

Unit 5 Crime Wave in the Southern Cone

III Reading Declassified Documents: Operation Condor

Operation Condor

A. Search online for information about Operation Condor at The National Security Archive <http://nsarchive.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB514/> and complete the activity sheet about the National Security Archive Electronic Briefing Book No. 514, posted May 6, 2015.

1. What was Operation Condor?

2. Who is Carlos Osorio? Why did he testify at the historic trial of former military officers in Buenos Aires?

3. Who was on trial and why?

4. From where did the tribunal obtain documents?

5. How did the National Security Archive obtain the U.S. documents.

6. Why was Osorio's testimony enlightening?

7. What does the 13-page memorandum of conversation between Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and Argentine Foreign Minister Admiral Cesar Guzzetti reveal?

8. What is a démarche?

9. What was the démarche that Kissinger authorized?

10. What were the results of the démarche?

Document Study

B. Read and analyze one of the five documents about Operation Condor at The National Security Archive <http://nsarchive.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB514/>.

1. What do you notice about the document at first glance? Consider the following questions: What kind of a document is it? Is the document hand written or typed? Is it clear to read? Is it damaged? Has it been redacted? Have comments been written in the margin?

2. How is the document identified? Is there a case number? Date? Title?

3. What is the subject of the document?

4. Who is the author? Who is the intended audience?

5. What information does the document contain that deemed it necessary to be classified?

6. Name the person or people that might be harmed by the release of this document? What are the repercussions?

7. If these documents were created in 2015, how might they be different? In appearance? In format? Would the technology cause them to be more damaging? Less damaging? Easier to alter?

8. Has this document study improved your understanding of the Dirty War? How has it altered your understanding of international relations? What remaining questions about Operation Condor do you have?

9. Revisit the political cartoon by Carlos Latuff. In light of what you have learned about Operation Condor, reevaluate the cartoon. Why do you think the Operation and the cartoon feature a condor? Note your thoughts below and be prepared to share with classmates.

10. Lesson Extension

Read McSherry, J. Patrice. "Operation Condor: Clandestine Inter-American System." *Social Justice*, Winter 1999 v26 i4 p144. <http://www.public.asu.edu/~idcmt/terror.pdf>

Create your own political cartoon about Operation Condor, the Cold War or the Dirty War based on information gleaned from the above reading.