

University of Mississippi

eGrove

---

Haskins and Sells Publications

Deloitte Collection

---

1951

## Public Practice of Accounting in the Republic of Argentina

Angela M. Lyons

Haskins & Sells Foundation

American Institute of Accountants

Follow this and additional works at: [https://egrove.olemiss.edu/dl\\_hs](https://egrove.olemiss.edu/dl_hs)



Part of the [Accounting Commons](#), and the [Taxation Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Lyons, Angela M.; Haskins & Sells Foundation; and American Institute of Accountants, "Public Practice of Accounting in the Republic of Argentina" (1951). *Haskins and Sells Publications*. 1781.

[https://egrove.olemiss.edu/dl\\_hs/1781](https://egrove.olemiss.edu/dl_hs/1781)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Deloitte Collection at eGrove. It has been accepted for inclusion in Haskins and Sells Publications by an authorized administrator of eGrove. For more information, please contact [egrove@olemiss.edu](mailto:egrove@olemiss.edu).

PUBLIC PRACTICE OF ACCOUNTING

IN THE

REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA

Prepared for

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ACCOUNTANTS

Under the Auspices of

HASKINS & SELLS FOUNDATION, INC.

By

Angela M. Lyons

New York, N. Y., January 1951

## C O N T E N T S

		Page
	General Information . . . . .	1
Section I	Public Practice of Accounting by Nationals . . .	4
	Basic Laws and Regulations . . . . .	4
	Concept of the Profession . . . . .	5
	Regulatory Authority . . . . .	7
	Who May Practice . . . . .	7
	Exercise of the Professions . . . . .	8
	Registration . . . . .	11
	Education of Accountants . . . . .	17
	Some Aspects of Practice With Respect to Corporations . . . . .	20
	Professional Accountants Engaged in Practice .	23
	Professional Accounting Societies . . . . .	29
II	Public Practice of Accounting by United States Citizens and Other Non-Nationals . . . . .	32
	Basic Laws and Regulations . . . . .	32
	Qualification of a United States CPA . . . . .	32
	Permanent Practice . . . . .	33
	Isolated Engagements . . . . .	35
	Immigration Requirements . . . . .	36
	Accountants Established in Practice . . . . .	37
III	Treaties and Legislation . . . . .	38
	Treaties between Argentina and the United States . . . . .	38
	Treaties between Argentina and Other Countries.	39
	Legislation Pending . . . . .	39
Appendix	Sources of Information . . . . .	i

## REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA

### General Information

#### Geography:

The Republic of Argentina, with an area of 1,079,965 square miles, is bounded on the east and southeast by the Atlantic Ocean; on the north by Bolivia; on the northeast by Paraguay and Uruguay; and on the west by Chile. Argentina is the second largest of the twenty Latin American Republics.

The country is divided into fourteen provinces, namely:

Buenos Aires	Entre Rios	Salta	Santiago
Catamarca	Jujuy	San Juan	del Estero
Cordoba	La Rioja	San Luis	and
Corrientes	Mendoza	Santa Fe	Tucuman

It has ten national territories: Chaco, Chubut, Formosa, Misiones, Neuquen, La Pampa, Rio Negro, Santa Cruz, Zona Militar de Comodoro Rivadavia, and Tierra del Fuego.

Buenos Aires, the Capital, with a population of 3,061,520 on July 31, 1948, is the largest city of Argentina and the largest city of Latin America. It is growing rapidly through immigration and influx from rural districts. Greater Buenos Aires, which had a population of 4,069,017 in 1947, constitutes the principal industrial area of Argentina. Other important cities are Rosario, Santa Fe, Mendoza, Neuquen, Tucuman, and Cordoba.

### People:

Argentina has a population of more than 16,000,000 inhabitants, 31 percent of whom dwell in cities of 50,000 or more. This population is overwhelmingly European in origin, with only about 2 percent of mestizos. It has the lowest illiteracy rate among the South American countries, being estimated at 15 percent in 1947. Spanish is the language of the country.

### Economy:

The economic structure of Argentina depends to a large extent on its principal exports of agricultural products and products of the associated livestock industry. The principal industry is meat refrigeration and ranking second is flour-milling. Argentina's mining and petroleum industry is of relatively minor significance. In recent years the tendency has been for local consumption to take up more of the country's exportable products and for the rising industrial production to render the country less dependent on imports.

Besides Greater Buenos Aires, other industrial areas include: Rosario, with oil refineries, paper mills, meat packing plants, and chemical and tanning industries; Santa Fe, with zinc and copper smelting plants, flour mills, and dairy production; Mendoza and Neuquen, with wineries and fruit processing plants; Tucuman, with sugar mills; Chaco region, with cotton gins and sawmills; and Comodoro Rivadavia and Bahia Blanca, with oil-refining plants.

Agricultural products account for from 50 to 65 percent of total exports. In 1947 the United States took about 9 percent in value of Argentina's exports and furnished about 44 percent in value of its imports. The principal imports in that year, in order of value, were machinery and vehicles, textiles, iron and manufactures, fuels and lubricants, chemicals and dyes, timber, metals other than iron, paper, foodstuffs, rubber, and rubber manufactures.

In 1947 there were 101,884 industrial establishments, as compared with 57,940 in 1941, but only 53 factories employed more than 1,000 workers.

## SECTION I

### PUBLIC PRACTICE OF ACCOUNTING BY NATIONALS

#### Basic Laws and Regulations

The Constitution of Argentina, approved by the National Constituent Assembly on March 11, 1949, governs all its inhabitants. In referring to them, the Constitution makes no distinction between nationals and foreigners with respect to rights, duties, and guarantees of personal freedom. Nationals may be either native-born or naturalized. So far as the public practice of accounting is concerned, there is no distinction between such citizens provided they comply with the qualification requirements. In fact, the various Decree-Laws which govern the accounting profession make no stipulation as to Argentine nationality.

In the Federal Capital of Buenos Aires, the fourteen provinces, and the ten national territories, the following basic laws regulate not only the profession of Contador Publico Nacional (National Public Accountant) but also the professions of Doctor en Ciencias Economicas (Doctor in Economic Sciences) and Actuarie (Actuary):

Decree-Law No. 5,103, March 2, 1945 (incorporated in Law of Congress No. 12,921 of December 31, 1946) providing that the practice of the professions of National Public Accountant, Doctor in Economic Sciences, and Actuary in all the territory of the Republic shall be subject to the regulations therein prescribed and such other regulations as may thereafter be issued.

Decree-Law No. 29,009, November 17, 1945, relating to the administrative matter of authorizing the fee for the inscription of professionals in the respective registers.

Decree-Law No. 34,331, December 29, 1945 (subsequently incorporated in Law of Congress No. 12,921 of December 31, 1946), fixing rates for fees of professionals.

Decree-Law No. 4,460, July 27, 1946, approving regulations for enforcement of Decree-Law No. 5,103 of March 2, 1945.

### Concept of the Profession

The profession of Public Accountant is regarded as a university or "liberal" profession in Argentina. Undoubtedly, the principal motive for enacting legislation in recent years was to preserve the practice of accountancy to nationals and to widen the scope of activities of the Argentine professional accountants. Nevertheless, greater importance appears to be attached to matters relating to governmental administration, bankruptcies, and other work designated by the courts than to the types of engagements performed by United States public accountants. This is indicated by the classifications of matters, provided by Article 4 of Decree-Law No. 5,103, for which the title of National Public Accountant is mandatory:

In Judicial Matters -- when signed reports or opinions must be made.

In Commercial Matters -- when opinions serve judicial or administrative purposes or are intended to indicate authenticity.

In Accounting Matters -- for certification of balance sheets and entries and for notarial purposes.



In Administrative Matters -- for certification of balance sheets, accounting statements, and other information relative to accounting.

Further details of the particular instances contemplated within these four classifications are given under "Exercise of the Profession" at page 8.

Inasmuch as the professions of Doctor in Economic Sciences and Actuary are regulated by the same laws which govern Public Accountants and some of their functions may overlap those of a Public accountant -- as they are understood in the United States -- we will now dispose of the specific instances (provided by Decree-Law No. 5,103) when the two former titles are required.

Doctor in Economic Sciences-

Article 13 (A) states that this title shall be required in every opinion related with problems of economics or finance which is intended for presentation to judicial and administrative authorities or to indicate authenticity.

Actuary-

Article 13(C) provides that this title shall be required for every report relative to calculation of rates, insurance plans, beneficiaries or subsidies, and technical reserves which must be submitted by insurance companies, building and loan, savings, reciprocal credit, and mutual societies to their members or outside parties, to the Superintendency of Insurance, Inspection of Justice, or other governmental departments; for opinions about reserves which such companies and societies must publish annually with their balance sheets and statements of earnings; and for every report which is compulsory in judgments involving technical questions related to statistics and calculation of probabilities in their application to insurance, building and loan companies, or reciprocal credit operations.

### Regulatory Authority

Decree-Law No. 5,103 of 1945 provides that in the Federal Capital of Buenos Aires, the national territories, and in each of the provinces there shall be a Professional Council, composed of fifteen registered professionals, whose services are honorary and obligatory. Of the members of each Council, thirteen must be Doctors in Economic Sciences or National Public Accountants and two must be Actuaries. The Professional Councils are subject to the supervision of the Secretary of Labor and Welfare.

### Who May Practice

Article 1 of Decree-Law No. 5,103 provides that "an indispensable requirement for the exercise of the professions of Doctor in Economic Sciences, National Public Accountant, and Actuary is inscription in the respective register by each professional." Therefore, it is not possible for a person to practice public accounting by merely describing himself as an "accountant" or "public accountant and auditor."

Article 8 of this law provides that the use of the title of any of the professions therein mentioned is subject to the following rules:

1. Only living persons are permitted to use a title.
2. Associations, societies or any group of professionals may not in any case use the titles of the professions regulated by this decree-law nor offer professional services as such, unless all the members hold the respective qualifying title.
3. In every case, the use shall be determined, excluding the possibility of any error or doubt.

## Exercise of the Professions

### Definition:

Article 3 of Law No. 5,103 states that, in addition to all activities which normally are within the scope of knowledge accredited by the respective titles, the following acts shall be considered to be exercise of the professions:

1. Offering or performance of professional services.
2. Performance of functions derived from judicial or official appointments or from proposals of parties.
3. The issuance, completion, expediting, and presentation of decisions, consultations, studies, advice, expert testimony, attested copies, appraisals, writings, accounts, analyses, projects or any similar work intended for submission to public authorities or private persons.

### Specific Functions of National Public Accountants:

Article 4 (B) of Law No. 5,103 deals with the instances when the title of National Public Accountant is required. The specific functions are given in detail below:

- A. In Judicial Matters -- when signed reports or opinions must be presented in connection with-
  1. Acts of syndics (receivers) in bankruptcies and creditors' agreements and in liquidations in connection with patrimonial estates, distribution of funds and calculation of dividends.
  2. Accounting agreements for all patrimonial estates relating to distribution of funds, calculation of dividends, and any mathematical computations in judgments which may be presented by receivers, in civil proceedings, when the receivers are not public accountants.
  3. Calculations and corresponding distributions in questions relating to transportation in general, which involve liquidation of averages and insurance.
  4. Preparing and signing jointly with the intervening attorney partition accounts for successors' judgments.

5. Preparing accounting statements in dissolutions and liquidations of civil and commercial societies (including companies, corporations, and partnerships) and for all accountings with respect to administration of assets.
6. Attesting to copies of books, documents, or any questions related thereto requiring explanations of accounting matters.
7. Accounting duties in judicial administrations when the designated administrator is not an accountant. (The Professional Council determines any exceptions to this provision.)

B. In Commercial Matters -- when opinions serve judicial or administrative purposes or are intended to indicate authenticity, in connection with-

1. Economic and financial studies of the condition and progress of commercial estates.
2. Determination of economic results of civil or commercial associations (companies, corporations, and partnerships) as well as the study and determination of cost prices.
3. Review of accounting and control of entries; examining visa-ing of documents, and certifications as to audit of values in permanent or transitory form.
4. Certification interpreting commercial condition and earnings schedules of commercial and civil enterprises for fiscal or administrative purposes, including certification of commercial or civil balance sheets (of companies with capital of \$500,000 pesos or more or net sales of \$1,000,000 pesos or more) and declarations of assets in general intended for presentation to any official or private banking or financial entity. (The Professional Council determines any exception to this provision.)
5. Liquidation of averages.
6. Audit of inventories serving as a basis for transfer of any business and for the formation, merger, dissolution or liquidation of any kind of society (company, corporation, or partnership).

7. Review, control and certification of accounting matters and for economic and financial studies in cases involving any society which exploits concessions granted by authorities or which have been constituted to favor any privilege, insurance company, banking institution, enterprise, or association of companies (with capital of \$50,000 pesos or more).
8. Supervision of accounting in accordance with the provisions of Chapter III, Title II, Book I of the Commercial Code.<sup>1</sup>
9. Audit and certification of balance sheets and earnings statements as consultants to syndics of corporations and to revisors of accounts of civil associations when the syndics or revisors of accounts are not national public accountants. If the syndics of corporations or revisors of accounts are national public accountants they must be independent with respect to the entities whose balance sheets and earnings statements they certify and to any entities founded upon them.
10. Intervention with respect to every contract concerning issuance of debentures and loans granted by the Industrial Bank, when the designated trustees are not national public accountants.
11. Auditing in the accounting organization of every class of associations and civil and commercial societies.
12. Intervening jointly with attorneys in cases involving contracts and by-laws of every class of civil and commercial society which present problems of a financial, economic, tax, or accounting nature.
13. Signing balance sheets of banks, in accordance with the legal requirements.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> The Commercial Code requires that traders engaged in the purchase and sale of merchandise must keep certain books, viz., Journal, Inventory, and Letter Copy Book in a prescribed manner.

<sup>2</sup> A public accountant may not sign the balance sheet of more than one bank, and he must be independent in relation to the bank whose balance sheet he certifies.

- C. In Accounting Matters for literal certification of posted balances in respective books, when opinion as to authenticity is required; certification of entries in respective books when opinion as to their correctness must be made; and certification of balances and entries for notarial purposes.
- D. In Administrative Matters for certification of balance sheets, accounting statements, and reports relative to accounting (including analytical studies of assets and liabilities and supporting profit and loss statements) which are presented by corporations of all kinds and commercial companies in general to governmental authorities or official institutions. (The Professional Council may determine any exceptions to this provision.)

It will be observed that included in the functions of an Argentine Public Accountant are many of the duties of a controller or chief accountant in the United States and that exercise of the profession is not limited to only such work as may be performed for a client. As previously mentioned, emphasis appears to be placed upon assignments which serve judicial or administrative purposes.

### Registration

#### General Conditions:

Article 37 of Decree-Law No. 4,460, regulating Decree-Law No. 5,103, provides that separate registers must be maintained by the respective Professional Councils for inscribing the matriculated professionals (graduates) of each profession. Article 38 of the same Decree-Law states that when a professional possesses more than one title, he must be inscribed in the register for each of the professions in which he desires to engage in practice. The following requirements apply to the registration of graduates:

1. A degree awarded by the National University of Buenos Aires, or any other national university which awards degrees, provided that such degrees are granted upon completion of studies equal to those given by the former; or
2. A degree conferred by a foreign university which has been recognized or revalidated by a National University; or
3. A diploma granted by a Superior School of Commerce or such other school that may award diplomas upon completion of studies equal to the courses given by the former; or
4. A diploma granted by national or provincial authorities prior to the creation of university careers; or
5. Employment by the State, Provinces, Municipalities, or any entity of public right, when the law relating thereto specifically states that a professional graduate must perform the duties involved.

Under the terms of Article 49 of the same Decree-Law, the respective Professional Councils must maintain a "Special Register for Non-Graduates." Persons who, at March 23, 1945, proved that they were performing or had performed functions, offices, or duties (except in the Public Administration) which could be considered as independent professional practice, were entitled to be inscribed in this Special Register.

#### Council Procedure:

The procedure with respect to applications for inscription in either register is the same. Applications are presented directly to the Special Committee of Internal Information of the particular council and are passed upon by its members. This Committee must grant the inscription within fifteen days or assign a reason to the Professional Council for failure to do so. The Committee's decision is given to the Members of the Council.

A single member of the Council may move for suspension of an application until the next meeting. If, at the next meeting, there shall be no new motion for delay, supported by at least five members of the Council, the matter of the application will be put to vote and resolved by a simple majority of votes. In case the proposal for delay is sufficiently supported, further delay will be conceded by the vote of two-thirds of the members.

An applicant has the right to appeal within ten days after being notified of the Council's resolution refusing inscription, or in the event the Council fails to publish its announcement, within ninety days of the presentation of the application. No appeal lies after ten days from notification of refusal (Articles 46 and 47 of Decree-Law No. 4,460).

Application Requirements:

The respective Registers must contain the following data with respect to each registrant, most of which must be furnished in the candidate's application:

1. Place and date
2. Names and surnames
3. Civil status
4. Nationality
5. Number of identity card; if one held
6. Number of book of enrolment
7. Particular domicile
8. Titles held
9. Institutions where studies completed
10. Date of graduation
11. Length of time in professional practice
12. Branches of specialization
13. Positions held, giving length of time in each
14. Whether folder of recommendations accompanies application
15. Observations

Two photographs and the registration fee must accompany the application.



There is no regulation as to the minimum age for a Public Accountant. However, it would seem that a person must have reached full age by the time he is qualified to practice as a public accountant, considering that the age for admission to an elementary school is six years, the length of study in the elementary and secondary schools is usually eleven years, and study on the university level requires four years or more.

There is no provision in the regulatory laws that registered public accountants shall be citizens of Argentina.

Under the laws in force, practical experience is not a condition precedent for an accountant to be registered as a public accountant. The holder of a degree is legally entitled to practice his profession without experience or further examination, subject to the absolute requirement of registration.

No examinations are given by the Professional Councils. The only examinations necessary are those taken by a candidate prior to receiving his degree or diploma. For further discussion of this topic, see "Education of Accountants" at page 17.

#### License to Practice:

Once the inscription is authorized by the Council, an entry must be made in the respective register showing the following data with respect to each person inscribed:

1. Number of application and date received
2. Number and date of inscription
3. Number of record and date of the meeting in which the Professional Council ordered the inscription
4. Names and surnames of the individual
5. Civil status
6. Nationality

7. Number of identity card, if held
8. Number of book of enrolment
9. Particular domicil
10. Professional domicil
11. Degrees and other facts of academic nature
12. Public establishment or institution recognized by the State in which studies were completed
13. Date of graduation
14. Length of time in the exercise of profession
15. Branches of specialization
16. Number of the file of recommendations
17. Remarks
18. Signature of the President and of the Secretary of the Council

The professional is then furnished with a certificate showing:

1. Number and date of inscription in the register
2. Names and surnames of individual
3. Number of the identity document presented
4. Photograph of individual
5. Title held
6. Signature of the individual
7. Signature of the President and of the Secretary of the Council.

Revalidation or Recognition of Foreign Degrees:

Article 43 of Decree-Law No. 4,460 lays down the general rule with respect to registration of the holder of a degree conferred by a foreign university that it must be incorporated or revalidated by a National University and that the candidate must in all cases meet these requirements:

- a) His foreign diploma was conferred after a complete cycle of instruction equal or superior to that furnished in the respective Faculty of the University of Buenos Aires; and
- b) He has resided continuously in the country for not less than two years.

The foregoing provisions appear to be intended to apply to Argentine citizens who have obtained degrees in foreign countries or to citizens of such countries as have agreements with Argentina providing for reciprocity with respect to professional degrees. Under the Treaty of Montevideo of 1889, to which Argentina was a signatory with Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay, professional titles or diplomas earned in one country are recognized in the other countries.

However, at least two national universities (Buenos Aires and Cordoba) will not now admit foreign students who intend to practice a profession in Argentina. No doubt the same rule applies in the other national universities. If a foreign student should be admitted for enrolment, the degree awarded to him at the completion of his course of study would be invalid for practicing a profession.

There being no treaty in effect between the United States and Argentina under which either country would recognize the degrees earned in the other, a United States degree would not be recognized or incorporated in a national university. Even an Argentine citizen who has earned his degree in the United States would be required to take additional courses and pass the examinations given by a national university before being eligible for registration as a National Public Accountant.

Accountants in Practice at Date of Restrictive Legislation:

All persons who, on March 23, 1945, proved that they had performed or were performing functions, offices, or duties (other

than in Public Administration) which would be considered as professional practice were entitled to be inscribed, within ninety days thereafter, in the "Special Register of Non-Graduates." Persons who failed to avail themselves of the privilege, without just cause, were thereafter prohibited from offering or performing professional services.

#### Education of Accountants

The Faculty of Economic Sciences of the National University at Buenos Aires sets the pattern for education of all professionals in economic sciences. Article 72 of Decree-Law No. 4,460 declares that with respect to the provisions of Article 13, Paragraph A, of Decree-Law No. 5,103 (see page 6), it is intended by "opinions relating to problems in economics and finance," those opinions which require knowledge comprised in the plan of studies in the Faculty of Economic Sciences of the National University at Buenos Aires leading to the degree of Doctor.

Also, Article 38 of the same Decree-Law states that for inscription in the Register of Graduates, a person must have a degree awarded by the National University of Buenos Aires, or by any other national university providing that the degree from the latter is based upon completion of studies equal to those furnished by the former. Upon satisfactory completion of courses and passing final comprehensive examinations, degrees of National Public Accountant and Doctor in Economic Sciences are conferred by the six national universities at Buenos Aires, Cordoba, Cuyo, La Plata, Tucuman, and Litoral. The Technological Institute of Sur also has

a School of Commercial Science which awards the degree of Public Accountant.

The following summary shows the length of the courses of study at the respective institutions which award the degrees of National Public Accountant and Doctor in Economic Sciences:

<u>Institution</u>	<u>Public Accountant</u>	<u>Doctor</u>
University of Buenos Aires	4 years	5 years
University of Litoral <sup>1</sup>	3 "	6 "
University of Cordoba <sup>1</sup>	5 "	6 "
University of Cuyo	4 "	6 "
University of La Plata <sup>2</sup>	4 "	6 "
University of Tucuman <sup>3</sup>	4 "	6 "
Technological Institute of Sur	4 "	-

Admission to Argentine universities, with the exception of the National University of Buenos Aires, is based upon eleven years' prior schooling, including five years of secondary training, and passing entrance examinations. The National University of Buenos Aires requires an additional year of preparatory work.

Argentine courses are said to be highly specialized and do not include the general liberal arts subjects commonly required for degrees in the United States. For admission to study economic sciences, a student must have a bachillerato universitario or a diploma of Perito Mercantil Nacional (National Mercantile Expert), based upon a commercial course in a secondary school. The bachillerato is equivalent to a high school diploma in the United States.

---

<sup>1</sup> Its Faculty of Economic Sciences is said to be outstanding.

<sup>2</sup> Temporary plan of studies in effect beginning in 1950.

<sup>3</sup> Faculty of Economic Sciences established in 1950.

The following is the plan of studies offered at the National University of Buenos Aires for the degree of Public Accountant:

Preparatory Course-

Introduction to the study of mathematics  
 Introduction to the study of accounting  
 Introduction to the study of economics  
 Introduction to the study of philosophy  
 and social sciences  
 History of civilization  
 Language (English, French or German), elective

First Year-

Mathematics  
 Economic history  
 General economic geography  
 Civil law (part I)  
 Practice in mathematics

Second Year-

Statistics  
 National economic geography  
 Political economy (general course)  
 Civil law (part II)  
 Commercial law (part I)  
 Constitutional and administrative law  
 Practice in statistics

Third Year-

Financial and actuarial mathematics  
 Finance (general course)  
 Industrial organization and economy  
 Commercial law (part II)  
 Labor legislation  
 General accounting  
 Practice in financial and actuarial mathematics  
 Practice in general accounting

Fourth Year-

Banking organization and economy  
 Corporations and insurance companies  
 International private law and consular legislation  
 Professional practice of the accountant  
 Public accounting<sup>1</sup>  
 Practical work in professional accounting practice  
 Practical work in public accounting<sup>1</sup>

A further year of studies, principally devoted to economic subjects) is necessary for the degree of Doctor in Economic Sciences which corresponds closely to the degree of Master of Science awarded in the United States.

---

<sup>1</sup> Public accounting here means governmental or fiscal accounting and includes budgets, fiscal accounting, etc.

Only one specimen examination was furnished to us by the National University of Buenos Aires. It dealt with Contabilidad Publica (Public Accounting) but was entirely based on governmental accounting, budgets, and similar fiscal matters. There were no problems in this specimen, such as are contained in examinations given by United States educational institutions.

As previously stated, the holder of a degree is entitled to practice his profession without further examination but subject to registration. Of course, before being awarded his degree he must satisfactorily pass final examinations.

Some Aspects of Practice  
With Respect to Corporations

Statutory Auditors and Annual Audits:

Under the provisions of the Commercial Code, financial statements of all corporations must be presented annually to the Inspection Division of the Department of Justice, signed by a sindico (syndic) or sindicos (syndics), appointed at the general shareholders meeting. A syndic is not required to be a registered public accountant.

Article 340 of the Commercial Code defines the duties of syndics as follows:

The syndics (auditors) shall be elected at least once a year by the general meeting and may be dismissed at any time. Their duties shall be as follows, without prejudice to any others which the articles of association may impose upon them-

1. To examine the company's books and documents whenever they think fit and at least every three months.
2. To call extraordinary general meetings when they consider it to be necessary and to call the general meeting if the board neglects to do so.

3. To attend meetings of the board with a consulting vote, whenever they think fit.
4. To supervise the administration of the company by frequently examining the condition of the funds and the holdings of bonds and securities of all kinds.
5. To see that the articles of association are complied with as regards the conditions relating to shareholders' participation in meetings.
6. To supervise the winding up of the company.
7. To report upon the statements, inventory, and balance sheet presented by the board.
8. In general, to see that the board complies with the laws and with the company's articles of association and rules.

Auditors shall take care to carry out their duties in such manner as not to upset the regularity of the company's administration.

From the foregoing definition, it will be seen that the duties of the Argentine sindico-- of which there is no counterpart in the United States -- consist also of management functions. The usual procedure is for the syndic to present the balance sheet and profit-and-loss statement to the shareholders with a certificate to the effect that in accordance with the Commercial Code he has examined the report, balance sheet, and profit-and-loss account submitted by the Directors relative to the financial year of the company in question, and having found them to be in agreement with the books of the same, he recommends them for adoption. It is not necessary for the certificate to contain any qualification.

Apparently, however, if the syndic is not a public accountant, he must engage a registered public accountant because the accounting regulations state that in commercial matters when



opinions are required for judicial or administrative purposes or are intended for authenticity, the signature of a National Public Accountant is necessary and he must make the required audit and certification.

Furthermore, Book II, Part I, Subdivision 1 of the Commercial Code has the following provisions with respect to "Accounts":

Article 360. The directors shall, every three months, submit to the syndics a balance sheet of the company and publish it, together with the syndics' approval thereof, for three days.

Article 361. At the end of every year, the directors shall submit to the auditors an inventory and a detailed balance sheet showing the assets and liabilities of the company; a profit and loss account and a report on the progress and position of the company, containing a statement as to the operations which have been conducted or which are in course of being effected and the proposals with regard to dividends and the reserve fund, as the case may be.

Article 362. The syndics shall examine said documents and shall draw up a written report thereon, whereupon said documents together with a list of the shareholders who are to attend the general meeting shall be available for the free inspection of all interested parties.

At the same time the said documents shall be printed and circulated to the shareholders at least ten days before the date fixed for the general meeting.

Upon approval of the documents by said meeting, they shall be published in a daily newspaper of the place<sup>1</sup> where the company is domiciled.

The extent to which annual audits have been required in the past has depended entirely upon the wishes of the business houses concerned. With the growth of industrialization and increasing complexity of tax laws and through other regulations, there has undoubtedly been an increasing need for audits.

---

<sup>1</sup> For companies in the City of Buenos Aires, in the Boletin Oficial.

It should be noted that even in the case of a United States company doing business in Argentina, if its balance sheet must be published, the signature of an Argentine Public Accountant is required when the syndic does not hold such title.

#### Tax Returns:

Under the Income Tax Law and Regulations, traders, commercial or civil bodies, and private persons keeping books which enable them to draw up a balance sheet in commercial form must determine taxable income on the basis of such balance sheet and must file a sworn declaration of such income accompanied by the balance sheet.

Sworn declarations which must be filed on Form No. 126 and Form No. 126, continued, by entities with juridical personality and branches or representatives of companies with foreign capital must be accompanied by a signed report, balance sheet and statement of profit-and-loss. These documents must be signed by either a Doctor in Economic Sciences or a matriculated (graduate) Public Accountant when the capital of the company is greater than \$500,000 pesos or the amount of operations is \$1,000,000 pesos or more.

#### Professional Accountants Engaged in Practice

##### Standards and Code of Ethics:

In addition to the general rules that a professional is not permitted to associate in the practice of his profession with persons who lack the qualifying title and that he shall not allow another person to practice in his name, the Argentine Public

Accountant is subject to a Code of Ethics. This Code was formulated by the Professional Councils under authority of Decree-Law No. 5,103, and was adopted on July 30, 1945. The principal rules are abstracted below:

Conduct- The professional must observe the rules for professional conduct before magistrates and officials and with respect to other professionals. He may not make offers of employment to employees of another professional without the latter's knowledge, but he may negotiate with anyone who voluntarily presents himself or who applies in response to advertisements. A professional may not act as director, shareholder, representative, agent, professor, or conferee, or in any other manner, in an institution of instruction of whatever kind there may be, that develops its activities by means of advertising or proceedings which are considered improper.

Probity- A professional must not sign reports nor give expert testimony or opinions, nor certifications which have not been prepared or personally reviewed by him or under his direction. He must assure himself of the correctness of such statements and act with independence of judgment. Every report, opinion, testimony, or certification must be clear, precise and objective, and give the source of information together with the facts utilized for the preparation thereof.

Clientele- A professional must scrupulously avoid the indirect solicitation of clients, abstaining from the use of brokers. He shall not attend to matters which another professional has handled, without giving notice to the latter by writing as promptly as possible. A professional may not encroach upon the clients of another, but may furnish services when requested.

Advertising- Publicity is limited to announcing the surname and name, domicil, telephone, and speciality, and must be made in a moderate manner.

Incompatibilities- Every professional must respect the legal provisions establishing incompatibilities with his profession; he shall be excused from accepting any designation to settle a controversy when one of the parties is related, or is a friend, or there are common interests or any other circumstances that would prevent impartiality in his opinion. He shall avoid the accumulation of offices, tasks, or matters which might lead to compromising the independence of his opinions or make it impossible for him to give his personal attention.

Fees- Professionals in Economic Sciences are obliged to collect the minimum fees fixed by law, as provided by Article 18, Clause 6 of Decree-Law No. 5,103. (This refers to Schedule of Fees fixed by Decree No. 34,331 of December 29, 1946 and Law No. 12,921 of December 31, 1946. See page 26.)

A professional may not accept participations nor collect commissions for business which he shares with another professional unless they act jointly in performing the work. This provision does not apply to professionals who act in firms.

A professional is not permitted to accept commissions or participations for business, matters, or operations which, with respect to his own activity, he shares with other professionals such as lawyers, notaries, etc.

When a professional acts before a client on behalf of another professional, he may not receive a fee or other compensation without express authorization of the person for whom he acts.

A professional who does not act as an employee shall refrain from accepting work or designations or performing any task, compensation for which is conditioned on the profits or results of operations, except in the case of a syndic of a corporation when the statutes fix this form of remuneration.

Professional Secrets- A professional must refrain from divulging any matters which he learns in accordance with the established relationship of professional practice. The obligation of guarding secrets comes before the necessity of personal defense.

The Code of Ethics is applicable to Doctors in Economic Sciences and Actuaries, in addition to Public Accountants, and to the persons who, being without titles, have been inscribed in the "Special Register of Non-Graduates."

Independence of Professional Accountants:

Article 66 of Decree-Law No. 4,460 expressly states that professional accountants shall not exercise their functions with respect to any persons, enterprises, or societies (companies, corporations, or partnerships), entities or groups of entities economically founded upon them, unless they are in an independent relation with respect thereto.

Article 67 of the same Decree-Law provides that interest or economic dependency exists with respect to persons, enterprises or firms when the accountant is an associate, administrator or director of any of them.

Article 68 states that by "dependency with respect to persons, enterprises, societies, entities or groups of entities economically founded upon them," it is meant those which, in spite of being legally independent, meet any of the following conditions:

- a. When there is a chain of capitalization.
- b. When one entity buys from or sells to the other the greater part of its production.
- c. When the entities have the same directors, members, or shareholders.
- d. When, by reason of the nature of the operations, they must be considered as a single business.

Minimum Fees:

Decree No. 34,331 of December 29, 1946 (incorporated in Law No. 12,921 of December 31, 1946) provided for a "tariff" or schedule of fees for professionals in economic sciences who act in national jurisdiction covering work on judicial matters and also for minimum fees for services in connection with administrative and commercial matters. This schedule is applicable only to the free or independent practice of the profession when services are performed in accordance with the provisions of Decree-Laws No. 5,103 and No. 4,460, but does not affect agreements for fees which were in effect at December 31, 1946. However, a professional accountant may contract freely for an increased fee for services in non-judicial matters, depending upon the nature and importance of the work to be performed.

The following are but a few of the cases in which minimum fees are fixed and, by no means, represent a comprehensive list:

Article 15 declares that the minimum fee for the audit of a civil, commercial, or industrial enterprise shall be \$1,200 pesos.

Article 16 stipulates that for the annual certification of the general balance sheet and the related statements of results of a commercial, civil, or industrial enterprise, whatever its object, the minimum fee is fixed at \$500 pesos, but

Article 17 provides that such minimum fee may be reduced by fifty percent in cases where the capital is less than \$500,000 pesos or the net sales are less than \$1,000,000 pesos.

Article 18 deals with annual certifications of balance sheets of banks, the minimum fee being \$1,000 pesos for shareholders' entities of the Central Bank, and \$500 pesos for others. In cases of banks with branches, the minimum fee is \$150 pesos for each branch up to 20 branches; \$100 pesos for each branch from 21 to 60; and if there are more than 60 branches, a supplementary fee of \$3,000 pesos is fixed for the excess number.

Article 24 states that when a balance sheet does not reflect a period of twelve months' operations, the minimum fee shall be determined in proportion to the number of months the enterprise was in operation.

#### Work Record and Signature:

Professionals are required to keep a book, register, or system for recording "Opinions" rendered and engagements performed.

Such record must contain the following data:

1. Name and surname of client
2. Domicil
3. Judge, Secretary, and denomination of judicial decrees in the case
4. Date of the opinion
5. Summary of the opinion
6. Agreed or regular fee
7. Fee received

When two or more professionals act jointly, each one must make a record in his book of "Opinions."

A professional accountant must sign the license which evidences that he has been duly registered. When it becomes necessary to do so in order to legalize an opinion issued by a registered accountant, the Professional Council must certify his signature.

The use of the signature in any professional activity must be accompanied by a seal indicating the accountant's name and surnames together with his registration number in the Register of Graduates or in the Special Register of Non-Graduates, as the case may be.

Number of National Public Accountants in Practice:

The Colegio de Doctores en Ciencias Economicas y Contadores Publicos Nacionales (College of Doctors in Economic Sciences and National Public Accountants) of Buenos Aires reported in September 1950 that there were approximately 3,000 accountants practicing the profession in Buenos Aires.

According to Anuario Kraft, a business directory published for use in many of the Latin American countries, in 1949 there were some 722 Public Accountants listed under the Federal Capital of Buenos Aires and 1,410 under other cities. The following summary shows the number of 1949 listings of Public Accountants (including Doctors in Economic Sciences) in the principal cities outside of the capital:

Santa Fe	132	Bahia Blanca	37
Cordoba	129	Concordia	23
La Plata	109	Avellaneda	19
Rosario	106	Lomas de Zamore	15
Mendoza	101	Salta	12
Tucuman	76	San Juan	9
Parana	56		

A scrutiny of the listings referred to disclosed that practically all of them related to individuals and, except for only two or three cases, bore Spanish names. There were only a few cases noted of firms, also bearing Spanish names, among the listings.

Several of the major international firms are established in Argentina as civil associations, with juridical personality, and their members are registered as National Public Accountants. The situation with respect to practice by such firms will be considered under Section II of this report.

#### Professional Accounting Societies

The Professional Council in the Federal Capital and the subordinate councils in the provinces and territories are the regulatory bodies legally authorized to govern Public Accountants. The Colegio de Doctores en Ciencias Economicas y Contadores Publicos Nacionales (College of Doctors in Economic Sciences and National Public Accountants) was founded in 1917 and in 1920 merged with the Colegio de Contadores (College of Accountants) which had been established in 1891. By Decree-Law No. 5,103 (Article 22) this association was recognized as the organization representing the professional public accountants with respect to the formation of the first Professional Council in the Federal Capital.

A number of professional accounting societies had been organized throughout Argentina, and in 1925, the Federacion de Colegios de Doctores en Ciencias Economicas y Contadores Publicos Nacionales (Federation of Colleges of Doctors in Economic Sciences



and National Public Accountants) was formed. Affiliated with this Federation are accounting societies enumerated below with their respective memberships:

College of Doctors in Economic Sciences and National Public Accountants of Buenos Aires (1,800 members) ✓

College of Graduates of the Faculty of Economic, Commercial and Political Sciences, Rosario (350 members) ✓

College of Public Accountants, Cordoba (300 members)

College of Public Accountants, Mendoza (100 members)

College of Public Accountants, La Plata ( 150 members)

College of Public Accountants, Bahia Blanca (100 members)

College of Public Accountants of Tucuman (80 members)

It is our understanding that other accounting societies are in existence in Misiones, San Juan, and La Rioja, and it is not clear whether these organizations are also affiliated with the Federation.

\* The College of Doctors in Economic Sciences and National Public Accountants of Buenos Aires publishes Revista de Ciencias Economicas (Review of Economic Sciences), and the society of Public Accountants in Santa Fe issues Contabilidad y Comercio (Accounting and Commerce). Both of these publications are issued monthly.

The Pan American Union of Technicians in Economic Sciences, which is composed of a number of professional societies established in the various Latin American countries, also has its headquarters in Buenos Aires. Among the members of the Union are the Federation of Colleges of Argentina; the societies in Rosario, Santa Fe, and Mendoza; and the accounting associations of Bolivia, Brazil,

Colombia, Cuba, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Chile, Panama, and Ecuador. The primary aim of this organization is to develop a unified inter-American accounting profession.

The Pan American Union was not represented at the First Inter-American Conference on Accounting which was held in Puerto Rico in 1949. However, a delegate from the College of Doctors in Economic Sciences and National Public Accountants of Buenos Aires was in attendance at this conference.

## SECTION II

### PUBLIC PRACTICE OF ACCOUNTING BY UNITED STATES CITIZENS AND OTHER NON-NATIONALS

#### Basic Laws and Regulations

The same basic laws and regulations, discussed in Section I, which govern the public practice of accounting by Argentines also govern the accounting activities carried on by United States citizens and other non-nationals.

#### Qualification of a United States CPA

It is now virtually impossible for a United States CPA to qualify for registration as a National Public Accountant of Argentina for the purpose of engaging in permanent practice. In the first place, under the laws cited, there is the absolute requirement that a candidate for registration must have a degree from a national university. Secondly, a United States CPA would not be admitted to a national university for further study leading to a degree which would permit him to practice the accounting profession. Thirdly, there is no treaty presently in effect between Argentina and the United States with reciprocal provisions for recognition of professional degrees or studies made; nor is there any commercial treaty in effect between the two countries by which a United States CPA would be allowed to engage in accounting activities, subject to national qualification.

It is barely possible that if a United States citizen had a degree from a university in one of the countries with which Argentina has an agreement as to recognition of professional degrees, such foreign degree might be revalidated or incorporated in a national university. A discussion of this subject has previously been given on page 16.

Inasmuch as proof of practical experience is not a condition precedent for the practice of the profession in Argentina, proof of such experience obtained in the United States, Argentina, or elsewhere would not be a factor in procuring registration of a United States CPA. Membership in a foreign professional society, such as the American Institute of Accountants or any state CPA society, would have no bearing on the registration requirements.

A United States CPA who is not registered in Argentina as a National Public Accountant is not permitted to practice in his professional capacity. He can not sign accounts or letters or give opinions, and -- in view of all the restrictions imposed by the various laws -- can not now become a partner in an established accounting firm in Argentina.

#### Permanent Practice

There appear to be no branch offices of strictly United States accounting firms practicing in the Federal Capital of Argentina or in other cities throughout the country. However, there are several major international firms, established as "civil societies" and using firm names reserved to the partners in that

country. Such firms though associated with United States or other foreign firms, are administered independently. These firms, of course, must have a resident, qualified partner though he need not be a national. Under the terms of Article 8 of Decree-Law No. 5,103, all partners of a firm must be qualified in order to use the title of National Public Accountants. It would seem, also, that a manager in charge of an office who exercises independent judgment must be a registered professional, though he need not be a national.

An Argentine qualified accountant may not engage in practice with a United States CPA or other non-national who is not duly qualified by registration. The Code of Ethics which was adopted on July 30, 1945 provides (in Article 2) that Doctors in Economic Sciences, National Public Accountants, and Actuaries shall not associate themselves for the practice of their respective professions with persons who lack the qualifying title as established by Decree-Law No. 5,103 of 1945. Article 3 of this Code also states that no professional shall permit another person to practice the profession in his name.

Although Argentine Public Accountants generally practice as individuals and the law (Article 2 of Decree-Law No. 5,103) intends that the exercise of professions shall be performed in an individual manner, the use of the title National Public Accountant by a firm is permitted if all the members are registered. Inasmuch as several of the international firms are organized as civil associations and use firm names, there appears to be no prohibition against the use of a trade or firm name (razon social).

There seems to be no restriction as to size of staff of accounting firms. Unlike most of the Latin American countries, Argentine has no requirement that a certain proportion of the staff must be composed of nationals. Assuming that a United States citizen is granted permission under Argentine immigration laws to enter the country, he could replace another staff member. A staff member, being an employee, is not regarded as being in independent practice and, therefore, not required to be registered. He must, of course, refrain from using any of the titles of the regulated professions (see Articles 56 and 57 of Decree-Law No. 4,460).

Information is not available as to any United States citizens who may be engaged in individual practice in Argentina. Assuming that a United States citizen is duly registered as an Argentine Public Accountant, he may perform any type of engagement that falls within the functions of a registered public accountant.

#### Isolated Engagements

It has already been shown that the laws and regulations on accounting practice contain restrictions which prevent the performance of engagements by United States citizens, even in isolated cases, when any reports or documents are required for submission to Argentine authorities or official institutions or for publication. United States accountants acting as staff members may not perform any assignments in cases when the title of National Public Accountant is required.

At the present time there appear to be no restrictions preventing United States CPAs or staff members from performing audits and investigations of Argentine branches, subsidiaries, or affiliates of enterprises financed by United States or other foreign capital, provided that reports and statements in connection therewith are signed, used, and/or published in the United States. Such work is not regarded as public practice but is considered to be internal auditing.

It is our understanding that some of the major United States corporations from time to time send their own internal auditors to Argentina and that any work requiring certified reports for submission to Argentine authorities or for publication is committed to the international firms established there. These firms also handle a considerable amount of accounting work on behalf of United States accounting firms in connection with reports for use and publication in the United States. We have also been informed that national bank examiners go from the United States to periodically examine branches of United States national banks established in Argentina.

### Immigration Requirements

#### Permanent Residence:

If a person wishes to go to Argentina for more than a year and is to be on an Argentine payroll, permission for his entry must be obtained in advance from the Immigration Service in Buenos Aires, which comes under the Department of Labor and Welfare. This is the department which supervises the Professional Councils.

For favorable action with respect to a permanent residence visa, it is important that affidavits be furnished by the American branch in Argentina where the person will be employed to the effect that the individual is a responsible person, under an employment contract, and financially able to take care of himself. At least six months' time is now required to obtain immigrant visas for temporary or permanent residence in Argentina.

Temporary Entry:

If a person wishes to go to Argentina to remain there less than a year, and he is to be paid from the United States, he makes application to the Consulate General of the Republic of Argentina for a tourist visa, in which he furnishes among other data, his nationality and profession. He must have a valid passport. A tourist visa, which is issued in twenty-four hours upon personal appearance of the applicant at an Argentine Consulate, enables a United States citizen to enter Argentina and to perform engagements on behalf of enterprises financed by United States investors.

Accountants Established in Practice

So far as we have been able to learn, there are no United States citizens engaged in public practice as individuals. There may be a few associated with the international firms established in Argentina, among which are the following:

Deloitte, Plender, Haskins & Sells,	)	Buenos Aires and
Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths & Co.,	)	Rosario
Price, Waterhouse, Peat & Co.	)	
Price, Waterhouse & Co.	)	Buenos Aires
Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co.	)	
McAuliffe, Turquand, Youngs & Co.,		Buenos Aires



## SECTION III

### TREATIES AND LEGISLATION

#### Treaties between Argentina and the United States:

As previously mentioned, there is no treaty at present between Argentina and the United States providing for reciprocity with respect to professional degrees and academic studies. The Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation, which was signed by Argentina and the United States on July 27, 1853, reciprocally agreed to accord to United States citizens, "... full and perfect protection for their persons and property and ... free and open access to the courts of justice ... for the protection and defense of their just rights...." Inasmuch as this treaty was entered into prior to the time when public accounting had become known as a profession, it contains no provisions relative to practice by citizens of either country in the territory of the other.

Recent newspaper reports indicate that some progress is being made towards bettering the economic relations existing between Argentina and the United States and that a treaty is under discussion. While, of course, it is not possible to state in advance what particular provisions will be included in any treaty signed by the United States with any other power, it may be expected that if and when a treaty is signed with Argentina, such treaty will contain clauses dealing with accountants and other technical experts. It is the aim of our State Department to include in treaties proposed for discussion with foreign powers the following

clauses, which were contained in a new Treaty of Friendship, Commerce, and Navigation recently signed with the Republic of Colombia:

1. Nationals and companies of either Party shall be permitted to engage, within the territories of the other Party, accountants and other technical experts, executive personnel, attorneys, agents and other specialists of their choice. Moreover, such nationals and companies shall be permitted to engage accountants and other technical experts regardless of the extent to which they may have qualified for the practice of a profession within the territories of such other Party, for the particular purpose of making examinations, audits and technical investigations for, and rendering reports to, such nationals and companies in connection with the planning and operation of their enterprises, and enterprises in which they have a financial interest, within such territories.

2. Nationals of either Party shall not be barred from practicing the professions within the territories of the other Party merely by reason of their alienage; but they shall be permitted to engage in professional activities therein upon compliance with the requirements regarding qualifications and competence that are applicable to nationals of such other Party.

Treaties between Argentina and Other Countries:

The Treaty of Montevideo of 1889, signed by Argentina with Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay contains a provision to the effect that "nationals or foreigners who in whatever of the States, signatories of the Treaty, shall have obtained a title or diploma issued by the national competent authority for exercising a liberal or scientific profession, shall have it qualified for exercising in the other States."

Legislation Pending:

Inasmuch as the laws mentioned herein already provide strict regulation for the practice of the accounting profession, no

further restrictive legislation on the subject, from a national viewpoint, would appear to be under consideration. It is possible that there may be some legislation enacted in certain of the provinces which may not have heretofore adopted the national laws. But, as a practical matter, the permanent practice of accounting is now closed to United States public accountants who have not obtained their registration in Argentina prior to the effective date of the restrictive legislation.

- - - - -

In conclusion, it should be stated that the foregoing study of Public Practice of Accounting in the Republic of Argentina has been prepared upon the basis of a review of the laws and regulations dealing with accounting practice and other information obtained from sources believed to be reliable. A list of such sources is furnished in the attached appendix.

## Sources of Information

- American Institute of Accountants, New York, N. Y.
- Anuario Kraft, 1949: Guillermo Kraft, Ltda., Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- Argentina, p. 736, "The Statesman's Year-Book 1949," The Macmillan Company, New York, N. Y.
- Argentina, p. 63, "Universities of the World Outside U.S.A. 1950," American Council on Education, Washington, D. C.
- Dr. Julio C. Rodriguez Arias, Economic Councillor of the Argentine Embassy, New York, N. Y.
- Dr. Juan Bayetto, Federacion de Colegio de Doctores en Ciencias Economicas y Contadores Publicos Nacionales, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- Colegio de Doctores en Ciencias Economicas y Contadores Publicos Nacionales, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- Consejo Profesional de Ciencias Economicas de la Capital Federal, Buenos Aires: Estatuto de Ciencias Economicas; Arancel de Honorarios; Reglamento del Decreto No. 5,103/45; Codigo de Etica.
- Consulate General of Argentina, New York, N. Y.
- Deloitte, Plender, Haskins & Sells, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation, South America, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- International Reference Service, Vol. VII, No. 127, December 1950; United States Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C.
- Pan American Union, Washington, D. C.
- Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co., Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- Price, Waterhouse, Peat & Co., Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- A Statement of the Laws of Argentina in Matters Affecting Business in its Various Aspects and Activities, January 1947; prepared by Paul Salaberren, Jorge S. Otamendi Groussac and Rodolfo Martelli, Lawyers of Buenos Aires, under the auspices of Inter-American Development Commission.
- United States Department of Commerce, American Republics Division, Washington, D. C.
- United States Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.
- United States Office of Education, Division of International Educational Relations, Washington, D. C.
- Universidad de Buenos Aires, Facultad de Ciencias Economicas, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- Universidad Nacional de Cuyo, Facultad de Ciencias Economicas, Mendoza, Argentina.

MEMORANDUM RE PUBLIC PRACTICE OF ACCOUNTING  
IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA

Status of Profession:

Contador Publico Nacional (National Public Accountant) is a university or "liberal" profession. Professions of Doctor en Ciencias Economicas (Doctor in Economic Sciences) and Actuario (Actuary) are also liberal professions.

Regulatory Laws:

Decree-Law No. 5,103 of 1945 regulates these professions and defines functions of each.

Regulatory Authority:

Professional Councils, in the Federal Capital of Buenos Aires, and in each of the provinces.

Registration:

Registers for graduates of universities or superior schools of commerce authorized to award the above titles.

Special register for "non-graduates" who were in practice when regulatory law became effective.

Conditions for Practice:

Decree-Law No. 5,103 has no provision for citizenship, but only citizens now permitted to enroll in national universities for professional degrees.

For registration as a Matriculated (Graduate) professional, the candidate must have a degree awarded by the National University of Buenos Aires; or any other national university; or a degree conferred by a foreign university which has been recognized or revalidated by a national university; or a diploma granted by a superior school of commerce or such other school that may award diplomas upon the completion of studies equal to the courses given by a superior school; or a diploma granted by national or provincial authorities prior to the creation of university careers.

No minimum age is stipulated in the Law. University graduates are probably 21 years of age or more.

No experience is required. Degree entitles holder to practice his profession.

No examination is necessary for license; degree is sufficient.

Certificate of registration includes photograph of individual. A work record of "Opinions" rendered must be maintained. A schedule of minimum fees is in effect.

Professional Accountants in Practice:

Approximately 3,000 public accountants said to be in practice in City of Buenos Aires, which figure includes Doctors in Economic Sciences. Anuario Kraft for 1949, a commercial directory, gives listings of 722 Public Accountants in the Federal Capital and 1,410 in other cities.

Professional accountants are subject to a Code of Ethics which was formulated by the Professional Council under authority of Decree-Law No. 5,103.

Societies: Colegio de Doctors en Ciencias Economicas y Contadores Publicos Nacionales (College of Doctors in Economic Sciences and National Public Accountants), Buenos Aires, represents professional accountants. It publishes Bulletin of the College of Doctors in Economic Sciences and National Public Accountants. Other similar institutes are located in various cities, - Santa Fe, Rosario, Mendoza, Tucuman, Cordoba, etc. This organization, and the societies in the cities named, are affiliated with the Federacion de Colegios (Federation of Colleges) which has its headquarters in Buenos Aires. The Federation and the College in Buenos Aires are both members of the Pan-American Union of Technicians in Economic Sciences, which has its headquarters in Buenos Aires. Membership is compulsory for professional accountants.

Practice by United States Citizens or Firms:

It is now virtually impossible for a United States citizen to qualify for registration as a National Public Accountant, and to engage in permanent practice in Argentina. However, United States citizens and accounting firms are permitted to perform work in Argentina for use and publication in the United States. They may not perform work when the title of National Public Accountant is required, even in isolated cases, and when reports are submitted to Argentine authorities or official institutions or are intended for publication in Argentina.

Treaties and Legislation Pending:

There is no treaty presently in effect between the United States and Argentina containing provisions relative to accounting and other technical experts. Newspaper articles from time to time indicate that a treaty is under discussion.

There is believed to be no further restrictive legislation under consideration.