INTERPRETING THE TRUE SENTIMENT OF THE ARGENTINE PEOPLE, THAT I ASSURE YOU OF OUR WARMEST WISH TO SHARE WITH YOU THIS GREAT EVENT IN WHICH SHINES THE SPIRIT OF PHILADELPHIA--A SPIRIT, BORN IN HOURS OF HEROISM, WHICH HAS ALWAYS INSPIRED THE GREAT MEN OF YOUR NATION AND MADE IT THE EXAMPLE IT IS FOR THE ENTIRE WORLD. PLEASE ACCEPT ON THIS VERY SPECIAL OCCASION ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION AND ESTEEM. JORGE VIDELA END TEXT

3. I WISH TO EMPHASIZE THAT THIS IS A VERY PERSONAL EFFORT ON PRESIDENT VIDELA'S PART. NOT ONLY IS LETTER HANDWRITTEN, BUT HIS AIDES ASSURE US PRESIDENT VIDELA COMPOSED IT HIMSELF.

4. ORIGINAL LETTER BEING POUCHED SOONEST.
HILL



LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ACTION
July 8, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: BRENT SCOWCROFT

FROM: MARY BROWNELL *MB*

SUBJECT: Letter of Appreciation from President Ford
to President Videla of Argentina

In late May the Argentine Government cooperated in apprehending and turning over to us three of the most important drug traffickers then at large. Ambassador Hill is most anxious that we show our appreciation to the Argentines by a letter from the President to President Videla of Argentina. State supports the Ambassador's request (Tab II). It notes that the letter would encourage further Argentine steps against drug traffickers and explains that the Argentine drug enforcers are aware of the letter that the President wrote Senegal President Senghor last year on the same subject.

Most recently, President Videla wrote President Ford a lengthy letter in his own handwriting expressing his sincere feelings of friendship and respect for American society and congratulating us on the Bicentennial. The letter was generated by an administrative error on the part of the Argentines in responding to President Ford's National Day message (Tab B).

Argentina is engaged in a bitter struggle with the terrorist movement to reassert conditions of order in the country. This has led to excesses, including murders and arbitrary imprisonment. It is likely that much of this takes place with the government's tacit approval. On instruction Ambassador Hill has complained at least once about the violations of human rights. These issues are beginning to come to the attention of the American press and of the Congress. Senator Kennedy has criticized the Argentine Government in strong terms.

The effect of the letter which State has suggested is to compliment Argentine law enforcement authorities. It would be interpreted as a friendly and supportive gesture towards the GOA and, coming so soon

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5
NSC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES
BY ld, NARA, DATE 3/2/04



after Videla's warm letter to the President, would encourage the Argentines to resort to further Presidential correspondence.

For these reasons I suggest that Ambassador Hill be authorized to deliver an oral message of appreciation to President Videla rather than the written message suggested by State. It is likely that Ambassador Hill will object to this, and we may hear from him on the subject. I believe, however, he could express the President's appreciation, for both cooperation on arrest of the traffickers and the personal letter on the Bicentennial, and that this would please the Argentines.

However, in the event that you feel we should go ahead with the Ambassador's and State Department's recommendation, I have enclosed at Tab I a memorandum to the President with the letter to President Videla for signature. Doug Smith of Robert Hartmann's office has cleared the text of the proposed letter.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you approve our authorizing State to instruct Ambassador Hill to transmit orally to President Videla President Ford's appreciation and gratitude to the Government of Argentina for their cooperation in apprehending the three drug traffickers and also his pleasure in receiving the letter from President Videla on the Bicentennial.

Approve _____ Disapprove *BD*

Alternatively, that you initial the memorandum at Tab I to the President requesting his signature of the letter to President Videla.



7/7/76

16

A copy of this package was given to
Roger Harrison.



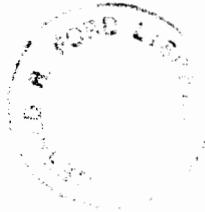
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL 14

July 8

Mr. Hornblow:

Mr. Low's office has redone the attached package as you requested. They have tried to locate the original hand-written letter but State has not yet sent it to them.

Cathy





DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

June 23, 1976

UNCLASSIFIEDMEMORANDUM FOR MR. BRENT SCOWCROFT
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Letter of Appreciation from President Ford to President of Argentina for Cooperation in Expulsion of Narcotics Fugitives

On May 26, the Argentine Government expelled three major drug traffickers long sought by the United States for prosecution in conspiracies to bring large quantities of heroin and cocaine into the United States. They were turned over to the custody of DEA officers for trial. Their confinement will put an end to a major operation and will serve notice that Argentina is no longer a safe haven for traffickers.

We hope that a letter of appreciation from President Ford will encourage the Argentine Government to take further similar steps against other traffickers. Last year President Ford sent a similar letter to the President of Senegal for his cooperation with regard to one major trafficker. The Argentines know about this case and would expect similar recognition for their cooperation.

Therefore, the Department of State recommends that the President send the attached suggested letter to President Videla.


George S. Springsteen
Executive Secretary

Attachment:

As stated

UNCLASSIFIED

CLASSIFICATION: unclassified

15

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
REFERRAL

Date: 7/16/76
NSC log # 3657

MEMORANDUM FOR:

C. Arthur Borg
Executive Secretary
Department of State

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Presidential green letter

To: General Jorge Rafael Videla

From: President Ford

Date: 7/16/76

Subject: illicit traffic in drugs

ACTION REQUESTED:

Draft reply for: President's Signature
 White House Staff
 Other _____

Direct reply Furnish info copy

Dispatch Translation

Recommendations/Comments Appropriate Handling

Other Information

DUE DATE:

COMMENTS:

Jeanne W. Davis
for Jeanne W. Davis
Staff Secretary



CLASSIFICATION: _____

1K

NSC CORRESPONDENCE PROFILE

DOC		RECD			LOG NUMBER
MO	DA	MO	DA	HR	
6	23	6	23	17	760 3657

INITIAL ACTION O
Low

SOURCE/CLASS/DESCRIPTION

TO: PRES _____ FROM: SECSTATE _____ S/S *7612189* UNCLAS LOG IN/OUT
 SCOWCROFT _____ SECDEF _____ LOU NO FORM NODIS
 HYLAND _____ DCI _____ X REF _____ C EYES ONLY EXDIS
 DAVIS _____ STATE EXSEC _____ S CODEWORD
 OTHER _____ TS SENSITIVE

SUBJECT: *Ltr of Appreciation for Pres to Pres Videla of Argentina re the Expiration of Narcotics Treaties*

DISTRIBUTION/INITIAL ACTION ASGMT

INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION				REC CY FOR
ACTION	CONCURRENCE	COORDINATE	INFO	
ADV CYS SCROFT/WGH				
STAFF SECRETARY				
CONGRESSIONAL				
ECONOMIC				
EUR/CANADA/OCEANS				
FAR EAST/PRC				
INTELLIGENCE				
LATIN AMERICA	<i>F</i>			<i>X</i>
MID EAST/NO. AFRICA				
NSC PLANNING				
PROGRAM ANALYSIS				
SCIENTIFIC				
SUB-SAH/AFRICA/UN				
<i>Leonard, M</i>				<i>X</i>

ACTION REQUIRED

MEMO FOR SCOWCROFT _____

MEMO FOR PRES *(circled)* _____ *F*

REPLY FOR _____

APPROPRIATE ACTION _____

MEMO _____ TO _____

RECOMMENDATIONS _____

JOINT MEMO _____

REFER TO _____ FOR _____

ANY ACTION NECESSARY? _____

CONCURRENCE _____

DUE DATE: *6-30*

COMMENTS: (INCLUDING SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS)

Jose R. Videla

SUBSEQUENT ROUTING/ACTIONS

DATE	FROM	TO	STATUS	SUBSEQUENT ACTION REQUIRED (OR TAKEN):	DUE	CY TO
<i>6/7/76</i>	<i>Brownell</i>	<i>Scowcroft</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>Pres to sign ltr to Videla</i>	<i>7/15</i>	
<i>7-12</i>		<i>Pres</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>send ltr to Videla</i>		
<i>7-16</i>		<i>NSC/6</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>Pres sigd ltr to Videla</i>		
<i>7/16</i>		<i>STATE</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>for DISPATCH</i>		

NSC/S INSTR

DISPATCH *done per mtg 7/27/76* NOTIFY _____

SPECIAL DISPOSITION: _____

SPECIAL INDEXING: _____

SUSPENSE CY ATTACHED _____

MICROFILM & FILE ROMTS

W/F'D _____ BY _____

JUL 20 1976

CRT ID: _____ NS DY

OPEN _____ WH SA PP

CLOSE *(initials)* PA