

March 22, 1977

**Letter to Hugo Abreu on a Conversation between
Vice-Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces Admiral José
Calvente Aranda and the Argentine Ambassador
Oscar Camilión**

Citation:

"Letter to Hugo Abreu on a Conversation between Vice-Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces Admiral José Calvente Aranda and the Argentine Ambassador Oscar Camilión", March 22, 1977, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Ernesto Geisel Archive/CPDOC. Critical Oral History Conference on the Argentine-Brazilian Nuclear Cooperation, Rio de Janeiro, March 2012. <https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/123284>

Summary:

Abreu reports a conversation in which ambassador Camilión revealed President Videla's desire to visit Brazil, implying that Itaipu was a sensitive issue, but of domestic nature. The Argentine government suggested a joint declaration on nuclear issues to turn away international suspicions on "the production of the bomb."

Credits:

This document was made possible with support from Carnegie Corporation of New York (CCNY)

Original Language:

Portuguese

Contents:

Original Scan
Translation - English

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Brasília, 22 de março de 1977

Prezado Hugo

Dentro daquela sistemática de envio de infor
mes, aí vai esta com mais alguns.

Ontem o Vice-Chefe do EMFA, Almirante ARAN
DA, almoçou com o Embaixador da Argentina a convite
deste.

Da conversa que tiveram a sós o ARANDA me re
portou o seguinte:

- a. Declaração do Embaixador de que seu país está inteiramente solidário com o Brasil e deseja es
treitar mais ainda os laços de amizade e coope
ração;
- b. O próprio Presidente VIDELA foi quem demonstrou o desejo de vir ao Brasil, surpreendendo mesmo todo o pessoal do Ministério das Relações Exte
riores da Argentina.
- c. Tocando no caso da Usina de Itaipu, o Embaixa
dor disse que era de somenos importância, poden
do até fazer crer que se trata de assunto de po
lítica interna deles.

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- d. A posição da Venezuela e México, segundo o Embaixador, deve-se a que esses países devem estar sendo "soprados" pelos Estados Unidos para aparecerem como líderes da democracia na América Latina.
- e. Seria, segundo o Embaixador, o momento de uma declaração conjunta dos nossos dois países sobre o problema nuclear, o que viria a fortalecer mais ainda a posição de ambos, pois desmancharia qualquer insinuação a respeito da fabricação da bomba.

Sem mais, um abraço do

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Brasília, March 22nd 1977 Dear Hugo,

According to that information system, here goes some more:

Yesterday, the Deputy Chief of EMFA, Admiral ARANDA, had lunch with the Argentinian Ambassador, at the latter's invitation.

From their private conversation, ARANDA reported me the following:

- a. The Ambassador declared to be completely sympathetic to Brazil and wishes to strengthen our friendship and cooperation.
- b. President VIDELA himself showed interest in coming to Brazil, which surprised even the Argentinian Foreign Relations staff.
- c. On Itaipú Power Plant, the Ambassador said it was of lesser importance, even dismissing it as a matter of internal affairs.
- d. According to the Ambassador, the Venezuelan and Mexican positions are such because they must be "backed_up" by the United States to look like democracy leaders in Latin America.
- e. According to the Ambassador, this would be the right moment for our countries to release a joint statement on nuclear affairs, which would strengthen even further both countries' positions, since it would disprove any insinuation regarding nuclear bombs.

Nothing further for now, my regards,

[Signature]