

September 4, 1987

**Cable on Ambassador Rubens Ricupero's Meetings
with President Alfonsín and Ambassador Jorge
Sabato about Nuclear Cooperation**

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Summary:

This cable summarizes Ambassador Ricupero's mission to Argentina, where he conveyed a report that Brazil had mastered uranium enrichment. President Alfonsín's letter of reply is included.

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BRASILEIRO
ARTHEM 041445 OF02494A NITA
DE BRASENA BAIRES PARA EXTERIORES EM 04/09/87
ENER-LOG-E02

SECRETO-URGENTISSIMO

PARA CONHECIMENTO IMEDIATO DO SENHOR MINISTRO DE ESTADO/

SG/DEH/DAM-I/DNU/
RELACOES BRASIL/ARGENTINA.
COOPERACAO NUCLEAR.
MISSAO DO EMBAIXADOR
RUBENS RICUPERO.

2494-SEXTA-FEIRA-11:45HS. CUMPRINDO INSTRUCCOES DO SENHOR PRESIDENTE DA REPUBLICA, CHEGOU ONTEM NA TARDE A ESTA CAPITAL, EM AVIAO ESPECIAL DA FAB, O EMBAIXADOR RUBENS RICUPERO, O QUAL, E EM MINHA COMPANHIA, SE DIRIGIU DIRETAMENTE DO AEROPARQUE MILITAR AA RESIDENCIA PRESIDENCIAL DE OLIVOS.

2. RECEBIDO IMEDIATAMENTE PELO PRESIDENTE ALFONSIN, QUE FORA AVISADO DA MISSAO PESSOALMENTE PELO PRESIDENTE SARNEY EM TELEFONEA QUE LHE DIRIGIU NA VESPERA, O EMBAIXADOR RICUPERO, APOS TRANSMITIR AO CHEFE DE ESTADO ARGENTINO AS MAIS CORDIAIS SAUDACOES DE SEU COLEGA BRASILEIRO, ENTREGOU-LHE A MENSAGEM DE QUE ERA PORTADOR, SEU DESTINATARIO LEU O DOCUMENTO COM O MAIOR INTERESSE, INTERROMPENDO A LEITURA, LOGO NO INICIO, A FIM DE MANIFESTAR, DE UMA FORMA ESPONTANEA, SUA ALEGRIA PELA NOTICIA QUE LHE ERA COMUNICADA DO ANUNCIO QUE O SENHOR PRESIDENTE DA REPUBLICA ESTARA FAZENDO, NA DATA DE HOJE, DE QUE OS CIENTISTAS BRASILEIROS LOGRARAM DOMINAR A TECNOLOGIA DO ENRIQUECIMENTO DE URANIO PELO METODO DA ULTRACENTRIFUGACAO.

3. APOS TERMINAR A LEITURA DA CARTA, O PRESIDENTE ALFONSIN NOS PERIU PARA TRANSMITIR AO PRESIDENTE SARNEY SUA VIVA SATISFACAO POR ESTA IMPORTANTE CONQUISTA QUE O DEIXAVA, COMO FRISON, ORGULHOSSO "CONO LATINO-AMERICANO".

4. MENCIONARAM-SE, ENTAO, OS ESFORCOS QUE VEM SENDO REALIZADOS NO CAMPO DA COLABORACAO NUCLEAR ENTRE OS DOIS PAISES E A IMPORTANCIA QUE ESSA NOTICIA TERIA PARA ABRIR NOVAS PERSPECTIVAS A ESSA COLABORACAO NESTE E EM OUTROS CAMPOS DOS PROJETOS DE INTEGRACAO.

5. O PRESIDENTE ALFONSIN, VISTIVELMENTE SENSIBILIZADO PELO GESTO DO GOVERNO BRASILEIRO DE SINGULARIZAR O GOVERNO ARGENTINO INFORMANDO-O, ATRAVES DE UM ENVIADO PESSOAL, SOLICITOU AO EMBAIXADOR RICUPERO QUE TRANSMITISSE AO PRESIDENTE SARNEY SEUS MAIS SINCEROS

CONTINUA

TEL. 2494/SECRETO-URGENTISSIMO/SEGUNDA-PARTE/SE/DEN/DAN-1/DNU/
RELACOES BRASIL-ARGENTINA. COOPERACAO NUCLEAR. MISSAO DO EMBAIXADOR
RUBENS RICUPERO/.

...SINCEROS AGRADECIMENTOS PELO QUE QUALIFICOU DE "GRANDE DELICADE-
ZA" DO CHEFE DE ESTADO BRASILEIRO PARA COM ELE.

6. ASSINALANDO A IMPORTANCIA DA MENSAGEM RECEBIDA E DA
REPERCUSSAO QUE PODERIA TER SUA DIVULGACAO, PERGUNTOU SE SERIA POS-
SIVEL PUBLICA-LA, APÓS O ANUNCIO A SER FEITO EM BRASILIA.

7. A ENTREVISTA SE ESTENDEU POR ALGUM TEMPO, SEMPRE
DENTRO DE UM CLIMA DE GRANDE CORDIALIDADE SENDO TROCADOS COMENTARIOS
SOBRE AS PROXIMAS ELEICOES ARGENTINAS E O MOMENTO POLITICO E ECONOMI-
CO QUE VIVEM OS DOIS PAISES E SUA EXPECTATIVA EM RELACAO A SUA FU-
TURA VISITA AO BRASIL.

8. AO NOS DESPEDIAMOS, O PRESIDENTE ALFONSIN, QUE NOS ACOM-
PANHOU ATEN O CARRO, REITEROU SUA SATISFACAO PELA NOTICIA RECEBIDA E
RENOVOU AO EMBAIXADOR RICUPERO O PEDIDO DE QUE TRANSMITISSE AO PRE-
SIDENTE SARNEY SUAS FELICITACOES E AGRADECIMENTOS PELA GENTILEZA QUE
RECEBERA.

9. AO RETORNAR A EMBAIXADA, O EMBAIXADOR RICUPERO RELATOU
POR TELEFONE A AUDIENCIA AO SENHOR PRESIDENTE DA REPUBLICA, QUE AUTO-
RIZOU FOSSE TRANSMITIDA AO GOVERNO ARGENTINO SUA CONCORDANCIA PARA A
DIVULGACAO DO DO PUNTO.

10. MOMENTOS DEPOIS RECEBEMOS, NA EMBAIXADA, A VISITA DO
EMBAIXADOR JORGE SABATO, AO QUAL O EMBAIXADOR RICUPERO DEU CONHECIME-
TO DO OBJETIVO DA SUA MISSAO, NOTICIA QUE FOI RECEBIDA PELO SECRETARIO
DE RELACOES INTERNACIONAIS COM AS MESMAS EXPRESSOES DE SATISFACAO,
AGRADECIMENTO E FELICITACOES. O EMBAIXADOR SABATO REALCOU, DE FORMA
PARTICULAR, O SENTIDO E A IMPORTANCIA DA COMUNICACAO PREVIA, INCLUSIVE,
QUE HABILITARAM O GOVERNO ARGENTINO A ATENDER AO NATURAL INTE-
RESSE QUE A NOTICIA SEGURAMENTE DESPERTARÁ NESTE PAIS. REFERIU-SE
TAMBEM, DE MANEIRA MUITO EXPRESSIVA, AAS AUSPICIOSAS POSSIBILIDADES
QUE ESTE AVANCO ABRE PARA A EXPANSAO DA COOPERACAO NUCLEAR BRASILEIRO
-ARGENTINA, PROCESSO QUE, SEGUNDO ELE, REGISTRA JÁ UM AVANÇO EXTREMAMEN-
TE SIGNIFICATIVO EM UM CURTO PERIODO DE TEMPO.

11. PEÇO LICENÇA PARA CONGRATULAR-ME COM VOSSA EXCELENCIA
VIA E, POR SEU INTERMEDIO, COM O SENHOR PRESIDENTE DA REPUBLICA, TANTO

CONTINUA

SRARTBREN 04/09/87 1634

PARA: EXTERIORES

SECRETO

URGENTISSIMO

DE: EMBaixADA EM BUENOS AIRES
MSG OF02494CX 04/09/87 1631
DISTRIBUICAO: SG/DEH/DAN I/DNU
DESC:

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.ARTBREN 041455 OF02494C NITA

DE BRASENB BAIRES PARA EXTERIORES EM 04/09/87

TEL. 2494/SECRETO-URGENTISSIMO/TERCEIRA-PARTE/SG/DEH/DAN-I/DNU/
RELACOES BRASIL-ARGENTINA. COOPERACAO NUCLEAR. MISSAO DO EMBaixADOR
RUBENS RICUPERO/.

PARA O CONHECIMENTO IMEDIATO DO SR. MINISTRO DE ESTADO

...TANTO PELO ACONTECIMENTO HISTORICO QUE HOJE SE ANUNCIA, COMO PELA
DECISAO DO PRESIDENTE SARNEY DE DAR AO GOVERNO ARGENTINO MAIS ESTA
DEMONSTRACAO DE PARTICULAR AMIZADE E DE EXTREMA GENTILEZA, QUE SOBRENA
HEIRA SENSIBILIZOU O PRESIDENTE ALFONSIN E QUE TERAA A MAIOR REPER-
CUSSAO NESSE PAIS E NO CONTEXTO DAS RELACOES ENTRE O BRASIL E A AR-
GENTINA.

HE

SS/SEN/BRH-1/DND

RELACIONES BRASIL/ARGENTINA.

COOPERACION NUCLEAR.

MISMO DO ENTRENAMIENTO RUBENS RICUPERO.

CRITA DE RESPUESTA DE PRESIDENTE ALFONSO.

2506 - 30100 - AMTEL 2404. +INFORMO+.

2506 Y 2507 SE ENVIAN O ORIGINAL DE CRITA DE RESPUESTA DO
PRESIDENTE ALFONSO DE BRASILEN QUE LAI FOI ENTREGADA PELO SENHOR
PRESIDENTE DA REPUBLICA, A QUEL ESTOU ENVIANDO PELA PROXIMA VELA.

O TEXTO DA CRITA, QUE ESTA SENDO ADIANTADO AO
PRESIDENTE JOSÉ GARCÍA ARCE DE PARAGUAYA ARGENTINA EN BRASILIA, E
O SEGUINTE:

"REUNION RUBENS, 4 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 1987.

SEÑOR PRESIDENTE Y AMIGO,

ME REGOCIJO CON GRAN SATISFACCION QUE ESTA
COMUNICACION QUE U.E. ANUNCIARA HOY QUE EN BRASIL SE HA DOMINADO LA
TECNICA DEL ENRIQUECIMIENTO DEL URANIO MEDIANTE EL METODO DEL
CENTROCENTRIFUGADO, TENGA U.E. LA SEGURIDAD QUE, JUNTO CON SUS
COMPAÑEROS, COMPARTO CON ALEGRIA EL ORGULLO QUE U.E. Y TODOS LOS
BRASILENOS SIEMPRE DELEGIAMENTE SENTIR ANTE ESTE GRAN EXITO QUE
CONSTITUYE EL ALTO NIVEL LOGRADO POR LA CIENCIA Y LA TECNICA EN EL
BRASIL.

TAMBIEN DESEO REITERARLE MI CONVENCIMIENTO ACERCA DE LOS
OBJETIVOS MUTUAMENTE PERICUOS DE LA ACTIVIDAD NUCLEAR BRASILENA, AL
TODAL DE LA ARGENTINA, AMBOS PAISES COMPARTIMOS UNA MISMA COCCION EN
FAVOR DEL DESARROLLO NUCLEAR COMPLETO EN EL MUNDO Y, EN ESPECIAL, DE
LIBERAR PARA SIEMPRE A AMERICA LATINA DE ARMAS NUCLEARES, CONFORME
AQUIL EL TRATADO DE TLATELOLCO.

AL MISMO TIEMPO, TAL COMO U.E. REALIZA, TANTO EN BRASIL
COMO EN LA ARGENTINA ESTAMOS DECIDIDOS A PROGRESAR EN TODAS LAS RAMAS
DE LOS CONOCIMIENTOS CIENTIFICOS Y DE SU APLICACION. POR ESO NOS
CONGRATULAMOS DE LOS AVANCES SIGNIFICATIVOS QUE PONEN A DISPOSICION
DE NUESTROS PUEBLOS Y LOS DE AMERICA LATINA ENTERA LOS BENEFICIOS QUE
PUEDAN APORTARLE LA CIENCIA Y LA TECNICA DE NUESTRO TIEMPO.

CONCORDO CON U.E. EN QUE ES MUY ALENTADOR COMPRENDER QUE SE
HA ACCELERADO Y PROFUNDIZADO LA COOPERACION EN EL CAMPO NUCLEAR ENTRE
NUESTROS PAISES A PARTIR DE LA REUNION QUE MANTUVIMOS EN FOZ DE
IGUAZU EN OCTUBRE DE 1985.

LA SEGUNDA PARTE FINAL

DE: MINISTERIO DE DEFENSA
AS: SECRETARIA DE DEFENSA
AS: MINISTERIO DE DEFENSA
AS: MINISTERIO DE DEFENSA

PARA: EXTERIORES
SECRETARIO
SECRETARIO
SECRETARIO

URGENTISIMO

SECRETARIO

AS: MINISTERIO DE DEFENSA
AS: MINISTERIO DE DEFENSA
AS: MINISTERIO DE DEFENSA

DE: MINISTERIO DE DEFENSA EXTERIORES 101 EN 04/09/87

TEL: 2000 - SECONDA PARTE FINAL

AS: MINISTERIO DE DEFENSA EXTERIORES URGENTISIMO/SE/DEF/DIR-1/DIR/ RELACIONES
EXTERIORES. COOPERACION NUCLEAR. MISMO DE EMBAJADOR RUBENS
ALFONSO. AS: MINISTERIO DE DEFENSA EXTERIORES URGENTISIMO/SE/DEF/DIR-1/DIR/ RELACIONES

LOS PAISES DEL MUNDO. LOS AVANCE EN LA INVESTIGACION Y SE MULTIFORAN
COMUNICACION CON EL MUNDO. EN ESTE SENTIDO, VUESTRO GRATO ANUNCIO
REVELA QUE EN ESTOS DIAS HOY SE HAN DOMINADO LAS OBRAS
DE INVESTIGACION Y DESARROLLO EN EL MUNDO EN EL SOPORTADO PROCESO DEL
DESARROLLO TECNICO DEL BRASIL. LA CAPACIDAD TECNICA DEL BRASIL Y LA
COMUNICACION NOS HACE VISUALIZAR, CON CONFIANZA, EL DESARROLLO ULTERIOR
DE LA CIENCIA, LA TECNICA Y LA INDUSTRIA NUCLEARES EN PROVECHO DE
NUESTROS PAISES Y DE SU DERECHO A DECIDIR SU PROPIO DESTINO.

LA INTENSIFICACION DE NUESTRA COOPERACION EN EL CAMPO
NUESTRO DE CIENCIA, LA CONFIANZA Y AMISTAD FRATERNAL QUE NOS UNE. SU
GRATO ANUNCIO REVELA EL ANUNCIO DEL EXITO OBTENIDO POR EL BRASIL ES
UN TESTIMONIO MAS DE ESTA CONFIANZA Y ESTA AMISTAD, TESTIMONIO QUE LE
RECOMENDAMOS SER EFECTUAMENTE EN NOMBRE DE TODOS LOS ARGENTINOS.

PARALELAMENTE, LE PIDE A U. E. QUE RECIER, CON ESTE NOTICIA, MI
MÁS EL DESARROLLO TECNICO QUE BUENO HAGA EXTENSIVO A LOS CIENTIFICOS Y
TECNICOS DE LA COMISION DE ENERGIA NUCLEAR, DEL INSTITUTO DE
INVESTIGACIONES EN ENERGIA Y NUCLEARES DE LA UNIVERSIDAD DE SAN PABLO,
DEL CONEJO DE LA INDUSTRIA NACIONAL ARGENTINA QUIEREN HAN PLEURODO
EFECTUAMENTE ESTE AMBITUOSO PROYECTO.

APROVECHO ESTA OPORTUNIDAD PARA REITERARLE LAS SEGURIDADES
DE MI MÁS ALTA COOPERACION Y ESTIMA
CON UN FUERTE ABRAZO DE SU AMIGO
RUBENS ALFONSO.

SECRETARIO

From Brasemb Baires to Exteriores 4/9/87
SECRET-MOST URGENT
FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION OF THE MINISTER OF STATE
SG/DEM/DM-I/DNU/
Brazil-Argentine relations.
Nuclear cooperation. Mission by
Ambassado Rubens Ricupero.

2494 - Friday 11:45 hs. On instructions from the President of the Republic, Ambassador Rubens Ricupero arrived yesterday afternoon in the capital, on a special FAB airplane, and went directly from the military airport, in my company, to the presidential residence in Olivos.

2. He was immediately received by President Alfonsín, whom President Sarney had personally apprised of the mission by a phone call the previous day. After conveying to the Argentine Head of State the most cordial greetings from his Brazilian colleague, Ambassador Ricupero handed over the message of which he was the bearer. Its addressee read the document with the utmost interest, interrupting the reading soon after the start to spontaneously express his joy for the news that was being conveyed to him of the announcement, to be made by the President of the Republic on this date, that Brazilian scientists had succeeded in mastering the technology of uranium enrichment by the ultracentrifuge method.

3. After finishing the reading of the letter, President Alfonsín requested us to convey to President Sarney his great satisfaction for this important achievement which made him, as he stressed, "proud as a Latin American."

4. The efforts that are being made between the two countries in the field of nuclear collaboration were then mentioned, as well as the importance of that piece of news to open new prospects for such cooperation and in other fields of the projects of integration.

5. Clearly moved by the gesture of the Brazilian Government to single out the Argentine Government by bringing him that information through the dispatch of a personal envoy, President Alfonsín asked Ambassador Ricupero to convey to President Sarney his most sincere thanks for what he described as "a great courtesy" from the Brazilian Head of State toward him.

6. Stressing the importance of the message received and the repercussion that its dissemination could have, he asked if it would be possible to publish it after the announcement to be made in Brasilia.

7. The interview took still some time in a climate of great cordiality with the exchange of comments about the forthcoming elections in Argentina and the economic and political circumstances experienced by both countries and his expectations for his next visit to Brazil.

8. On our taking leave, President Alfonsín, who walked with us to the car, reiterated his satisfaction with the news and renewed his request to Ambassador Ricupero to convey his congratulations to President Sarney and his thanks for the kind gesture toward him.

9. Upon returning to the Embassy, Ambassador Ricupero reported the interview by telephone to the President of the Republic, who authorized him to transmit to the Argentine Government his agreement for the dissemination of the fact.

10. Moments later we received, at the Embassy, the visit of Ambassador Jorge Sabato, whom Ambassador Ricupero informed of the objective of his mission. The news was received by Secretary of International Relations with the same expressions of satisfaction, thanks and congratulations. Ambassador Sabato stressed in particular the sense and the importance of the advance communication which will enable the Argentine Government to deal with the natural interest which the news will raise in this country. He also mentioned in a very expressive way to the auspicious possibilities that this advancement opens for the expansion of Brazilian-Argentine cooperation, a process that, in his words, already advanced significantly in a short period of time.

11. May I be allowed to present my congratulations to Your Excellency and, through you, to the President of the Republic, both for the historic event that is being announced to-day and for President Sarney's decision to give to the Argentine Government yet another demonstration of particular friendship and extreme courtesy, which greatly moved President Alfonsín and which will have great repercussion in this country and in the context of the relations between Brazil and Argentina.

(Signed) HERMESAR

FROM BRASEMB BAIRE TO EXTERIORES ON 4/09/87

For the immediate attention of the Minister of State

SECRET-MOST URGENT

SG/DEM/DAM-I/DNU

Brazil-Argentine relations.

Nuclear cooperation. Mission of Ambassador

Rubens Ricupero. Letter of reply from President

Alfonsín

2506 -Friday 21:00 Follow-up to cable 2494. I inform.

I have just received the original letter of reply by President Alfonsín to the message that was addressed to him by the President of the Republic, which I am sending by the next pouch.

2. The text of the letter, which is being advanced to President Sarney through the Argentine Embassy in Brasília is the following:

"Buenos Aires, September 4 1987

My dear President and friend,

I received with great satisfaction your letter informing me that you will announce to-day that the technique of uranium enrichment by the ultracentrifuge method has been mastered in Brazil. Be assured that, together with my compatriots, I share with joy the pride that you and all Brazilians can legitimately feel at the great success that demonstrates the high level attained by science and technology in Brazil.

I also wish to reiterate my conviction about the exclusively peaceful objectives of the Brazilian nuclear activity. Just like Argentina, both countries share the same goals in

favor of complete nuclear disarmament in the world and especially that of freeing Latin America forever from nuclear weapons, as is the intention of the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

At the same time, just as you mentioned, both in Brazil and in Argentina we are committed to advance in all fields of scientific knowledge and its applications, and for this reason we congratulate you for the significant progress which puts at the reach of our peoples and those of Latin America as a whole the benefits that the science and technique of our times can bring to them.

I agree with you that it is very encouraging to see that cooperation in the nuclear field between our countries has accelerated and deepened since the meeting we held at Foz do Iguaçu in November 1985. Every day joint activities advance and multiply ever more rapidly. In this connection, your welcome announcement means that between the two countries the main techniques used in the world in the sophisticated process of uranium enrichment have been mastered. The joint capability of Argentina and Brazil lets us envisage, with confidence, the further development of nuclear science, technology and industry to the benefit of our peoples and their right to decide their own destiny.

The intensification of our cooperation in the nuclear field has solidified the trust and fraternal friendship that united us. Your letter giving me advance notice of the success attained by Brazil is further testimony of this trust and friendship, a testimony for which I am especially grateful on behalf of all Argentines.

Finally I ask you to receive, for that reason, my most warm congratulations, which I request you to extend to the scientists and technicians from the Nuclear Energy Commission, the Institute of Nuclear and Energy Research of the University of São Paulo, as well as to the Brazilian national industry, which have brought forward this ambitious project.

I avail myself of this opportunity to reiterate the assurances of my highest esteem and consideration,
with a warm hug from your friend

(Signed) Raúl R. Alfonsín."

(Signed) HERMESAR