

RELEASE IN FULL

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To: H
Subject: More on AV

Here is the news summary:

A/S Valenzuela's Trip to South America: Valenzuela in Argentina Chile's El Mercurio reports that the visit of A/S Valenzuela resulted last night in another misunderstanding between Washington and Buenos Aires because of statements by the US official regarding the management of the Argentine economy. Controversy arose over statement by Valenzuela during a restricted meeting with the local press in which he echoes the concerns of American businessmen in that country regarding "judicial insecurity" and the management of the economy. Valenzuela, also indicated that has been noted "change" in the investment climate for US businesses and reminded those present that "in 1996 there was a great deal of enthusiasm regarding investment" in Argentina. The Argentine Foreign Ministry responded in a communiqué that the government "has not received complaints from US business with interests and investments in the country." Interior Minister Florencia Randazzo lamented that "some officials revert to old practices" when there is the expectation of a new period in US foreign policy." Argentina's Clarín carries the same story titled "Official Anger with Obama's Envoy Because He Spoke about Judicial Insecurity" with the Interior Minister's riposte "Argentina is living in a period of complete judicial and institutional guarantees" and the nation "has left behind the period in which an official of another country can tell ours what guarantees should exist to benefit its own interests." INFOBAE.com adds that Minister of Justice Julio Alak described Valenzuela's statements as "unprecedented and unjustified."