

NAVAL INCIDENT WITH CHILE 19 FEB REPORTED

PY231213 Paris AFP in Spanish 1122 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Feb (AFP) -- A press source indicated here today that a new naval incident took place in the waters of the Beagle Channel last Friday when a Chilean torpedo boat unsuccessfully tried to chase away an Argentine Navy ship by firing a burst of warning shots. According to the Buenos Aires newspaper LA NACION, the Argentine patrol boat Gurruchaga, on orders in the waters of the Beagle Channel giving support to the sport boats participating in the Rio de Janeiro-Sydney boat race, was ordered by a Chilean torpedo boat to leave the area. The Argentine ship was anchored at Deceit Island. In view of the refusal of the captain of the Gurruchaga to leave the zone -- an area affected by the papal mediation being negotiated in Rome -- the Chilean ship fired several warning shots while other Chilean ships converged on the area. The Argentine daily said in conclusion that the Gurruchaga received orders from the Argentine Navy to remain in the area while other Argentine Navy warships moved to the area of the incident and they are currently stationed in the Beagle Channel zone.

Gurruchaga in Ushuaia

PY240218 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2235 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] Ushuaia, Argentina, 23 Feb (TELAM) -- The patrol boat Gurruchaga, commanded by Capt Alvaro Vazquez, arrived in this southern city's port at 1930 today. The ship carried out the mission entrusted to it by navy high command and docked normally. The patrol boat Gurruchaga was involved in an incident during which Chilean warships had ordered it to leave an area where it was providing support for the boats which are participating in the Rio de Janeiro-Sydney boat race. The Argentine ship was in Argentine waters and therefore refused to obey Chilean orders.

Protest Note to Chilean Envoy

PY240224 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0002 GMT 24 Feb 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Feb (NA) -- The Argentine Government tonight delivered to Chilean ambassador in Buenos Aires Sergio Jarpa Reyes a protest note concerning the incident which took place in southern waters last week. Jarpa Reyes arrived at San Martin palace around 1945 and left 15 minutes later without answering the questions of journalists staked out there. A few minutes later, Argentine Foreign Ministry Spokesman Hernan Massini Ezcurra reported that "the Ambassador Jarpa Reyes was summoned to San Martin Palace to hand him a note of protest. Asked who had met with the Chilean ambassador, since Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Enrique Ros was at that point leaving for the United States, Massini Ezcurra said that "he was probably met by an official of the South American department." Massini Ezcurra refused to say whether the contents of the Argentine note of protest are those of the communique which the foreign ministry released earlier.

Foreign Ministry Communique

PY240106 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2222 GMT 23 Feb 82

["Text of Argentina Foreign Ministry communique on incident with Chilean boat on 19 February in southern waters; issued on 23 February]

[Text] The patrol vessel of the Argentine Navy, Gurruchaga, has commissioned to the south of the Cape Horn in order to provide support for the sail boats Anaconda II, Bucaneer and D'Arda.

GOVERNMENT PROTESTS INCURSION OF ARGENTINE SHIP

PY231700 Paris AFP in Spanish 1612 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 23 Feb (AFP) -- The Chilean Foreign Ministry has reported that Chile today strongly protested to Argentina over the incursion of an Argentine warship in the waters of Cape Horn last Friday. At the same time, the Chilean Government reported the incident to Pope John Paul II, who is acting as mediator in the bilateral conflict in the Beagle Channel region. Last month the pope asked the two countries to abstain from carrying out hostile actions in this area.

Protest Note

PY231755 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text of official communique issued by the Chilean Foreign Ministry 23 February -- read by Foreign Ministry Acting Under Secretary Tomas Amenabar]

[Text] The Foreign Relations Ministry, fully complying with the commitments undertaken in Montevideo to maintain a climate of peace which should prevail in Argentine-Chilean relations and within its desire to grant it utmost cooperation to the august mediator, had refrained from disclosing, up to now, the serious incident which took place recently in the southern zone. In view of press reports issued in Argentina today which refer to this event, the foreign relations ministry is forced to disclose the following:

1. On Friday 9 February at 1216, the Argentine Navy transport ship Gurruchaga (?anchored) in Toledo Cove on Deceit Island, in waters which are unquestionably under Chilean sovereignty. The patrol boat Quidora of the Chilean Navy immediately informed it that it was in Chilean waters and requested it to leave the anchorage [word indistinct] immediately, the Argentine ship refused to do so.
2. In view of the bad weather conditions which prevailed at that time in the zone, the Chilean Navy authorized the Argentine ship to remain there until the weather improved.
3. The Foreign Ministry acting under secretary summoned the Argentine ambassador for a meeting at 1600 on Friday and verbally expressed the seriousness of this incident. He also protested this incident and demanded the withdrawal of the ship as soon as weather conditions permitted.
4. Once the weather improved, the Gurruchaga continued to anchor in the same place. In view of this, the Argentine charge d'affaires was summoned for a meeting at 1600 on Monday 22 February and he was handed a harsh note of protest in which it is stated that Argentina has violated Chilean sovereignty, thus violating the spirit and terms of the commitments formulated by Cardinal Samore on 1 February 1982.
5. At the same time on 22 February, two Argentine Aeromach fighter planes carrying bombs carried out low-level flights over the Chilean Navy patrol boats Quidora and Lientur, which represents open provocation.
6. In view of the seriousness of the incidents, the Foreign Ministry, in addition to the aforementioned protest, has informed the representative of the august mediator, Cardinal Antonio Samore all the details of the incident.
7. At 0130 this morning the Argentine ship Gurruchaga left Toledo Cove on a southeastern heading.
8. In view of Argentine reports which point out that the patrol boat Quidora had fired warning shots, the Foreign Affairs Ministry categorically denies this statement. The Chilean boat, in addition to making the appropriate communications, maintained the calm attitude which has characterized the Chilean Government throughout this whole process.