

F 37083

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COUNTRY: Argentina

CIA

SUBJECT: Importation of Agricultural Equipment

DATE

24 Aug 53

PLACE ACQUIRED: --

DATE ACQUIRED: Aug 53

DATE OF INFORMATION: Aug 53

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SOURCE:

[Redacted source information]

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1.

I received the following letter, dated in August 1953, from my [redacted]. He is an unusually capable businessman with more than 25 years experience in the agricultural equipment field. The author told me, when I visited him in Buenos Aires in the spring of 1953 that the people of Argentina are beginning to wake up and that the common man has been so deceived by Peron that the awakening is going to be very violent. In his opinion, this awakening will take place within two years. He said that the business community was scared and that the government has so fouled up the whole agricultural economy that the situation is tragic. The fruit industry for example, is in very sad condition for lack of spraying equipment and could easily use US \$1 1/2 million worth right now.

2.

"Buenos Aires
August 1953"

"The list of agricultural implements for which licenses may be applied for under the deferred payment plan, appeared at last and were it not for the almost tragic effect that some had on everyone interested in the importation of agricultural machinery, it would really look like a joke. All the talk went along for several months on tractors and agricultural machinery and the fact that aside from the tractors there are only three other machines specified, would naturally indicate that there should be an additional list somewhere covering a reasonable assortment of implements. The Central Bank will not give any information to exchange brokers on these direct deals with the importers and therefore, it is up to the importers themselves to approach the Central Bank on the matter. R.P. & Co. /sic/ and Hollander and I suppose that all other implement importers, are on the job today and I hope to have some additional information late in the afternoon. Importers are pessimistic however, as the authorities have led themselves to believe that all types of implements, with few exceptions, can be produced locally in sufficient quantities, and should the Central Bank confirm that no other implements will be allowed to be imported, we imagine that firms such as Massey Harris and others, will not be interested in importing tractors only."

[Handwritten initials]

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should the government insist on this policy, I can see where the implement houses, including [redacted] will have to close down and discharge their men. You can imagine how H.P. & Co. and Hollander feel over this great disappointment but I still have some hopes that another list will be issued covering a larger assortment of machines and that sprayers will be included. If I should receive some encouraging news later on, I will cable you".

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-end-

agm. equip.

032 Argentina

TYPE AND DATE AND CORPORATE AREA

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B.A.

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