

**RELEASE IN FULL**~~CONFIDENTIAL~~PAGE 01 BUENOS 08674 01 OF 02 051704Z  
ACTION ARA-16INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 EUR-12 IO-14 HA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-07 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /104 W  
-----054085 051712Z /50R 311547Z OCT 80  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7321  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
AMEBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 1 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 8674

ROME FOR VATICAN

EO 12065: GDS 10/30/86 (KEANE, JOHN F.) OR-P  
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, PBOR, AR, CI  
SUBJECT: VIDELA COMMENTS ON THE VIOLA SUCCESSION, NOBEL PRIZE  
WINNER PEREZ ESQUIVEL AND THE BEAGLE MEDIATION

1. (C) SUMMARY: IN A SPEECH IN MENDOZA ON OCTOBER 28, VIDENA SAID THAT HIS SUCCESSOR'S INAUGURATION IN MARCH, 1980 WILL MARK THE END OF THE FIRST STAGE IN THE "PROCESS OF NATIONAL REORGANIZATION", WHICH CONCENTRATED ON RESTORING ORDER TO THE NATION. THE NEXT STAGE IN THE PROCESS IS TO GIVE IT "POLITICAL CONTENT", HE SAID, NOTING THAT VIOLA HAS CONSIDERABLE LATITUDE TO ACHIEVE THE JUNTA'S OBJECTIVES. HE REJECTED THE IDEA THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CREATE A POLITICAL PARTY, AND REITERATED PROMISES THAT THE PARTIES WILL EVENTUALLY BE ALLOWED TO OPERATE NORMALLY (BUT GAVE NO TIMETABLE). HE SAID THAT THE GOAL IS TO HAVE AN ELECTED GOVERNMENT THAT EMERGES FROM CONSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURES. HE PRAISED THOSE THAT HAD FOUGHT AGAINST SUBVERSION AND, IN A BITTER ALLUSION TO THE 1980 NOBEL PRIZE WINNER,

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 02 BUENOS 08674 01 OF 02 051704Z

VIDELA REMARKED THAT THOSE WHO BROUGHT PEACE TO ARGENTINA DID SO WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF A "COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, NOR DID THEY NEED AN AWARD TO DESERVE OUR RESPECT."

2. (C) ON THE BEAGLE DISPUTE, VIDELA SAID THAT THE RESULTS OF THE LATEST ATTEMPTS TO BEING THE PARTIES TOGETHER HAVE NOT BEEN PROMISING BUT REAFFIRMED HIS FAITH IN THE MEDIATION PROCESS. (MEANWHILE, ARMY CINC GALTIERI DID SOME MORE SABER RATTLING). FINALLY, VIDELA ANNOUNCED A FEW MEASURES TO SPUR THE LOGAL

cpm

comisión  
provincial  
por la memoria**NATIONAL  
SECURITY  
ARCHIVE**
  
**WILLIAM  
& MARY**  
CHARTERED 1693
REVIEW AUTHORITY: Stephen Worrel, Senior  
Reviewer

CONVENIO DE COOPERACION

ECONOMY OF THE MENDOZA AREA, WHICH IS IN A SEVERE RECESSION.  
END SUMMARY

3. (U) IN A MAJOR SPEECH ON OCTOBER 28, VIDELA REVIEWED SOME OF THE SALIENT ASPECTS OF THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT'S RECORD. HE DESCRIBED THE CHAOTIC CONDITIONS THAT PRECEDED THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT, "THE FUNDAMENTAL AIM OF WHICH IS TO ESTABLISH IN DUE TIME AN AUTHENTIC DEMOCRACY, THAT IS STRONG, STABLE, REPRESENTATIVE AND DECENTRALIZED." HE CHARACTERIZED HIS ADMINISTRATION AS THE FIRST STAGE OF THE "PROCESS", IN WHICH THE FOCUS HAD TO BE ON RESTORING ORDER. NOW THE "PROCESS" HAS STABILIZED AND HAS MOMENTUM OF ITS OWN BECAUSE IT IS NOT "PERSONALISTIC". HE PREDICTED THAT VIOLA WOULD HAVE A DIFFERENT STYLE, AS IS TO BE EXPECTED, AND, OF COURSE, HIS ACTIONS WILL ALWAYS BE WITHIN THE BROAD LIMITS OF THE GUIDELINES SET OUT BY THE MILITARY JUNTA.

4. (U) ON THE OTHER HAND, VIDELA SAID THAT DURING VIOLA'S TERM THERE WILL BE "FUNCTIONAL CHANGES" WHICH REFLECT ALTERED CIRCUMSTANCES AND PRIORITIES. THUS, HE SAID, WITH ORDER RESTORED, IT IS NOW TIME FOR THE "PROCESS" TO ACQUIRE A "POLITICAL CONTENT", WHICH DOES NOT MEAN A POLITICAL  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BUENOS 08674 01 OF 02 051704Z

PARTY. INSTEAD, "THERE WILL BE DIFFERENT CURRENTS OF OPINION THAT WILL BE DISTINGUISHED BY THE EMPHASIS THEY PLACE ON THE GUIDELINES OF THE BASIC DOCUMENT" OF THE PROCESS OF NATIONAL REORGANIZATION. FROM THAT STARTING POINT, FUTURE POLITICAL PARTIES WILL STRUCTURE THEMSELVES AND "THE DIALOGUE WILL PASS TO THE IMPLEMENTATION STAGE, INCLUDING PROMULGATION OF A PARTY LAW GOVERNING THE ACTIVITIES OF POLITICAL PARTIES AND, ULTIMATELY, ELECTIONS. "THE FINAL GOAL OF THE PROCESS IS TO ALLOW THE POLITICAL PARTIES TO FUNCTION NORMALLY AND THE AUTHORITIES WHICH WILL PRESIDE OVER THE DESTINY OF THE NATION WILL BE ELECTED ACCORDING TO CONSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURES, AS WILL THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS, INTENDENTS, LEGISLATURES, ETC." HE OFFERED NO TIMETABLE.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUENOS 08674 02 OF 02 051745Z  
ACTION ARA-16



INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 EUR-12 IO-14 HA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-07 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /104 W  
-----054305 051817Z /50

R 311547Z OCT 80  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7322  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 8674

ROME FOR VATICAN

5. (C) IN A CONVERSATION ON OCTOBER 28 WITH THE DCM, PRESIDENTIAL LEGAL ADVISER CERDA SAID THAT WHAT THE GOA HAS IN MIND IS INDIRECTLY ENCOURAGING A TRANSFORMATION AND REGROUPING OF THE EXISTING PARTIES, INTO THREE BROAD CATEGORIES: AN "EXTREME RIGHT", A LARGE CENTER (INCLUDING A MAJOR PORTION OF PERONISM) AND A DEMOCRATIC LEFT.

6. (U) TURNING TO ARGENTINA'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, VIDELA NOTED THAT THE "CAMPAIGN ABROAD TO SULLY ARGENTINA'S IMAGE WITH REGARD TO ITS HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD" HAS HURT ITS RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. AND EVEN MORE SO EUROPE, AND IS THE RESULT OF THE "LACK OF INFORMATION ABOUT ARGENTINA OVERSEAS, THE ACTION OF PRESSURE GROUPS AND ENORMOUS FUNDS DEDICATED TO THIS PURPOSE." HE REFERRED TO THE PRISONERS, DEAD AND DISAPPEARED, AS CASUALTIES OF THE WAR AGAINST SUBVERSION, AND LAMENTED THE PAIN THIS CAUSED, BUT "FOR ALL OF US THIS CANNOT MITIGATE THE PRIDE WE HAVE IN VICTORY". HE PRAISED HIS COMPATRIOTS WHO FOUGHT IN THIS "WAR" AND RESTORED PEACE TO ARGENTINA, AND, IN AN ALLUSION  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUENOS 08674 02 OF 02 051745Z

TO NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER PEREZ ESQUIVEL, NOTED THAT THEY DID SO WITHOUT THE SUPPORT FO "HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE, NOR DID THEY NEED AN AWARD."

7. (U) VIDELA COMMENTED THAT THE LATEST PHASE IN THE PAPAL MEDIATION OF THE BEAGLE DISPUTE INVOLVED AN "ATTEMPT TO BRING TOGETHER THE POSITIONS OF THE TWO PARTIES, WITHOUT PROMISING RESULTS; THEY HAVE NOT DRAWN MUCH NEARER". HE THEY REFERRED TO "THE HIGH MORAL QUALITY OF THE MEDIATOR, WHICH GIVES US CONFIDENCE THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO REACH A SOLUTION THAT IS HONORABLE, JUST, FAIR AND DEFINITE FOR BOTH SIDES."

8. (U) MEANWHILE, ARMY CINC GALTIERI, WHO IS DIRECTING THE ANNUAL MILITARY EXERCISES, THE LARGEST IN YEARS



ACCORDING TO SOME ACCOUNTS, AGAIN MADE RATHER BELLICOSE STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS. HE SAID THAT "ARGENTINES ARE A PEOPLE THAT LIVE AND LET LIVE ("CONVIVENCIA") BUT WE ALSO KNOW WHAT IS OURS, AND WHAT IT IS THAT TRULY AFFECTS THE ARGENTINE NATION."

9. (U) FINALLY, VIDELA ANNOUNCED A NUMBER OF MEASURES AIMED AT PACIFYING THE LEADERS OF MENDOZA, A CITY AND PROVINCE THAT HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY HARD HIT WITH ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. HE SAID THAT THE PROVINCE WILL RECEIVE HIGHER ROYALTIES FOR THE PETROLEUM THAT IS EXTRACTED AND SPECIAL TAX BREAKS FOR CERTAIN LOCAL COMPANIES AND AREAS OF THE PROVINCE. THE GOA WILL ALSO SEEK WAYS TO PROMOTE THE PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF THE PRINCIPAL LOCAL PRODUCT, WINE, ALLEVIATE THE BURDEN OF SOME HOUSING DEBTS, AND SO ON.

10. (C) COMMENT: VIDELA'S SPEECH WAS EVIDENTLY A SORT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BUENOS 08674 02 OF 02 051745Z

OF CURTAIN RAISER FOR THE VIOLA GOVERNMENT. HE CONFIRMED THAT ONE OF VIOLA'S TOP PRIORITIES WILL BE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF POLITICAL PARTY LEGISLATION THAT WILL "NORMALIZE" POLITICAL PARTY ACTIVITY. WHAT IS LESS CLEAR IS HOW THE MILITARY WILL MATCH THIS NORMALIZATION TO ANOTHER OF THEIR KEY OBJECTIVES -- ASSURING THAT EVENTUAL DEMOCRACY WILL NOT LEAD THE COUNTRY BACK TO CONTROL BY AN UNREPENTANT AND UNCHANGED PERONISM. VIDELA'S REJECTION OF AN OFFICIAL PARTY -- OFTEN REFERRED TO HERE AS A MOVEMENT OF NATIONAL OPINION -- PUTS TO REST ONE APPROACH THAT WAS BEING CONSIDERED BY SOME IN THE MILITARY.

11. (C) VIDELA'S BITTER ALLUSION TO THE NOBEL PRIZE WINNER REFLECTS NEARLY UNIVERSAL MILITARY ANGER AND DEFIANCE HERE OF WHAT THEY PURPORT TO PERCEIVE AS UNJUSTIFIED CRITICISM OF ARGENTINA BASED ON A FAILURE TO TRY TO UNDERSTAND THE NEED FOR EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES AND A DOUBLE STANDARD OF HUAMN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE.

12. (C) ON THE BEAGLE, VIDELA REAFFIRMED AGAIN ARGENTINA'S COMMITMENT TO THE PAPAL MEDIATION, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME HE DID NOT WANT TO RAISE FALSE HOPES THAT A SOLUTION IS IMMINENT. END COMMENT.  
SHALUDEMAN

CONFIDENTIAL



NNN



---

CONVENIO DE **COOPERACION**