Buenos Aires, Argentina, May 18, 1947.

No. 2491

Subject: Transmitting Lists of Decrees Issued by Argentine Government Covering Persons Against Whom it had Information as to Activity Against the State or the United Nations.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the series of Despatches of this Embassy transmitting information on the action of the Argentine Government with respect to persons against whom it had information of activity against the State or the United Nations in connection with the last World War. In this connection I have to refer particularly to this Embassy’s secret Despatches Ell9 of March 31, 1947 entitled "Conference with the Foreign Minister" and no. 2462 of May 7, 1947 entitled "Action of the Argentine Government in the Matter of Compliance with its Obligations Undertaken Through Adherence to the Acts of Mexico City and with specific Reference to the Statement of Former Secretary Byrnes of April 8, 1946". I would also refer to my secret letters to then Acting Secretary Acheson of April 3, 11, 18 and 25 and to my secret letter of May 15 to Secretary Marshall. I would also refer to my secret telegram no. 567 of May 9, 8 P.M. for the Secretary and my secret telegram no. 578 of May 12, 2 P.M.

At the close of my telegram no. 567 of May 9, 8 P.M. I stated that I would transmit the lists furnished me by the Foreign Minister a few days ago of the action taken under the Decrees of November 7, 1945, January 12, 1946, January 13, 1946, January 15, 1946, January 14, 1946 and November 15, 1946. I now transmit herewith translations of the abovementioned statements furnished me by the Foreign Minister together with a resume statement based thereon and on other information in the possession of the Embassy.

The Argentine Government has stated to this Embassy that it is continuing the efforts which it has been
has been making through the police and other agencies
at its disposal to locate those persons who are listed
as fugitives in the appended documents and whom up to
now in spite of its best efforts it has not been able
to locate. How many of those who are listed as
fugitives are in the Argentine it is impossible for
this Embassy or for the Argentine Government to state
but this Embassy has reason to believe that there is
a strong probability that some of those who are listed
as fugitives because it has not been possible to
arrest and detain them in spite of the widely spread
efforts of the Argentine Government have escaped to
neighboring countries. It is known that most of those
who are listed as having escaped to nearby countries
have been able to do so through Patagonia.

Respectfully yours,

George S. Messersmith

Enclosures:
Translations of Statements Together with
a Resumé Statement.