



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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ACTION SS-14

RELEASE IN PART B6

INFO OCT-01 /015 W

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R 141535Z JUN 72  
FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCIION  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8374

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 1 OF 2 ASUNCIION 1499

DISSENT CHANNEL

SUBJECT: DISSENT MESSAGE: NARCOTICS CONTROL

REF: (A) DEPT A-3559 OF APRIL 8; (B) ASUNCIION A-54 OF  
JUNE 12; (C) ASUNCIION A-9 OF JANUARY 31 (COUNTRY ANALYSIS  
AND STRATEGY PAPER)

1. THIS CABLE TRANSMITS DISSENTING VIEW SUBMITTED BY

[Redacted]

B6

CONCURS SUBSTANCE OF MESSAGE. RECOM-  
MEND THIS CABLE RECEIVE SAME OISTRIBUION AS REF. (B).

2. THIS MESSAGE CONTAINS RECOMMENDED MEASURES TO BE  
TAKEN BY U.S. IN LIGHT PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENT'S LACK  
OF COMMITMENT TO COOPERATE IN NARCOTICS FIELD.  
REF (B), POUCHED JUNE 12, UPDATES EMBASSY'S NARCOTICS  
ACTION CONTROL PLAN. IN OUR OPINION, THIS UPDATED PLAN  
SATISFACTORY AS FAR AS IT GOES, BUT LACKS SPECIFIC  
RECOMMENDATIONS ON U.S. ACTIONS AND TIME FRAMES FOR  
COHERENT IMPLEMENTATION. THE TIME IS LATE, AND CONCRETE  
MEASURES MUST NOW SUPPLEMENT WORDS IF WE ARE EITHER TO  
OBTAIN GOP COOPERATION OR BRING HOME TO GOP CONSEQUENCES  
OF FAILURE TO COOPERATE.

3. BACKGROUND: LACK OF PARAGUAYAN POLITICAL COMMITMENT.  
REF. (B) OUTLINES LACK OF GOP COMMITMENT, BUT WE BELIEVE  
FACTS SET FORTH THEREIN SHOULD BE INTERPRETED EVEN MORE  
UNFAVORABLE AGAINST GOP. ITEMS: TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, GOP  
HAS NOT MADE HARD DRUG ARREST ON ITS OWN INITIATIVE IN

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PAST FEW YEARS. THOUGH THREE COCAINE TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED LATE MAY 1972, BASED ON INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY BN00, GOP HAS WUSHED UP ARRESTS. THOUGH IT HAS PRIVATELY STATED INTENTION PROSECUTE EX POST FACTO UNOER TO-BE-PASSED DRUG LAW, WE BELIEVE GOP KNOWS PROSECUTION WILL FAIL ON CONSTITUTIONAL GROUNDS.

4. ITEM: SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE EXISTS TO SUPPORT CONCLUSION THAT DELAY IN APPROVAL PENDING DRUG LEGISLATION IS RESULT OF INTERVENTION BY PRESIDENT STROESSNER, RATHER THAN "LOW PRIORITY" HE ASSIGNED TO PASSAGE. HAD HE WISHED, LAW WOULD BE PASSED BY NOW.

5. ITEM: EVENTUAL DEPORTATION AUGUSTE RICORO EVEN TO COOPERATING THIRD COUNTRY WOULD STILL NOT DEMONSTRATE FULL COMMITMENT TO COOPERATE WITH U.S. ON DRUG PROBLEM. EVEN IF EVENTUALLY RESULTING IN U.S. CUSTODY OF RICORO, WOULD SUGGEST TO THIRD COUNTRIES U.S. MORE INTERESTED IN "SACRIFICIAL LAMBS" FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES THAN IN OBTAINING BASIC POLITICAL COMMITMENTS TO COOPERATE IN DRUG CONTROL. IN FACT, EVEN EXTRAITION AT THIS LATE DATE WOULD SHOW PRECIOUS LITTLE COMMITMENT.

6. STROESSNER'S REFUSAL TO RECEIVE AMBASSADOR WHEN LATTER HAD RETURNED FROM CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE SPECIFICALLY TO SEE STROESSNER IS, AT VERY LEAST, SYMPTOM OF WHAT WE BELIEVE IS HIS FAILURE TO COMPREHEND SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH U.S. VIEWS TRAFFICKING, DESPITE CONSIDERABLE U.S. EFFORTS. TO DATE, HOWEVER, STROESSNER HAS HEARD ONLY WORDS FROM US. WE BELIEVE U.S. MUST GO BEYOND WORDS NOW TO ENSURE THAT STROESSNER UNDERSTANDS CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE TO COOPERATE AND GIVE HIM OPPORTUNITY GET MESSAGE ONE LAST TIME.

7. WE OWE STROESSNER OPPORTUNITY TO RESPOND TO ACTS BECAUSE DURING PAST YEAR BOTH OUR WORDS AND ACTS HAVE CONVEYED MIXED SIGNALS ABOUT DEPTH OF OUR CONCERN WITH PARAGUAYAN COMMITMENT. EMBASSY OFFICERS AND SOME USG VISITORS HAVE TRIED REPEATEDLY CONVEY OUR DESIRES, BUT ONE HIGH DDO OFFICIAL INTENTIONALLY OMITTED DISCUSS DRUGS WITH STROESSNER. IN CONTRAST AMBASSADOR'S HARD-LINE APPROACH TO FOREIGN MINISTER TWO WEEKS AGO, STROESSNER

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INVITED TO USMILGP RECEPTION THIS WEEK "TO HONOR INALTERABLE FRIENDSHIP" BETWEEN U.S. PARAGUAYAN ARMED FORCES. MEANWHILE, OUR ACTS OVER SAME PERIOD HAVE ALMOST CERTAINLY GIVEN STROESSNER IDEA THAT ALL IS WELL: PASSAGE SUGAR QUOTA, APPROVAL AID LOANS, DELIVERY 20,000 RIFLES AND 13 HELICOPTERS EARLY 1972, AND DELIVERY TWO M4P BULLDOZERS WORTH \$90,000 LAST WEEK.

B. PHASE ONE, FIVE RECOMMENDATIONS DESIGNED TO IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATION REF. (C) PAGE 7 TO USE ALL MEANS AT OUR DISPOSAL TO ELICIT A POLITICAL COMMITMENT FROM GOP BEFORE AUGUST 1, DEMONSTRATED BY CONCRETE ACTS. RECOMMENDED U.S. ACTION BEFORE JULY 1:

I. EMBASSY BE INSTRUCTED CANCEL FOURTH OF JULY RECEPTION UNLESS RICORO EXTRADITION CASE DECIDED FAVORABLY BY APPEALS COURT BY JUNE 26.

II. EMBASSY BE INSTRUCTED CONVEY FOLLOWING TO GOP THIS WEEK, EITHER INFORMALLY OR BY NOTE: A) U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO PARAGUAY WAS CUT THIS YEAR, PARTLY DUE LACK OF SATISFACTORY PARAGUAYAN PERFORMANCE DRUG FIELD; B) DELIVERY 600 BAR RIFLES, TWENTY CANNON NOW ON HIGH SEAS, RIFLE AMMUNITION AND OTHER MATERIEL IN SUPPLY CHANNEL BEING DELAYED SAME REASON.

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FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8375

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 2 OF 2 ASUNCION 1499

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III. EMBASSY BE INSTRUCTED INFORM GOP NOT LATER THAN JUNE 26 THAT AMBASSADOR WILL NOT RETURN IN EVENT RICORD EXTRADITION CASE NOT FAVORABLE RESOLVED BY THEN. RECOMMENDED ACTION BEFORE AUGUST 1.

IV. EMBASSY BE INSTRUCTED MAKE CLEAR TO GOP DURING JULY THAT UNLESS DRUG LAW PASSED, RICORD EXTRAOTED, AND 1961 SINGLE CONVENTION ON NARCOTICS AMENDMENTS SIGNED, U.S. WILL BEGIN PHASE OUT MILGP, AIO ASSISTANCE, AND SALES OR GRANTS MATERIEL.

V. THAT IF DRUG LAW PASSED AND RICORD EXTRADITED DURING JULY, EMBASSY BE AUTHORIZED OFFER BNDD ADVISOR TO MINISTRY OF HEALTH FOR IMPLEMENTATION DRUG LAW, AND OFFER SHARE COSTS OF EQUIPPING POLICE NARCOTICS INVESTIGATION UNIT ALONG LINES REF. (B) PAGE 10.

9. PHASE TWO, THREE RECOMMENDATIONS DESIGNED TO EXTRACT BENEFITS FROM GOP FAILURE TO COOPERATE, BASED ON OUR ESTIMATE OF USG GLOBAL STRATEGY IN FIGHT AGAINST NARCOTICS AND POSITION OF PARAGUAY WITHIN STRATEGY.

10. IF PARAGUAY REMAINS UNCOOPERATIVE, U.S. INTERESTS MIGHT BEST BE SERVED BY DECISIVE STEPS AGAINST PARAGUAY, WHICH OFFERS OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE MEASURES AT MINIMUM COST TO U.S. INTERESTS AND, PERHAPS, WITH POLITICAL BENEFIT. MOREOVER, FAILURE TO TAKE MEASURES IN FACE PARAGUAYAN INTRANSIGENCE CAN BE INTERPRETED IN FOREIGN CAPITALS AS RELUCTANCE ON PART USG TO UTILIZE

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AVAILABLE MEANS TO ENCOURAGE COOPERATION. WE DOUBT THAT USG WILL BE ABLE TO SPEAK WITH CREDIBILITY IN PROBLEM COUNTRIES IN WHICH IT HAS IMPORTANT STRATEGIC INTERESTS IF IT FAILS TO DEMONSTRATE ITS RESOLVE IN PARAGUAY. IF THIS ANALYSIS IS CONSISTENT WITH OVERALL USG VIEW, WE RECOMMEND FOLLOWING:

I. IF GOP HAS NOT TAKEN SATISFACTORY ACTION ON INITIATIVES IN PHASE ONE BY SEPTEMBER 1, EMBASSY BE INSTRUCTED TO ADVISE GOP THAT UNDER PROVISIONS OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT PARAGUAY HAS BEEN FOUND UNCOOPERATIVE AND THAT PRESENTLY PROGRAMMED MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WILL BE DISCONTINUED AND RESUMPTION NOT RECONSIDERED UNTIL SUCH TIME AS GOP DEMONSTRATES TO SATISFACTION OF USG ITS FULL AND WILLING COOPERATION.

II. USG SHOULD RAISE ISSUE OF PARAGUAYAN COMPLACENCY ABOUT NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING IN APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL FORUMS OF WHICH BOTH GOVERNMENTS ARE MEMBER.

III. GOP REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM INTERNATIONAL LENDING AGENCIES IN WHICH USG HAS VOICE SHOULD BE GIVEN "SPECIAL" CONSIDERATION AND U.S. CONCURRENCE ONLY ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS.

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INFO OCT-01 /015 R

DRAFTED BY ARA:RHURWITCH/WSTEMAN/MSKOL;S/PC;SEATON;MRC  
6/30/72 EXT 28148  
APPROVED BY S/PC;AHARTMAN  
ARA;JHCRIMMINS (DRAFT)  
ARA;GLISTER (DRAFT)  
S/NMIROIGILIO (DRAFT)  
ARA/ISA;DBLACK (DRAFT)  
T;GNEWMAN (SUBS)  
PM;FEATHERSTONE (DRAFT)  
S/S  
LIPPFUND (DRAFT)  
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION  
S,U,J,T,ARA, L, PM, S/NN, S/S

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P 302320Z JUN 72  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION PRIORITY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ STATE 119316

DISSENT CHANNEL  
SUBJECT: DISSENT MESSAGE: NARCOTICS CONTROL

REFS: A. ASUNCION 1499; B. ASUNCION A-54; C. STATE 115151;  
D. STATE 115857

1. REF A. HAS BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO ALL RECIPIENTS OF A-54  
WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT. THOUGHT, EFFORT AND CONVICTION  
WHICH WENT INTO ITS PREPARATION ARE COMMENDED. ITS  
RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE GIVEN FULL WEIGHT BY THE DEPARTMENT  
IN THE CONTEXT OF DEVELOPING THE POLICY PROGRAM DIRECTED  
BY PAOM 31. APPROPRIATE PORTIONS WILL ALSO BE USED BY THE  
DEPARTMENT, IN CONJUNCTION WITH A-54, WITHIN THE INTER-  
AGENCY COMMITTEE ON NARCOTICS CONTROL IN LATIN AMERICA.  
WE WILL ADVISE EMBASSY OF RESULTS WHEN WE COMPLETE OUR  
CONSIDERATION. THIS MESSAGE IS AN INTERIM RESPONSE.

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2. WE HAVE HAD THE OBJECTIVE OF PERSUAOING THE GOP THAT COOPERATION IN CONTROLLING ILLICIT NARCOTICS TRAFFIC IS IN OUR MUTUAL INTEREST; THIS IS A BASIC ASSUMPTION IN PAOM 31. THE IG/ARA INCLUDED IN THE CASP AND THE DECISION MEMORANDUM A SIMILAR STATEMENT AS WELL AS A FORESHADOWING OF THE NEGATIVE IMPACT FROM GOP FAILURE TO COOPERATE IN DRUG TRAFFICKING. REF A AND AIRGRAM ARE IN ACCORD WITH POLICY IN PAOM AND IG DECISION MEMORANDUM. THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN AND REMAINS DISSATISFIED WITH GOP POSTURE TOWARD THIS SERIOUS PROBLEM AND WE INTERPRET REF. A. AS SHARING THIS FEELING.

3. DIFFERENCES EXIST, HOWEVER, OVER TACTICS TO EMPLOY THAT WILL ACCOMPLISH OBJECTIVE. HIGHLY PUBLIC OR PUBLICIZED ACTIONS TOGETHER WITH DEADLINES SUCH AS PROPOSED IN REF A. WOULD RESULT IN UNMISTAKABLE PUBLIC CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE US AND PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENTS. UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES THE GOP MAY WELL SHIFT THE FOCUS FROM DRUG PROBLEM ITSELF TO BROADER ISSUES WHICH COULD STIMULATE NATIONALISTIC SENTIMENT AGAINST US, E.G. BY ALLEGING INJURY TO NATIONAL DIGNITY AND BY INVOKING THE "DAVID-GOLIATH" IMAGE. THIS SITUATION MAY MARKEOLY DIMINISH THE LIKELIHOOD OF OBTAINING THE COOPERATION WE SEEK, PERHAPS IRRETRIEVABLY. NEVERTHELESS, WE MAY ULTIMATELY CONCLUDE THAT, DESPITE THEIR COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE ASPECTS, THESE COURSES OF ACTION MAY CONSTITUTE THE ONLY REMAINING AVENUES WORTH EXPLORING.

4. THE DEPT. HAS ADOPTED TACTICS DESIGNED TO IMPRESS UPON GOP THAT FAILURE TO COOPERATE WITH THE US IN ILLICIT NARCOTICS TRAFFIC WILL NOT BE WITHOUT ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES IN OUR RELATIONS, WHILE AVOIDING FORCING THE GOP INTO A CORNER OVER THE ISSUE AT THIS TIME.

5. WITH REGARD TO THE THREE SPECIFIC ACTIONS PROPOSED IN REFTTEL TO BE TAKEN BEFORE JULY:

A. OUR VIEWS ON JULY 4TH CELEBRATION HAVE BEEN COMMUNICATED BY TELEPHONE TO CHARGE BREWIN AND IN REF (C).

B. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS HAVE BEEN KEEPING PARAGUAYAN

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EMBASSY HERE POSTED AS TO RELATIONSHIP GOP COOPERATION AND USG ASSISTANCE. DEPTOFF MET WITH PARAGUAYAN MILITARY ATTACHE JUNE 27 AND TOLD HIM EXPLICITLY ABOUT RECENT DELAYS IN MILITARY ITEMS AND REASONS THEREFORE. EMBASSY HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO PASS SAME MESSAGE, NOT AS THREAT, BUT AS FRANK INDICATION OF DEVELOPING SITUATION, TO APPROPRIATE GOP OFFICIAL IREF 0.1.

C. MATTER OF TIMING OF AMBASSADOR YLITALO'S RETURN HAS BEEN UNDER CONSIDERATION AND DECISION WILL BE COMMUNICATED SEPARATELY. AMBASSADOR WILL IN ANY CASE NOT RETURN BEFORE JULY 4 IREF CI. IRWIN

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