

II-31/1

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OUTGOING TELEGRAM

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Origin: OFD
Info: U.S. URGENT

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Control 3569

October 15, 1947
7 p.m.

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EMBASSY,

BUENOS AIRES.

979

- I. Quick reply by President Banco Central containing summary breakdown Argentine gold acquisitions appreciated. (Urtel 1239, Oct 13).
- II. acquisitions from Switzerland 1945 and possibly 1944, 1946, Argentina make ~~acquisition~~ subject gold declaration. but in view of settlement Swiss accord no question is raised as to gold acquisitions from Swiss government or Swiss Central Bank. However there existed also a German Reichsbank account with Swiss National Bank to which Germany successively transferred substantial amount of looted gold (that is gold in bars or coins held by Government or Central Bank during the war.) Much of this gold later sold by Germany to other countries and consequently shipped to those countries by Switzerland on German Reichsbank order and account. If gold listed by Argentina as acquired from Switzerland included any gold shipped by Switzerland to Argentina from aforementioned German Reichsbank account on order and for account Germany we would have to consider such as gold acquired from Germany. Pls ^{soonest.} make necessary inquiries ~~assoonest.~~

III.

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-2- #979 to Buenos Aires

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III. If Argentina acquired no gold from German Reichsbank account Switzerland thus Gov satisfied re gold declaration and Treas would proceed with gold transactions. In completing our gold studies it would be very helpful to have the bar numbers, mint marks and other identifying symbols on the gold acquired from Switzerland.

If acquisition gold by Argentina were not (repeat not) from Reichsbank account this information would not be necessary under Gold Declaration out would be most helpful here. In view of expression President Banco Central additional information would be given gladly probably no difficulty making this request.

IV. In view of Argentine cooperation and information already supplied you may advise President Banco Central that United States prepared before receipt of assurance as to acquisitions from Reichsbank depot account to complete purchase 11 million dollar balance of gold ordered sold October 7.

LOVETT
Acting

FN:OFFletcher:ch 10/14/47 Le/E HPA ARA A-A Treas

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