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VII E-11

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Authority NND85252
By EE NARA Date 1/31/97

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From Department

805 Words

Code Secret

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FILE COPY

Received, August 21, 1946

TOP SECRET

AMEMBASSY

BUENOS AIRES

1095 - August 20, 4 p.m. (1946)

Department is gratified to have your opinion that the Argentine Government will comply with agreements relating to repatriation of inimical persons and elimination of undersirable ownership in Axis spearhead enterprises. This morning's press account of Senate ratification of Mexico City agreements is encouraging indication of Argentine Government's intention to comply.

We agree that we should not expect perfect performance. As regards property the level of performance by the other American Republics - particularly those such as Brazil, Chile and Mexico which were faced with problems comparable to the one in Argentina would be a factor. In respect of persons the measure of performance by other American Republics is pertinent but regard must be paid to the fact that few, if any, counterparts to worst Nazis in Argentina were found in other American Republics.

While our attitude and position must be reasonable

General

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VII E-1/2

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-PAGE TWO-

prominent individuals (such as Freude) or enterprises. These questions can better be decided in the light of current circumstances and performance in other respects. Our feeling is therefore that we should not at this stage attempt to blueprint the precise point of progress which we would regard as constituting deeds rather than promise.

Foregoing is a very general statement of some of the considerations which we had in mind in suggesting in Deptel 1082 August 15 that clearance with the President and Secretary is indicated. We are in process of further defining our views on these points and upon receipt of your despatches 561, 565, and 583 we will airmail instructions which we believe will show little of any disagreements between Department and Embassy on these important points. Every effort will continue to be made to assure that President and Secretary have direct knowledge of your views, which as always will have careful consideration.

We also agree that it is not in our province to lay before Argentina a blueprint of what must be done. Precise names of persons and individuals have already been so often discussed that Argentine Government already has a general knowledge of what we consider to be adequate performance. At same time our government cannot escape responsibility.

VII E-1/3

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-PAGE THREE-

We also agree that Department should continue, as it has since your arrival in Buenos Aires, to refrain from making any statement impugning the good faith or motives of Argentine Government since this would only make your task more difficult. There have been instances where in response to direct inquiries from press - in almost all cases re stories emanating from Buenos Aires - it has been necessary to say that there has been no change in our April 8 policy. An example was the recent United Press and Kluckhorn despatches from Buenos Aires alleging that a composition had already been reached under the terms of which the United States agreed to deliver arms to Argentina. New York Times editorial (we have no record of New York Daily Post editorial) referred to in your 2030 August 17 and other editorials to same effect were spontaneous reactions to statements attributed by Buenos Aires press to the Argentine official Peralta aggravated by quotations published here of alleged Peron speech of same day to leaders of his N.R. Party. We cannot give your our comment on these newspaper accounts until we have received a full report from the Embassy.

ACHESON ACTING