

4/12/76

NOT SENT

DD004 R

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

INDICATE
 COLLECT
 CHARGE TO

E.O. 11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:

FROM Amembassy BUENOS AIRES CLASSIFICATION [REDACTED]

N/A
PINS, TGEN, AR
Firings and Arrests in Argentine Technological Institutes

UNCLASSIFIED

7

ACTION:

Secstate, Washington DC

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

INFO:

Amembassy MONTEVIDEO

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
 Release () Excise () Deny

REF:

State 83929

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES

Exemption(s):
Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full *Decontrol*
() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to
Date Declassify on Reason

ALSO FOR AGRICULTURE, AID, NBS, NASA
MONTEVIDEO FOR AGATT

DECONTROL

AMB
SCI
POL
FAS
ECOM
POL/R
USIS
CHRON

1. Embassy understands that military junta delegates have fired significant numbers of personnel at both the National Institute for Industrial Technology (INTI) and the National Institute for Agricultural Technology (INTA). Also, there have been some arrested in both organizations.

2. At INTA, we understand some 180 have been fired out of 6000 employees, countrywide. We have no rpt no firm figure on number arrested, but believe is is of order of magnitude of twenty (20).

Arrests, we understand, were principally at Castelar and probably include some connected with ^{Economics} ~~Economy~~ Dept. and Graduate School. (*etc: same?*)

3. COMMENT: Firings and arrests, ^{APPARENTLY} ~~we believe~~, based on GOA

DRAFTED BY:

RHW

DRAFTING DATE

4/12/76

TEL. EXT.

377

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

AMB:RCHill

SCI:RHWilcox:ARB

CLEARANCES:

POL:WSSmith *WSS*

DCM: MChaplin

FORM FS-413
11-72

CLASSIFICATION

UNCLASSIFIED

80F178
22/185

INFORMATION ASSERTING INDIVIDUALS HAD
~~intelligence data~~ indicating history of agitation and/or
(leftist) extremism. Dept. will recall that, particularly
in INTA, there was an anti-American vendetta during Campora
presidency which resulted in considerable difficulty for
researchers with history of ties to U.S. Situation now appears
to be largely reversed, and it is the anti-Americans and leftist
extremists who are being sacked. We would not rpt not be
surprised, however, if mistakes were made in some borderline
cases. Thus, while general thrust of current cleanout will
improve U.S.-Argentine collaboration possibilities, there may
well be individual cases of nature cited reftel, and Embassy
will endeavor to report as suggested.

E.G. FIRING THREAT

INFILTR.

EXTR LEFTISTS CLEANED OUT AFTER PERON DIED - REMAINING HOSTILITY & INTA TO U.S.

KNOWN AMONG ARG. SCIENTISTS HOSTILES & LEFTIST SYMPATHIES

HILL

IN THESE INSTITUTES THERE HAVE SO FAR BEEN
NO CHARGES OF CORRUPTION OR EMBEZZLING. IN
THIS INSTANCE, EMBASSY SUSPECTS SOME OLD SCORES
ARE BEING SETTLED BY DENUNCIATIONS TO MILITARY.

information identifying individuals as leftist ~~extremists~~. No accusations of corruption have been made in these cases. Dept will recall that in Campora and Juan Peron eras ~~there were~~ extreme leftist was appointed head of INTA and there followed an anti-US vendetta which resulted in firings and threats against those with US connections or sympathies. While the leadership of INTA has changed and it has become ~~more~~ less unwilling to work with US, a substantial amount of hostility remained among staff, which was widely known among Argentine colleagues as of predominantly leftist sympathies. Given the history of persecution of and the institute's reputation, staff members associated with US, it would not be surprising if some old scores are being settled by denunciations to military. Undoubtedly some of the practices in removing staff members in this instance, as in the last, have been arbitrary.

4. Embassy will continue to follow these and similar cases to test the sincerity of GOA's expressed concern for human rights. Its track record in the first two weeks has been an ~~an~~ improvement over the previous government.

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In INTI, we understand that
some 40 out of 300 employees have
been fired, ~~at least~~ We have heard
of one ~~or~~ instance of an arrest at
INTI. Other firings are expected.

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