

Argentina's Foreign Minister Guzzetti Euphoric over visit to United States, October 19, 1976

[Argentine Navy Admiral Fonmin Guzzetti had just returned from the US. US Ambassador Robert Hill wrote what Assistant Secretary of State Schlaudeman termed "a sour note" to Secretary of State Henry Kissinger protesting that the Argentine military were not receiving a strong disapproving signal from Washington for their human rights violations. Hill wrote that because of seeming approval by US officials, the Embassy was now in an awkward position to present demarches (official protests or demands) on human rights. US failure under Presidents Nixon and Ford to object to Argentina's military atrocities and the warm reception according to a member of the military junta by US officials emboldened the dictatorship to continue and even expand its human rights abuses. US President Jimmy Carter, [1977-81] cut aid to the Argentine military junta and publically criticize their abuses. See the report by US human rights official Patrician Derian. After 1981, President Ronald Reagan, aided by Henry Kissinger, returned to US coddling of the military dictatorship, ignoring their human rights abuses. Thinking they had unqualified US support from the Reagan administration, the Argentina junta invaded the British-controlled Falklands/Malvinas islands in 1982. After internal debate, the Reagan administration backed Great Britain, their NATO ally, not Argentina.]]

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1. FONMIN GUZZETTI RETURNED TO BUENOS AIRES OCT 14 [1976] – AFTER HAVING SPENT SOME TWO WEEKS AT THE UN AND IN WASHINGTON. WHEN I MET HIM AT THE AIRPORT, HE APPEARED TIRED BUT ANXIOUS TO TALK TO ME AFTER [HE] HAD REPORTED TO PRESIDENT VIDELA. SUBSEQUENTLY, HE ASKED ME TO CALL ON HIM AT 6:30 P.M. THE NEXT DAY (OCT 15). I DID SO AND AFTER A [WAIT] OF ONLY A FEW MOMENTS, HE [BOUNDED] INTO THE ROOM AND GREETED ME [EFFUSIVELY] WITH AN [ABRAZO--HUG], WHICH IS NOT TYPICAL OF HIM. HE TOOK ME TO HIS PRIVATE OFFICE WHERE FOR 35 MINUTES HE ENTHUSIASTICALLY TOLD ME OF THE SUCCESS OF HIS VISIT.

2. HE SPOKE FIRST OF HIS LUNCH IN WASHINGTON WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY ROBINSON. ASST SEC SHLAUDEMAN AND AMBASSADOR MARTIN. HE [EMPHASIZED] HOW WELL THEY UNDERSTOOD THE ARGENTINE PROBLEM. AND SAID THAT “THE CONSENSUS OF THE MEETING WAS TO [unclear] THE TERRORIST PROBLEM OVER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.” HE SAID [HE] AGREED FULLY WITH AMB MARTIN’S WARNING TO “BE CAREFUL WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND WITH ANTI-SEMITISM. AND THAT HE HAD REPORTED THIS TO PRESIDENT VIDELA.”

3. GUZZETTI WAS ALMOST ECSTATIC IN DESCRIBING HIS VISIT WITH VICE PRESIDENT [NELSON ROCKEFELLER]. ONE COULD CLEARLY SENSE THE [PRUSSIAN-TYPE. SIMPLE] SUBMARINE COMMANDER RATHER OVERWHELMED.

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BY HIS MEETING WITH THE POWERFUL AND FAMOUS [ROCKEFELLER]. HE COMPLIMENTED THE VICE PRESIDENT ON HIS SPANISH AND HIS KNOWLEDGE OF

ARGENTINA. HE SAID THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT URGED HIM TO ADVISE PRESIDENT VIDELA TO "DIMISH THE TERRORIST PROBLEM QUICKLY....THE US WANTED A STRONG ARGENTINA AND WANTED [TO] COOPERATE WITH THE GOA [GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA]."

4. HE CONSIDERED HIS TALK WITH SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER A SUCCESS. THE SECRETARY, HE SAID, HAD REITERATED THE ADVICE GIVENT TO HIM AT THE SANTIAGO MEETING. HAD URGED ARGENTINA "TO BE CAREFUL" AND HAD SAID THAT IF THE TERRORIST PROBLEM WAS OVER BY DECEMBER OR JANUARY. HE (THE SECRETARY) BELIEVED SERIOUS PROBLEMS COULD BE AVOIDED IN THE US. GUZZETTI SAID THE SECRETARY HAD ASSURED HIM THAT THE US "WANTS TO HELP ARGENTINA."

5. [PARAGRAPH ON TALKS WITH UNITED NATIONS SEC GEN KURT WALDHEIM DELETED BY PROF. SLATTA AS NOT RELEVANT.]

6. GUZZETTI SAID HIS RECEPTION AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT BY THE SECRETARY AT THE UN AND THE CEREMONIES DETICATING THE SAN MARTIN MONUMENT HAD GONE FAR BEYOND HIS EXPECTATIONS. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION THAT HIGH OFFICALS IN THE GOVERNMENT UNDERSTAND THE ARGENTINE PROBLEM AND STAND WITH US DURING THIS DIFFICULT PERIOD. HE SAID HE WAS "SATISFIED THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THE PROBLEM AND THAT THERE WOULD BE NO CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS OVER HUMAN RIGHTS." HE SUPPOSEDLY HAD NOT BROUGHT UP THE LETTERS FROM CONGRESSMAN [TOM HARKIN] AND A [unclear] LETTER [unclear] 56<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSMAN, HE SAID BECAUSE OF [unclear] X X X X X DEPARTMENT OFFICAL SO SIMPATHTIC THAT HE HAD [unclear] X X X X TO DO SO."

7. [PARAGRAPH ON CHANGING ARGENTINA'S AMBASSADOR TO US DELETED BY PROF. SLATTA AS IRRELEVANT.]

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8. IN APPARENT RECOGNITION THAT AT LEAST FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS CIRCUMSTANCES WILL BE DIFFICULT. GUZZETTI [unclear] THAT HE HOPED FUTURE LOANS FROM THE IDB [US-CONTROLLED INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK] MIGHT BE POSTPONED "UNTIL STABILITY RETURNS TO ARGETNINA" (READ TO AVOID THE US VOTING NO). CLEARLY, HE HOPES BY JANUARY THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION WILL BE OVER.AND THAT THEY LOAN APPLICATIONS WOULD THEN GO FORWARD, ASSURED OF A FAVORABLE US VOTE.

9. COMMENT: GUZZETTI'S REMARKS BOTH TO ME AND TO THE ARGENTINE PRESS SINCE HIS RETURN ARE NOT THOSE OF A MAN WHO HAS BEEN IMPRESSED WITH THE GRAVITY OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM AS SEEN FROM THE U.S.

BOTH PERSONALLY AND IN [PRESS] ACCOUNT OF HIS TRIP. GUZZETTI'S REACTION INDICATES LITTLE REASON FOR CONCERN OVER THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE. GUZZETTI WENT TO US FULLY EXPECTING TO HEAR SOME STRONG, FIRM, DIRECT WARNING OF HIS GOVT'S HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES. RATHER THAN THAT, HE HAS RETURNED IN A STATE OF JUBILATION. CONVINCED THAT THERE IS NO REAL PROBLEM WITH THE USG OVER THIS ISSUE. BASED ON WHAT GUZZETTI [IS DOUBTLESS] REPORTING TO THE GOA. IT MUST NOW BELIEVE THAT IF IT HAS ANY PROBLEMS WITH THE US OVER HUMAN RIGHTS. THEY ARE CONFINED TO CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF CONGRESS AND WHAT IT REGARDS AS [unclear] AND/OR UNINFORMED MINOR SEGMENTS OF PUBLIC OPINION. WHILE THAT CONVICTION LASTS IT WILL BE UNREALISTIC AND UNBELIEVABLE FOR THIS EMBASSY TO PRESS REPRESENTATIONS TO THE GOA OVER HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS.

[US AMBASSADOR ROBERT] HILL