

September 13, 1995

Aide Memoire, South African Department of Foreign Affairs, Support for South African (Avitronics) Bid for the Supply of Electronic Warfare Equipment to Argentine Air Force

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Summary:

Letter stating that the Department of Foreign Affairs has no political problem with a particular permit being granted.

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At the request of the Secretary of Defence, the Department called in the Argentine Charge d'Affaires to express the Department's support for and interest in the successful conclusion of a contract to supply electronic warfare equipment to the Argentine Air Force in the face of Israeli and US competition.

The text of the Aide Memoire handed to Mr Escalona is quoted below:

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AIDE MEMOIRE

SUPPORT FOR SOUTH AFRICAN (AVITRONICS) BID FOR THE SUPPLY OF ELECTRONIC WARFARE EQUIPMENT TO ARGENTINE AIR FORCE

The Department of Foreign Affairs has received a request from the Office of the Secretary for Defence for support on a political level, of a bid for the supply of an Electronic Warfare (EW) system, submitted to the Argentine Air Force by AVITRONICS, a South African company.

AVITRONICS has reason to believe that from a technical point of view, their product is the preferred option. This has also been stressed by the Argentine Air Force authorities throughout the tender process.

Other possible suppliers are Litton (USA) and Elisra (Israel). It is believed that American and Israeli interest groups are lobbying at a high political level to favour their respective bids.