Buenos Aires, Argentina, March 5, 1947.

No. 1985

Subject: Final Disposition of Enemy Property in Argentina.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Embassy's Confidential Despatch No. 1779-A of January 31, 1947, on the above subject, and to enclose herewith copy of the Spanish text, and unofficial translation, of a Note Verbale received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship.

The Ministry also transmitted, together with the Note, a copy of Decree No. 1921/47, dated January 24, 1947, which has already been transmitted to the Department in the Embassy's Despatch No. 1741 of January 28, 1947. The Embassy's Note Verbale of January 17, 1947, to which the Ministry's Note refers, was that covered by the Department's telegram No. 35 of January 16, 1947, 7 p.m.

The Department will observe the Ministry's statement that "the Argentine Government has taken measures in the desire to eliminate definitely enemy interests and to acquire en bloc all the rights, titles and interests of such character which may be in enterprises investigated or intervened by the Junta de Vigilancia y Disposicién Final de la Propiedad Enemiga, remaining only excluded from the Decree, the enterprises or interests which are qualified as non-enemy, by having demonstrated that they have no connection with Germany or Japan."

This interpretation of the broad effect of the Decree in question as stated by the Ministry conforms completely with that of the Embassy in its Despatch No. 1779-A, and justifies the belief that the action now taken by Argentina is, at least, comparable in effect to the vesting of enemy property by our own Alien Property Custodian.

Further, as already reported, I am informed that the Decree has been given effect by the transfer of the stipulated initial payment of one hundred million pesos.

Respectfully yours,

George S. Messersmith

Enclosures:
No. 1 - Copy of Spanish text of Note Verbale.
No. 2 - Translation of Note Verbale.

Mr. Towson: ok
File No. 851

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