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SUBJECT: PARAGUAY'S FOREIGN MINISTER MEETING WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY EAGLEBURGER ON MAY 19
1. SUMMARY DEPUTY SECRETARY EAGLEBURGER RECEIVED PARAGUAY'S FOREIGN MINISTER, LUIS ARGANA, MAY 19 FOR A FRIENDLY MEETING TO DISCUSS RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN PARAGUAY AND OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. EAGLEBURGER THANKED ARGANA FOR HIS SUPPORT OF THE OAS RESOLUTION ON PANAMA, FOR COOPERATION ON THE MARIJUANA SPRAYING AND FOR THE WARM RECEPTION OF THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE INAUGURATION. ARGANA RESPONDED THAT HE WAS MILDLY OPTIMISTIC THE OAS MISSION WOULD SUCCEED BECAUSE NORIEGA HAD LOST POPULAR SUPPORT. HE THANKED THE USG FOR HELPING IN THE FIGHT AGAINST NARCO TRAFFICKERS. ARGANA SAID THE GOP WAS VERY PLEASED THAT PRESIDENT BUSH HAD SENT HIS DAUGHTER TO HEAD THE U.S. DELEGATION AND CONSIDERED THIS A DEMONSTRATION OF A NEW RELATIONSHIP. EAGLEBURGER CONFIRMED THAT WE WERE STARTING A NEW RELATIONSHIP, PROMISED THAT WE WOULD LOOK FOR WAYS TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CONCLUDED THE MEETING WITH A FRIENDLY ABRAZO. ARGANA WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER SAGUIER AND AMBASSADOR MARTINEZ. ALSO ATTENDING THE 30 MINUTE MEETING WERE ARA-DAS SKOL, ARA/SC DIRECTOR HOWARD, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE DEPUTY SECRETARY T J ROSE, AND DESK OFFICER SHELTON (NOTETAKER). END SUMMARY

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2. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY WELCOMED ARGANA AND REMARKED THAT WE ADMIRE THE STEPS TAKEN BY THE PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENT DURING THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS. HE SAID THAT WE LOOK FORWARD TO AN INCREASINGLY CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GOP AND OFFERED U.S. HELP, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, WITH GOP EFFORTS TO BRING DEMOCRACY TO PARAGUAY. HE SAID THE SECRETARY HAD EXPLICITLY ASKED HIM TO THANK ARGANA FOR SUPPORT AT THE OAS MINISTERIAL MEETING.

3. ARGANA THEN LAUNCHED INTO A LONG DESCRIPTION ABOUT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN PARAGUAY. HE EXPLAINED THAT PARAGUAY HAD NOT EXPERIENCED A COUP BUT A "DEMONSTRATION FOR DEMOCRACY". THE NEW GOVERNMENT WAS INTENT ON CHANGING THE IMAGE AND THE REALITY OF PARAGUAY. THE GOP HAD FOR YEARS FELT ISOLATED IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. THE NEW GOVERNMENT HAD MADE VARIOUS PROMISES BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT WAS TO ESTABLISH LEGITIMACY. THE NEW PROMISES HAD BEEN SUPPORTED BY ACTIONS AND NOW THE TRAIN HAD BEEN PUT ON THE RAILS TO A TRUE DEMOCRACY. THE GOP WANTS THE OPPOSITION TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROCESS, TO MAKE CONSTRUCTIVE ADVICE AND NOT TO DEMAND MORE THAT THE GOVERNMENT CAN GIVE. "OUR SUCCESS DEPENDS ON THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT WORKING TOGETHER." THE GOP IS PRACTICALLY BROKE AND FACED A TOUGH MOMENT RECENTLY WHEN THE POLICE THREATENED TO STRIKE FOR HIGHER WAGES. ARGANA ASSERTED THAT SOME LABOR LEADERS ARE MANIPULATED BY HOSTILE POLITICIANS. THE GOP NOW HAD TO RAISE FARES FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, A DIFFICULT STEP. THE GOP WOULD NEED HELP FROM LEADERS OF THE FREE WORLD TO GET THROUGH SOME TOUGH TIMES AHEAD. SPECIFICALLY, THE GOP COULD USE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SOFT CREDITS FROM THE IDB AND THE WORLD BANK. THE GOP HAD TO HELP CREATE JOBS IN ADDITION TO LIBERTY. ARGENTINA'S DEMOCRACY WAS THREATENED BY A COLLAPSING ECONOMY. WE CANNOT LIVE IN A DEMOCRACY WITH POVERTY.

4. EAGLEBURGER RESPONDED THAT WE WOULD LOOK FOR WAYS TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO PARAGUAY TO HELP THAT COUNTRY ACHIEVE ITS POTENTIAL.

5. TURNING TO HUMAN RIGHTS, ARGANA SAID THAT THE NEWLY INSTALLED CONGRESS HAD ALREADY BEEN ASKED BY THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO RATIFY THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AND THE DIRECTOR OF THAT COMMISSION HAD BEEN INVITED TO VISIT **PARAGUAY**. ARGANA SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO ALLOW INTERNATIONAL GROUPS TO SEARCH FOR MENGELE IF THEY REALLY BELIEVED THE FORMER **NAZI** WAS HIDING IN **PARAGUAY**. EAGLEBURGER ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY FORMER **NAZIS** HIDING IN **PARAGUAY** AND ARGANA SAID HE DID NOT THINK SO.

6. ARGANA THEN THANKED THE USG FOR HELP AGAINST NARCO-TRAFFICKERS. HE WAS PLEASED THAT AMBASSADOR TOWELL HAD ARRANGED FOR THE INM PLANES TO SPRAY MARIJUANA FIELDS IN **PARAGUAY**. ARGANA MENTIONED THAT THE OWNER OF A RANCH HAD BEEN MACHINE GUNNED TO DEATH, PROBABLY FOR ALLOWING THE PLANES TO USE HIS AIRSTRIP. EAGLEBURGER RESPONDED THAT WE WERE VERY GRATEFUL FOR THE GOP COOPERATION ON NARCOTICS AND HOPED THAT IT WOULD CONTINUE. WE REALIZE THAT THERE ARE TWO SIDES TO THIS PROBLEM AND THE USG HAS A

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MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY TO REDUCE U.S. DEMAND FOR DRUGS.

7. ARGANA SAID HE WAS MILDLY OPTIMISTIC THAT THE PANAMA PROBLEM COULD BE RESOLVED. HE WAS AWARE OF THE DIFFICULTY OF THE OAS MISSION BUT NORIEGA KNEW HE HAD LOST THE ELECTION AND POPULAR SUPPORT. THE PANAMANIANIANS HAD ACCEPTED HIM AS A "NATIONALIST" FOR ONE YEAR BUT NOW HE WAS DISCREDITED. EAGLEBURGER EXPLAINED THAT PRESIDENT BUSH HAD ARGUED THAT WE HAD TO WORK WITH THE HEMISPHERE, THIS WAS NOT JUST A U.S. PROBLEM. CONSEQUENTLY, WE WERE GRATEFUL FOR THE ROLE PLAYED BY THE GOP TO SHOW THAT THE OAS COULD BE HELPFUL.

8. EAGLEBURGER THANKED ARGANA FOR HOW THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE INAUGURATION WAS RECEIVED. DOROTHY BUSH LEBLOND WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED WITH THE MANY COURTESIES EXTENDED TO HER. ARGANA EXPLAINED THAT THE GOP CONSIDERED THIS A DEMONSTRATION OF HOW PRESIDENT BUSH WANTED TO START A NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH PARAGUAY. THE GOP WAS VERY PLEASED TO RECEIVE SUCH A PRETTY AND "SIMPATICA" REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRESIDENT. ARGANA AND DEPUTY MINISTER SAGUIER HAD ENJOYED A MIDNIGHT SUPPER WITH MIKE SKOL AND AMBASSADOR TOWELL TO TALK ABOUT PANAMA, AMONG OTHER THINGS. PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ WAS ALSO DELIGHTED WITH A WARM MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT BUSH THANKING HIM FOR THE RECEPTION GIVEN HIS DAUGHTER.

9. EAGLEBURGER RESPONDED THAT WE ARE INDEED STARTING ON A NEW RELATIONSHIP. HE SUGGESTED THAT WE SHOULD ADOPT, AS A MOTTO FOR OUR RELATIONSHIP, A SLOGAN USED BY A MEXICAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, "SIEMPRE ADELANTE, NI UN PASO ATRAS." THE TWO MEN CONCLUDED THE MEETING WITH A FRIENDLY "ABRAZO".

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END OF MESSAGE

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