

CONTROL: 2905

3 May 76
1713

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM

Amembassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 11652:

GDS

TAGS:

PINT, ELAB, SHUM, AR

SUBJECT:

Case of Chilean Refugee Mario Munoz

ACTION:

Amembassy CANBERRA

INFO

Amembassy SANTIAGO

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 2905

REF

Canberra 3179

AMB
POL-3
POL/R
ECOM
USIS
USDAO
SCIAT
LEGAT
RF
CHRON

1. "Appeal for solidarity" reflects gross exaggerations and out-right misrepresentations, and we would doubt that responsible sectors would wish to associate themselves with it. New govt may have detained as many as four thousand persons including some Chilean refugees on charges ranging from subversion to malfeasance. Allegation that one hundred thousand prisoners are being held is sheer fabrication. No one is being or has been held in "national stadiums." That was case in Chile, but not here. Munoz is one of those new govt would be likely to detain. We have no info, however, on whether or not he has in fact been apprehended. We doubt that incident at his home happened as described, but we have no means of refuting it.

DRAFTED BY:

POL:WSSmith:cc

DRAFTING DATE

5/3/76

TEL. EXT.

128

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

AMBASSADOR ROBERT C. HILL

CLEARANCES:

POL/R:DSmock

DCM:MChaplin

LEGATT:RSCHERRER (in substance)

LABOR:RGamble

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

2. We wonder why responsible Australian unions did not query their own Embassy here regarding situation, and we suggest they do so in the future.

~~HILL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

Control 2910
3 May 76
1813

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION ~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

E.O. 11652:

N/A

TAGS:

PINS, SHUM, AR, CI

SUBJECT:

Reported Arrest of Chilean Citizen in Argentina

ACTION:

SecState WASHDC PRIORITY

Info:

AmEmbassy SANTIAGO

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES~~ 2910

Ref:

State 103637

Embassy's informal inquiries in academic circles and among US exchange personnel have turned up no info on Ricardo Alberto Hinrichsen Ramirez. Since GOA has not yet issued comprehensive list of those detained, however, this does not mean latter has not been arrested. We will continue to pursue matter and will inform Dept of any info we can develop.

AMB
POL-3
POL/R
ECOM
USIS
USDAO
MILGP-2
LEGAT
SCIAT
RF
CHRON

HILL

109-812 2

DRAFTED BY:

POL: WSSmith:mg

DRAFTING DATE

5/3/76

TEL. EXT.

128

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

AMBASSADOR ROBERT C. HILL

CHANCES:

POL/R: DLSmock (in draft)

LEGAT: RWScherrer (in substance)

USIS: CMeyer ("")

DCM: MChaplin

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

CONTROL 2911
3 May 76
1815

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM

Amembassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 11652:

GDS

TAGS:

PINS, SHUM, AR (Misetich, Antonio)

SUBJECT:

Reported Arrest of Atomic Scientist Antonio Misetich

ACTION:

Secstate WASHDC PRIORITY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 2911

REF State 103496

Informal inquiries indicate subject has been arrested on charges of subversion, but since GOA has not issued comprehensive list of those detained, we do not have official confirmation of this.

SCIATT is pursuing matter with contacts in Argentine Atomic Energy Commission and will report any further info which comes to light.

AMB
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CHRON

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Handwritten: 0702 104-104 Human Rights INQUIRIES - ARGENTINA

Handwritten: 119-5 2911-3

DRAFTED BY:

POL:WSSmith:cc *WSS*

DRAFTING DATE

5/3/76

TEL EXT.

128

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

AMBASSADOR ROBERT C. HILL

CLEARANCES:

LEGATT:RScherrer (in substance) *WSS*
SCI:RWilcox (in draft) *WSS*
USIS:CMeyer (in substance) *WSS*
POL/R:DSmock (in draft) *WSS*

DCM:MChaplin *WSS*

AMB:RCHill *WSS*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CLASSIFICATION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

CONTROL: 3002
6 May 76
1520

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
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FROM
Amembassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION
~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: Congressional Interest in Case of Jacobo Tieffenberg

ACTION: Secstate WASHDC

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 3002

REF State 105655

AMB
POL-3
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CHRON

1. Father, Leon Tieffenberg, called at Embassy this morning. According to him, ^{4/85}son is being held at disposition of military authorities but no charges have yet been preferred against him. Father does not know where son is being held. Police will say only that he is being temporarily detained by military. Father indicated son is ex-member Communist Party, had been involved in left-wing student politics at Univ of Buenos Aires, and was arrested during Ongania period. Father insisted, however, that son has dedicated himself exclusively to medicine in past few years and has not been involved with leftist politics.

2. Embassy's informal inquiries have turned up no additional info on Tieffenberg. We suggest that if Congressman wishes to pursue matter further he should direct his inquiries to Argentine Embassy, *in Washington*

DRAFTED BY: POL:WSSmith:cc *WSS* DRAFTING DATE: 5/6/76 TEL. SEARCHED: 128 CONTENT INDEXED: 128 CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: AMBASSADOR ROBERT C. HILL

CLEARANCES:

CONS:GHuey *GHuey*

LEGATT:RScherrer *RScherrer*

DDM:MChapDin *MChapDin*

LEGAL ATAMB:ROHILL *ROHILL*

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE 3033

BT

IMMEDIATE ACTION

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ STATE 129049

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, SHUMS, AR

SUBJECT: ARREST OF JACOBO TIEFFENBERG

REF.: BUENOS AIRES 3002

TO	ACT	INF	TO	ACT	INF
AMB		✓	DAO		✓
DEM		✓	L. GATT		✓
			RFA		
FBI	3		FAB		
EGOM		✓	AID		
FBI/R		✓	MILGP		✓
EO R			PSI		
ADM			GSO		
USIB		✓	B & F		
SCI		✓	CHRON		✓
BY			HR		✓

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO WOULD LIKE TO OFFER EMPLOYMENT TO JACOBO TIEFFENBERG AS VISITING PROFESSOR AND WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER HE COULD BE RELEASED IN ORDER TO ACCEPT EMPLOYMENT IN THE UNITED STATES. THE DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE THE EMBASSY'S COMMENTS ON THIS AND ITS RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE UNIVERSITY. THE DEPARTMENT WOULD ALSO WELCOME THE EMBASSY VIEWS AS TO HIS VISA ELIGIBILITY IN VIEW OF HIS PAST MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMUNIST PARTY.

SISCO

BT

#9049

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109-812-4A

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 26 1976	
LEGAL ATTACHE - BUENOS AIRES	

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CONTROL: 3013
MAY 76 1712

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

INDICATE
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☐ CHARGE TO

FROM
Amembassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:

GDS
PINS, TPHY, SHUM, AR
Arrest of Atomic Scientist Antonio Misetich

ACTION:

Secstate, Washington DC

INFO:

USERDA, Washington DC

REF:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 3013
(A) State 103496; (B) Buenos Aires 2911

AMB
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ECOM
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USIS
LEGATT
CHRON
RF

ALSO FOR NRC and NSF

confirms

1. CNEA President ~~#####~~ that Misetich has been arrested by ~~#####~~ authorities.

~~#####~~ He says that he can "guarantee his physical integrity" which implies he will not be harmed physically.

2. Castro Madero assures us that Misetich's work at CNEA was of first-rate quality and that his arrest had nothing to do with his employment at CNEA. Apparently, however, GOA has reason to suspect some connection between Misetich and terrorist group. He will be held, we understand, until this connection is "defined". As Dept aware, he is one of many being held at this time for similar reasons.

3. FYI - CNEA has received about a dozen cables from U.S. concerning Misetich case. Castro Madero had intended to answer

DRAFTED BY:

SCI:RHWilcox:arb

DRAFTING DATE

5/5/76

TEL. EXT.

1077

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

AMB:RCHill

CLEARANCES:

POL:WSmith

MAY - 1976

DCM: MChaplin

LEGAL ATTACHE - BUENOS AIRES

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CLASSIFICATION

them by cable, but, due to high cost of cables (and low funds of CNEA), he is replying to each by letter.

~~HILL~~

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

3140
11 MAY 76
1638

TELEGRAM

☐ INDICATE
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	FROM AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES	CLASSIFICATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE	
E.O. 11652: TAGS: SUBJECT: ACTION:	N/A PINS, AR, CI, SHUM Alleged GOA Plans to Deport Chileans SecState WASHDC		
Ref:	LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 3140 State 113664		
AMB POL-3 POL/R ECOM USIS USDAO MILGP-2 LEGAT SCIAT RF CHRON	1. Deputy Representative UNHCR in Buenos Aires, Guy Prim, told Emboff May 11 that UNHCR Representative Muller had conversation with FonMin Admiral Guzzetti on April 1 concerning status of refugees in Argentina. Guzzetti assured Muller that GOA would not depart from traditional policy of not repeat not sending refugees involuntarily to own or other country. Guzzetti/told Muller that "refugees" comprised those "under mandate of UNHCR," and policy would be followed to extent it does not interfere with Argentine internal security. 2. GOA assurances were published in Buenos Aires press April 2 and 3 and released in Geneva April 2 by UNHCR. Press versions reported that GOA would expel "asylees" only in cases of "flagrant political activity."		
DRAFTED BY: POL:RSSSteven:mg	DRAFTING DATE 5/11/76	TEL. EXT.. 121	CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: POL:WSSmith HILL 109-812-6
CLEARANCES:	AMB:RCHill SEARCHED DCM:McChaplin INDEXED MAY 1 1976 LEGAL ATTACHE - BUENOS AIRES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CLASSIFICATION		

3172
12 MAY 76
1725

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES	CLASSIFICATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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E.O. 11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:
ACTION:

N/A
~~XXX~~ SHUM, PINS, AR
Welfare/Whereabouts Argentine Nationals Emilio de Ipola
and Gloria Rojas
SecState WASHDC

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 3172

Ref: A) Inquiry dated April 21 from Senator Percy, B) Buenos Aires 2510

1. We have received transmittal slip dated April 21 from office
(Springfield, Illinois, office)
Senator Percy/requesting information on Argentine nationals

Emilio de Ipola and Gloria Rojas, on behalf Adam Przeworski,
1234 E. Madison Park, Chicago, Illinois 60615. All available
information concerning de Ipola was previously sent to Dept
in reftel B. We have no information concerning Gloria Rojas.

2. We note that Przeworski cable to Senator, attached to
transmittal slip, requested that inquiry be made to Argentine
Embassy. Envelope sent to Dept by Senator's office was
addressed quote American Embassy, Argentine Embassy, Dept of
unquote.
State, Washington/. We suggest again that most appropriate
source of information on status of Argentine and third country
nationals in Argentina is Argentine Embassy.

3. To avoid further delay, please pass substance para one of

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POL-3
POL/R
ECOM
USIS
USDAO
MILGP-2
LEGAT
SCIAT
RF
CHRON

DCM

DRAFTED BY:

POL:RSSSteven:mg

CLEARANCES:

DRAFTING DATE: 5/12/76

EXT: 121

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

POL:WSSmith

109-812-6A
MAY 12 1976

By phone H
AMB:RCHill me
DCM:MChaplin me

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

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Classification

Page 2

of

2172
MRN

this message, and appropriate parts of reftel B, to office
of Senator Percy.

H
HILL

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Classification

CONTROL-3234

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

14 May 76
1732

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 1652:
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, AR, CI
SUBJECT: Chilean Refugees in Argentina

ACTION: SecState WASHDC
INFO: AmEmbassy SANTIAGO
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 3234

Ref: State 116688

AMB
POL-3
POL/R
ECOM
USIS
USDAO
MILGP-2
LEGAT
SCIAT
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CHRON

1. In responding to inquiries concerning fate of Chileans (and other aliens) in Argentina in wake of change of Govt, it is important that we understand what we mean by "refugee." We assume that we are referring to persons living in Argentina who cannot for political reasons return to Chile (or Paraguay, etc., as the case may be), ^{and} who are not actively engaged in terrorist operations against either the GOA or neighboring governments. As far as we know, the GOA has not deported such refugees, and it would be accurate to say that we have no confirmed reports that any Chilean refugees in Argentina have been deported to Chile or elsewhere. We believe that if such persons behave themselves while in Argentina, the GOA attitude toward them will be benign.

2. The situation is quite different in the case of indivi-

109-613-7

DRAFTED BY:
A/POLCOUNS:RSSteven:mg

DRAFTING DATE
5/13/76

TEL. EXT.
121

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:
SEARCHED AMBASSADOR-ROBERT C. HILL

CLEARANCES:
POL/R:DLSmock
DAO:ColPACoughlin

INDEXED
DGM:McChaplin
MAY 15 1976
It is a pleasure to...

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right to file

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ XGDS-2

CLASSIFICATION

duals such as Enriquez, Munoz, and Benado. Enriquez, for example, was a founder and leader of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR), the Chilean terrorist organization. It can be assumed that he was illegally in Argentina, actively engaged in subversive/terrorist operations against Chile, and in close contact with the Argentine guerrilla organizations such as the ERP, with which MIR is formally linked. Enriquez could hardly be considered a "refugee," and we understand in fact (protect information) that he was probably killed recently ^{of} ~~in~~ aftermath of guerrilla fighting with the Argentine security forces.

3. Munoz and Benado are both listed in Mission files as being deeply involved with the extreme Chilean left, and both are quite probably in the MIR. If Munoz is involved in same kinds of activities as Enriquez was, intimately linked to Argentine guerrillas who are regularly assassinating military and police personnel, it is only logical to assume that he is being sought by Argentine authorities and they will indeed kill him if he resists arrest. Until we have reason to believe otherwise, we must assume that Argentine authorities capturing Chilean terrorists violating Argentine law will try them in accordance with Argentine law.

4. FYI. We know that there is liaison between the Chilean and Argentine security forces, and cooperation in trying to control guerrilla and terrorist forces operating jointly

across boarder. We suspect that in some cases, probably few, the GOA might secretly turn over a particularly important Chilean terrorist captive on request to the Chilean authorities, and probably vice versa. We have no evidence that this has actually been done, however, and no specific case to which to refer. END FYI.

5. We are reasonably certain that the Argentine authorities have arrested some Chileans, refugees and others, residing in Argentina, just as they have arrested considerable numbers of Argentines who have violated security laws or who are suspected of having done so. ~~By xxxxxxxxxx xxxxxxxxxx persons xxxxxxxxxx~~
~~handled under xxxxxxxxxx xxxxxxxxxx legal xxxxxxxxxx~~
~~Argentina~~

6. We suggest, therefore, that Dept tell inquirers that we have no evidence that GOA is forcibly repatriating refugees to Chile, and that GOA has assured UNHCR that it will not do so. Inquirers should also be told, however, that in cases where foreign extremists in Argentina violate local law or associate themselves with Argentine guerrilla groups, GOA will treat them as it does Argentines in same circumstances.

7. We understand that numbers of persons associated with extremist movements have been leaving Argentina voluntarily because of anti-terrorist pressures exerted by the GOA since the March coup.

HILL

CONFIDENTIAL XGDS-2

Classification

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

CONTROL 3343

20 May 76

1150

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM

AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 11652:

GDS

TAGS:

SHUM, AR, XM UY

SUBJECT:

Uruguayans Reported Arrested

ACTION:

SecState WASHDC

Info:

AmEmbassy MONTEVIDEO

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 3343

Ref:

*State 121966 ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

AMB

POL-3

POL/R

ECOM

USIS

USDAO

MILGP-2

LEGAT

SCIAT

RF

CHRON

DCM

1. Zelmar Michelini, Uruguayan national residing in Argentina, was taken from his hotel room in central Buenos Aires in early morning May 18, by group of unidentified men. Well-informed source told us that when asked by hotel staff for identification, group leader replied, "These guns are our identification."

2. Newspaper "La Opinion" May 19 carried front-page article on detention of Michelini, who, paper claimed, has been one of its international editors for last three years. Article noted that Michelini had been hooded and taken ^{away} by unidentified group.

"La Opinion" authorities reported incident to Min Interior Harguindeguy, who promised to investigate.

3. "La Opinion" cited Michelini's record as Uruguayan Congress-
man and Senator, and emphasized that he is well-regarded in

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POL:RSSteven:mg

DRAFTING DATE

5/19/76,

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121

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

POL:WSSmith

LEARANCES:

USIS:MEQ

AMB:RCHill

DCM:MChaplin

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CLASSIFICATION

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international Social Democratic and Christian Democratic circles. Paper also claimed that he had had recent invitation (See 75 BA 2425, 75 Montevideo 1165, 75 State 082850) from group of US Senators to visit US. After learning of participants "kidnapping" of Michelini, paper sent message to ~~participating~~ of Social Democratic Congress meeting in Caracas. Article expressed deep concern over implications of arrest for freedom of press. At no point did article directly charge that GOA responsible for arrest, but there is no doubt in any reader's mind that action was indeed carried out by security forces.

4. Reliable source in "La Opinion" told Emboff May 19 that staff is convinced Michelini arrest was not rpt not meant as intimidation of press, although this is only line upon which paper can hang its efforts to free him. Source said that high GOA official recently told him that GOA regarded Michelini as "communist."

5. USIS Press Officer who knows Michelini reports that he ~~met~~ ~~interviewed~~ with Michelini last week and Michelini apparently had no inkling he might have problem with GOA. Press officer points out that in reality Michelini was far from being "international editor" of "La Opinion;" at most he could be described as associated with the paper. Paper apparently using story for dual purpose helping Michelini and for criticizing GOA repression in general. Other sources have reported that Michelini arrest was carried out by Army security, and that he is being held by Army.

6. High GOA officials including Min Interior Harguindeguy, SubSec Presidency Yofre and Junta Member Admiral Massera, have personally assured "La Opinion" editor Timerman that they know nothing about abduction of Michelini or his present whereabouts. Timerman (protect) does not put much faith in their assurances; we share his feeling that such an operation would be extremely difficult if not impossible to carry out without GOA acquiescence.

7. "La Opinion" source knows Hector Gutierrez Ruiz slightly, and described him as having same general Uruguayan political background as Michelini. He was not apparently as active or well known as Michelini, and beyond fact that he also was apparently arrested, we have so far no real information about him.

8. As previously reported (Buenos Aires 3140), GOA has assured UNHCR that no deportations will be carried out, and we have to date no confirmed reports that such "political" deportations have taken place.

~~HILL~~

CONTROL: 3346

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

20 May 76
1155

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FROM
Amembassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: Violence Against Argentine Jews?

ACTION: Secstate WASHDC

REF BA-3002

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 3346

AMB
POL-4
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1. Leon Tieffenberg told Emboff May 18 that last week he was able to see his son by bribing a guard. According to Tieffenberg, his son is being held by military authorities in La Plata, and has been subjected to various forms of torture. Tieffenberg said son claimed authorities are not accusing him of connections with subversive groups and have not even raised the question of his communist affiliation; rather, questions they have put to him during interrogation have had to do with his and father's alleged activities in favor of Israel. Father claims son told him interrogators called him "Jew dog" while administering beatings and electric shock.

2. Father, Leon Tieffenberg, is extremely disturbed not only over his son's situation, but over what he regards as possibility of future pogrom. Tieffenberg was quick to say that he did not

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POL:WSSmith:cc *WSS*

5/19/76

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AMBASSADOR ROBERT C. HILL

CLEARANCES:

DCM:MChaplin

Human Rights file

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CLASSIFICATION

believe his son's treatment reflected the official line of the new GOA. On the contrary, he said he was sure President Videla and moderates around him would be surprised and shocked if they knew of such cases. Problem, he said, was at lower level. There are many hardliners in Armed Forces who are anti-Semitic and in Tieffenberg's opinion some of these, sensing that there is no sure hand at the helm, are taking advantage of the situation to vent their prejudices. He commented that if hardliners ever gain control, Argentina would not be a fit place for Jews to live; hence, he plans to sell all his holdings, try to get his son out of jail, and leave the country.

3. Embassy has consulted with other members of the Jewish community in Argentina. On the basis of those consultations, we believe case of Jacobo Tieffenberg is an isolated one which does not reflect the ~~official policies~~ ^{official policies} or attitudes of the present government. Even so, there is some evidence that Tieffenberg may be right in his assessment that certain anti-Semitic commanders are taking advantage of the situation to vent their personal prejudices. We understand, for example, that the President of the DAIA in Cordoba was arrested shortly after the coup and is still being held although he has not been charged either with subversive connections or with corruption. Several prominent Jewish leaders in Buenos Aires are asking themselves whether

He may have been arrested simply because he is a Jew.

4. Embassy will follow this situation carefully and report any future developments.

~~HILL~~
HILL

CONTROL: 3342
20 MAY 76 1121

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

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FROM
AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION
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E.O. 11652:

N/A

TAGS:

SHUM, AR, CI

SUBJECT:

Human Rights Visit - Weiss and Carro

ACTION:

SecState WASHDC

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 3342

Ref:

State 121719

AMB
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1. Please tell Mr. Weiss and Judge Carro that we welcome their visit to Buenos Aires and will be pleased to offer appropriate assistance. If they wish, Embassy personnel will be glad to see them and we can try to arrange appointments with UNHCR, ICEM, and ICRC representatives. If contacts with GOA are desired, we believe our role should be limited to arranging appointment with appropriate officer in Foreign Ministry, through whom they might request other appointments.
2. Suggest visitors call Political Officer Robert S. Steven at Embassy upon arrival if they wish our assistance.

HNL

DRAFTED BY:

POL:RSSSteven:mg

DRAFTING DATE

5/19/76

TEL. EXT.

121

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

POL:WSSmith

CLEARANCES:

AMB:ROHN1

DCM:MChaplin

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

3390
21 MAY 76
1305

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
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FROM Amembassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: Abduction of Uruguayan Refugees Michelini and Gutierrez

ACTION: Secstate WASHDC

INFO USUN NEW YORK
AmEmbassy MONTEVIDEO

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 3390

REFS (a) State 121966, (b) Buenos Aires 3343, (c) USUN 2156

1. GOA has made no public statement concerning abduction of
Zelmar Michelini on May 17 and Hector Gutierrez Ruiz on May 18
by armed men who invaded their residences. As reported reftel

(b), however, high GOA officials have privately assured editor
of newspaper "La Opinion" that GOA has no knowledge of abductions.
one of the ~~most~~ courageous liberal and courageous
"La Opinion" is ~~perhaps~~ most courageous Buenos Aires papers, and
marginally friendly with some staff members.
Michelini/associated with paper and ~~close friend of its editors~~

~~and staff~~. May 20 issue features abduction of the two Uruguayan
politicians on front page and several columns inside paper.

Other papers have given story little attention or have commented
only cautiously and mildly about possible damage to GOA image.

2. "La Opinion" cites witnesses of two abductions to effect
kidnappers made no effort to hide activity and apparently had no

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POL:WSS/117:cc

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5/20/76 128

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:
POL:WSSmith

CLEARANCES:
USIS:MO'Brien

DCM:MChaplin

AMB:RCH117

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

fear of police intervention. In Gutierrez case, witnesses claim abductors stayed in apartment for an hour, shouting from window to others in street below. Common to both abductions was use of autos without plates, a trademark of the GOA's Intelligence Service, the SIDE (Secretaria de Inteligencia del Estado).

3. In its treatment of the abductions, "La Opinion" editorialized solemnly that only possible explanation for abductions, given GOA's and Pres Videla's assurances of respect for legality upon taking power, was that some internal or external enemy is trying to cause failure of new govt by damaging image. Paper pulled out all stops by pointing out Argentina's delicate position, with citations of possible negative effects upon international financial institutions, advertising executives convention presently in BA, Social Democratic leaders congress in Caracas; Italian and American elections, new Argentine Ambassadors taking up posts, and UNHCR rep visiting Argentina. Overall effect is clear implication that GOA elements are responsible for abductions, and that GOA will pay heavy price in damage to its image, a la Chile.

4. COMMENT: "La Opinion" is clearly using abductions as vehicle to express concern over much wider problem of GOA repressive practices. Editors are running the risk of having paper closed, or worse. It is quite correct, however, in recognizing and warning that if such abuses continue,

domestic and international opinion will tag GOA with responsibility and it will rapidly begin to acquire same image and problems as Chilean Junta. There can be little doubt that personnel involved in these abductions, and other abuses being reported, are GOA security forces acting either with approval of superiors or with their tacit consent. It may be that Pres Videla and the moderates do not approve and would like to stop it. Their inability to do so, in face of clear realization that such abuses will bring serious repercussions, raises urgent questions of inherent stability of regime and its ability to continue on moderate course.

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HILL

3563
28 MAY 76
1715

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM

AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

E.O. 11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:

N/A
SHUM, PINS, AR, UY
GOA Issues Statement on Michelini, et al, Murders

ACTION:

SecState WASHDC

Info:

AmEmbassy MONTEVIDEO

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES

3563

Ref:

Buenos Aires ~~XXXX~~ 3465

AMB
POL-3
POL/R
ECOM
USIS
USDAO
MILGP-2
LEGAT
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DCM

1. Interior Ministry, in a strongly worded communique May 25, announced the Federal Police will make a thorough investigation into the murders of former Uruguayan congressmen Michelini and Gutierrez Ruiz. It also named a Federal Judge to investigate the case.
2. Communique called the murders a "disgrace" and attributed the assassinations to "the subversion that is attacking the Argentine people and attempting to discredit the country and hamper its recovery."
3. One newspaper, however, noted that police investigators had still not contacted the families of the slain men nor taken fingerprints left behind by the kidnappers.
4. The fate of the three children (aged four years, 18 months

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POL:YThayer:mg

DRAFTING DATE

5/28/76

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CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

POL:WSSmith

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SY:GSBeckett

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LEGAL ATTACHE - BUENOS AIRES

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and four months) kidnapped along with their parents Barredo de Schroeder and Whitelaw Blanco on May 13 is still unknown. The four-year-old is Mrs. Schroeder's daughter by her former husband Gabriel Schroeder, a terrorist killed in Uruguay in April 1972. Schroeder's father, an Uruguayan lawyer now in Buenos Aires searching for the children, issued an open ~~appeal~~ appeal to the Argentine people to help find them and save their lives. His plea and pictures of the children were published in several papers.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TELEGRAM

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FROM

Amembassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 11652:

GDS

TAGS:

PFOR, PINS, PINT, AR

SUBJECT:

Interior Minister Says There Is International Plot
to Defame GOA

ACTION:

Secstate WASHDC ~~PRIORITY~~ IMMEDIATE

INFO

Amembassy LA PAZ
" MONTEVIDEO

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 3691

REFS

(a) Buenos Aires 3641 (b) Buenos Aires 3642 (c) Buenos Aires 3664

1. This morning's discovery of the body of former Bolivian
(now officially confirmed)

President Torres/, who was reported missing June 1, came not

long after Interior Minister Gen Harguindeguy called an evening

press conference (June 2) to charge that Torres' disappearance

was part of an "international campaign to discredit Argentina's

military government."

2. At the hastily called press conference, following his meeting

with Pres Videla, Harguindeguy insisted Torres was neither

arrested nor being detained by Argentine authorities and

suggested Torres might as easily have disappeared "of his

own free will". The Federal Police will investigate the case,

he said. (Associated Press reported yesterday that Bolivian

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6/3/76

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CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

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CLEARANCES:

USIS:MO'Brien (in substance)

A/DCM:WBeal

AMB:RCHill

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President General Banzer requested President Videla make a full investigation of the Torres case.)

3. Referring to Torres case and international press coverage of Michelini/Gutierrez Ruiz cases, Harguindeguy said there is no doubt an organized campaign exists, directed from outside the country, to discredit the present authorities and ~~obstruct~~ ^{construct} the process of national reorganization. (The Michelini/Gutierrez Ruiz cases and Torres disappearance were both covered--but very discreetly--by the local press.)

4. GOA, Harguindeguy said, is "no less concerned than the press about this problem of the disappearance of political personalities and prisoners." He reiterated the govt's "absolute repudiation of violence, of any extreme ideology."

5. Harguindeguy referred to press commentary, particularly in the foreign press, as "a total deformation of national reality". He said thousands of letters arrive each day, mostly from Europe, full of false information and requests for the liberation of people who have never even set foot in Argentina. The similarity of the letters, he said, support his charge of a coordinated concerted foreign campaign to defame the country.

6. Harguindeguy refused to answer questions but added that the Federal Police and a Federal Judge were continuing investigation into abduction and deaths of Michelini and

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Gutierrez Ruiz, and that search continues for missing Colonel Pita who was kidnapped May 30.

COMMENT: Harguindeguy's charge of an international campaign has an ~~overly~~ defensive ~~(indeed, almost paranoid)~~ ring to it and will not be well received by reps of the or by other skeptical observers foreign press/here. It does, however, at least indicate concern at top levels over rapidly tarnishing Argentine image abroad.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Denuncian secuestros

Enrique Vanoli, secretario político del comité nacional de la U.C.R., denunció en la comisaría de Adrogué el presunto secuestro del médico y dirigente radical Guillermo Alonso, de su familia y de una enfermera.

De acuerdo con la versión proporcionada por voceros de la U.C.R., un grupo civil armado secuestró a Alonso; a su esposa, Irma Jornada; a su hijo, José Luis, de 20 años y a la doméstica de la casa, identificada como Marta Jung, de la finca de Alonso en Ferrari 549, Adrogué.

Un hijo menor del médi-

co, de 5 años, fue dejado a cargo de unos vecinos.

Los denunciantes agregaron que poco después de ocurrido el episodio individuos armados que se conducían en dos automóviles Torino secuestraron de su domicilio de la localidad de Burzaco a la enfermera Silvina Culotta, de 17 años.

◆ Telegrama

En su carácter de secretario político de la presidencia del Comité Nacional de la U.C.R., Enrique Vanoli envió un telegrama al gobernador bonaerense, general Ibérico Saint-Jean, pidiéndole el esclarecimiento de los hechos.

◆ Preocupación

Según trascendió, este caso fue objeto de especial análisis en el Ministerio del Interior y su titular, general de brigada Albano Harguindeguy, se comunicó directamente con el Jefe de la Policía de la provincia de Buenos Aires, pidiendo un informe sobre los hechos.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

P. 4

CLARIN

BUENOS AIRES

6/3/76

Date:
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Author:
Editor:
Title:

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☐ Being Investigated

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TELEGRAM

INDICATE
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FROM

AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 11652:

GDS

TAGS:

SHUM, PINT, BR, AR

SUBJECT:

Alleged GOA Delivery of Brazilian National to Chilean Authorities

ACTION:

SecState WASHDC

Info:

AmEmbassy MONTEVIDEO

" " SANTIAGO

" " BRASILIA

Ref:

Brasilia 4806

1. We have no record or information on Maria Regina Marcondes Pinto.

2. Edgardo Enriques, a founder and leader of the Chilean terrorist Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MLR), was indeed picked up and probably killed following a raid March 29 in an Argentine province. Some 14 terrorists from several Southern Cone countries were reportedly killed or captured (and subsequently disappeared) in the raid. Others escaped. Those killed or caught were not identified and it is possible that if Marcondes Pinto was present, she may have been one of them.

3. We have no concrete evidence that the GOA is forceably repatriating foreigners to Chile or elsewhere. GOA has

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POL:YThayer:mg

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CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

POL:WSS:mk

CLERANCES:

POL:RSS:Steven

POL/R: DSmock(in substance)

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JUN 7 1976

Human Rights file

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

assured UNHCR that it will not do so with refugees living in Argentina. In cases where foreign extremists in Argentina violate local law or associate themselves with Argentine guerrilla groups, GOA can be expected to treat them as it does Argentines in the same circumstances. This frequently involves no judicial action.

4. GOA, in Law ~~11111~~ announced on March 24, authorizes the Executive Branch to decree expulsion of any foreigner it determines may be involved in activities that "disrupt social peace, national security or public order in the country." (American citizen Olga Telamante was released and sent to the US under this law.) Expelled foreigner has five days to leave country, but may be held in custody for security reasons until departure date. Although it is generally understood that expelled foreigner may leave for the country of his choice, GOA maintains right to send him where it chooses (as we saw in cases of three drug traffickers recently sent to US for trial - see Buenos Aires 3530). Less than a dozen foreigners have been expelled from Argentina under this law, although UNHCR is using it to negotiate the release and deportation of approximately 100 foreign prisoners now in Argentine jails.


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DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

CONTROL: 3741
7 Jun 76
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INDICATE
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FROM
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CLASSIFICATION
~~SECRET~~

E.O. 11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:

XGDS-2
PFOR, AR, UY, PA, CI, BR, BL, SHUM
Possible International Implications of Violent Deaths
of Political Figures Abroad

ACTION: Secstate WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO Amembassy ASUNCION PRIORITY
" BRASILIA "
" LA PAZ "
" MONTEVIDEO "

~~SECRET~~ BUENOS AIRES 3741

REF State 137156

AMB
DCM
POL-5
POL/R
ECOM
USIS
LEGAT
DAO
CHRON

1. Elements of GOA security forces may well have been involved in murders of Uruguayans Michelini and Gutierrez Ruiz and of Bolivian ex-President Torres. Embassy has no positive evidence that this is the case but there is considerable circumstantial evidence. Those who kidnapped Gutierrez Ruiz, for example, remained at his home for something like an hour, made no effort to hide their presence and obviously did not fear intervention on part of police. Left-wing terrorists unlikely to have behaved with such impunity. Further, Federal Police at first refused to even accept denuncia of Mrs. Michelini when she attempted to report that her husband had been kidnapped, and they made no effort to investigate until 10/7/76-16

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POL:RSteven/WSSmith:cc WBS

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6/7/76

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AMBASSADOR ROBERT C. HILL

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DAO:PACoughlin WBS

DCM:MChaplin WBS

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several days later.

2. Even though elements of govt security forces may be involved, it is by no means clear that such operations are condoned by top echelons of GOA. On contrary, Videla and moderates may well disapprove. Videla reportedly very disturbed over Torres murder and is said to have given orders that matter must be investigated thoroughly and those guilty brought to justice. So far, however, despite his seemingly good intentions, Videla has not been able to stop abuses. Sources close to him insist that he will shortly take measures to bring situation under control. So far, however, he has not asserted himself and taken effective measures. This could simply reflect his cautious style. On the other hand, some observers are convinced that Videla does not have the strength to confront the hardliners and that a confrontation would lead to his removal as President; hence, this theory holds, he must ride along and hope that a propitious moment presents itself.

3. Whatever the reason for Videla's continued inertia in this area, the results are the same. Our best estimate is that elements of security service are involved, that they have approval at least of their immediate superiors and count with tolerance (or more) of levels even higher.

How high acquiescence goes is impossible to determine

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at this time. One thing is clear, Videla cannot long hide behind protestations of innocence. If such abuses continue much longer without effective countermeasures, culpability (whether by omission or commission) inevitably will be imputed to his govt.

4. Argentine security forces are certainly in touch with sister services in neighboring countries and there may well be cooperation among them. UNHCR here has told Emboff his office has names of Uruguayan security officers now in Buenos Aires who are cooperating with GOA security forces in identifying Uruguayan exiles of interest to GOU. UNHCR is investigating five specific cases of Uruguayans believed to have been taken back to Uruguay. UN rep suggests that hardline elements within Uruguayan military sponsored deaths of Michelini and Gutierrez Ruiz, with executive assistance of like-minded elements in Argentine security forces. Theory is that this was intended as warning to others in GOU against any "apertura" to moderate or leftist elements, and would have practical effect of eliminating potential leaders of Uruguayan opposition. Embassy Montevideo is in better position to comment on this theory. Whether GOU was involved or not in Michelini/Gutierrez Ruiz affair, we believe, as indicated above, that Argentine security forces, or elements thereof, were. GOA would have limited interest in elimination

of such exile leaders for its own ends, however; hence, it is likely that killings were meant as a favor (whether requested or not) to GOU or to elements in Uruguayan military/security forces.

5. In case of former President Torres of Bolivia, we have less to draw upon. Reports have reached us that Torres was considered by GOA to have been directly and actively involved with Bolivian extremists such as ELM/ and Argentine Montoneros.

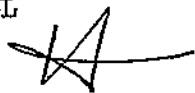
GOA, or its hardline elements, might have had sufficient cause to kill him for own ends, or same situation may have existed as outlined above for Uruguay. UNHCR rep, who knows countries of region well, feels that killing of exile leader such as Torres is not in Bolivian style--Embassy La Paz will be better judge of that. On other hand, UN rep told us that posters have been reported in city of Salta and Argentine/Bolivian border areas which carry photos and names of prominent Bolivian exiles such as Torres and which ask Argentine public to report whereabouts to Argentine (sic) police. Posters are said to carry seal of Bolivian govt. We have no confirmation of this.

6. UN rep also reports presence of Chilean security officers in Mendoza, and says he is certain there are Brazilian officers on liaison missions here as well. He has no firm reports as yet of forcible repatriations or arranged

killings of nationals of these countries, however, but he believes they are taking place.

7. In realm of speculation, UN rep suggests that there may be an informal "understanding" and cooperation among hardline elements in military governments of Southern Cone to purge area of what they consider "Communist and leftist" elements, by specific killings and by intimidation of various exile communities and resultant exodus to countries out of region. The theory is interesting and would possibly explain developments.

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7 June 76

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TELEGRAM

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FROM

AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

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E.O. 11652:

N/A

TAGS:

SBEF, AR

SUBJECT:

VISIT OF UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE

ACTION:

SecState WASHDC
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

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LEGATT
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RF

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3742

REF: Santiago 5218 (NOTAL)

1. Dr. Gilbert Jaeger, representative of the High Commissioner for Refugees visited Buenos Aires May 20-27 to review the situation of refugees in Argentina. With the local representative of the UN Commission, he called on the Ambassador May 24 to express his concern about the abduction and murder of two Uruguayan political asylees, Michelini and Gutierrez (septel), and the general state of refugees in Argentina. Beyond expressing his anxiety and the need for additional funds for the refugees, Jaeger had no clear point to make, other than he found that the attitude of the Director of International Policy in the Foreign Office (Pereyra) unsympathetic.

2. At Jaeger's request, the Norwegian Ambassador convened a meeting on the same day of representatives of the Western European countries, Australia, Canada and the US. Jaeger described group as representing

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DCM: MChaplin

CLEARANCES:

DRAFTING DATE

June 7, 76

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CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

Amb: RGHill

POL - WS

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friendly countries and those regularly receiving immigrants. This time his presentation was more coherent. He expressed his concern over the hostile atmosphere (just like Chile), said that opportunities must be found to place about one thousand urgent cases of refugees who must be resettled outside Argentina, and notified the audience that approximately \$1.1 million will be needed in 1976 beyond what is currently allocated in the UNHCR budget to support the refugees now in Argentina.

3. At the Ambassador's request, Jaeger returned to the Embassy May 25 to report the results of his meeting with the Minister of Interior. He was received by a subsecretary of interior (an Air Force Colonel) and a legal advisor from the Foreign Office. The Argentine officials, after listening to his representations, questioned the standing of the UNHCR to make representations on behalf of persons considered by the GOA as illegal aliens. They noted that the GOA had approved the 1951 convention on refugees with a hemispheric exception, but that the GOA did acknowledge the status of asylees, as distinct from refugees. The meeting was completely inconclusive.

4. Muller observed that the Argentine officials did not make their observations in the form of a statement of GOA policy, but in a conversational manner. He did not press the point that their apparent position was inconsistent with that of FonMin Guzzetti who had formally stated that there would be no forcible repatriation of refugees. He

believed that the Argentines (or at least the Air Force officer) had been completely ignorant of any international conventions on refugees, and were stalling for time and taking ~~WXX~~ his measure. He said it seemed clear that the GOA was irritated by international pressure on refugees and wanted to proceed to deal with them with as free a hand as possible. Nevertheless, he said he was not rejected by the officials; who invited him to continue the discussion at a later date.

5. We did not get the impression that Jaeger ~~X~~ was effective with the GOA. His reported insistence that the UNHCR had standing with the GOA under its statute rather than under the convention would not appeal to those he was trying to convince. He had no specific example- of cases of forced repatriation, and consequently his representaitons consisted of general expressions of anxiety about refugees. The Embassy's general comments on refugees follow by septel.

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GDS

SREF, AR

Refugees in Argentina

SecState WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USMission GENEVA PRIORITY
AmEmbassy SANTIAGO PRIORITY
AmEmbassy ASUNCION PRIORITY
AmEmbassy LIMA PRIORITY
AmEmbassy MONTEVIDEO PRIORITY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 3766

Ref: A) State 136607, B) State 137156

1. Our response to reftel A overlaps to considerable extent with septel in response to reftel B. They might well be read together.

2. UNHCR Deputy Director Buenos Aires Guy Prim (protect), in absence Maeller, gave us detailed report June 4 of refugee situation as seen by UNHCR. He spoke very frankly and asked that we respect his confidence; he should not be identified by name or position in any use made of this material.

Jaeger of Geneva UNHCR office was here until May 26. He did not make a very good impression on Embassy officials.

3. There are presently about 15,000 refugees in Argentina.

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PREPARED BY:

POL:RSSteven:mg

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6/7/76

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109-812-18
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POL:WSSmith

CLEARANCES:

POL/R:DLSmook

LEGAT:RWScherrer

CONS:GOHuey

AMB:RChill

DCM:MChaplin

Human Rights file

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CLASSIFICATION

by UNHCR estimate. About 10,000 of these are Chileans, with Uruguayans dominating in remaining 5,000. Some 4,000 Chilean refugees have left Argentina by one means or another. Only about 2,000 of the total of 15,000 refugees have legal resident status in Argentina. UNHCR estimates that about 1,000 of the Chileans and 300 to 400 of the others could be considered to be in danger from the security forces or rightist extremists, either of Argentina or their native country. UNHCR is actively involved in trying to assist about 100 refugees detained by GOA who apparently will be allowed to leave if places abroad can be found for them. UNHCR is having great difficulty in finding places of refuge for those who wish to leave. In most desperate cases, of those in immediate danger, UN turns to Sweden, France, Holland and one or two LA countries which can be counted upon to respond with visas, but even these are increasingly reluctant to take refugees.

4. UNHCR does not find GOA helpful on refugee matters. Indeed, refugees have learned that presentation of UNHCR credential to Argentine police is likely to result in even harsher treatment than normal when detained. Jaeger was unable to obtain appointment with anyone of Ministerial rank when he was here. (He complained to us about shortage of funds.)

5. Matter of killings of prominent exile refugees is

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discussed in reftel B. In sum, we feel that it is possible but not proved that regional govts (or, more likely, elements in them) may be cooperating in elimination of certain prominent political refugees.

6. Matter of forcible repatriation of Chileans from Argentina to Chile was raised in State 116688, and replied to at length in Buenos Aires 3234. As pointed out there, GOA has given assurances that refugees will not be forced to return to own countries. However, definition of "refugee" may not be same for GOA as it is for UNHCR, and we (and Santiago) have impression that security forces of the two countries may well exchange some individual prisoners. Neither we nor UNHCR rep here have reason to conclude that there has been any great number of refugees thus returned. These comments apply to the situation of other groups such as the Uruguayan refugees, etc.

7. UNHCR has informed us that it is dealing at this moment with case of a Chilean held in GOA custody. GOA has agreed to permit this individual to leave Argentina under UNHCR auspices, and has given that organization ten days to find a destination, with warning that Chilean will be deported to Chile at end of that time if UN has not found a place for him to go. UN is not sure that threat is meant seriously; it may well be tactic of Argentine migration officials to pressure UN to find a refuge. UN would protest and appeal

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if such deportation imminent. Such expulsions from Argentina may now be legally accomplished for national security reasons under decree of GOA. We will wish to give careful advance thought to any USG criticism of use of this type of involuntary repatriation, as it was under that legislation (Law 21,259) that an Italian, a French, and a Chilean national were recently delivered involuntarily into our hands by the GOA (on narcotics charges).

8. We understand that there is growing concern and in some cases near panic among refugee groups living here as result of deaths of Michelini, Gutierrez, and Torres, and rumors of disappearances of other refugees. UNHCR expects increasing pressure for settlement abroad from the more prominent or militant members of the generally leftist groups, especially Chileans and Uruguayans.

9. UNHCR rep himself raised possibility of a US parole program for refugees from Argentina. He felt it would be a useful contribution to easing of situation, but that it would be unlikely to have much impact. He explained that he had observed operation of our parole program in Lima, and knew views of refugees there and here concerning it. Asking us to understand his personal sympathy for US, but his frankness as well, he said he felt our program was so restrictive and badly administered that it did little good.

Refugees interviewed by some US immigration officers in

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Lima, not rpt not consular officers, quickly spread word that interviewers were hostile, regarded even "moderate" leftist activity as disqualifying, and insulted refugees. Subsequent applicants then minimized political involvement in Chile, or invented stories, in effort meet US standards, but often thereby left themselves in position of appearing to be only "economic" refugees and therefore also failing to qualify. UN rep thought we would get applications here only from rank and file refugees most of whom in no real danger in Argentina, while more politically active who are in danger either would not qualify for US parole or would disdain to go to US on political grounds. He said UNHCR would welcome a US program in any event, as it was becoming extremely difficult to find any haven for such refugees.

10. We believe on balance that eventual establishment of such a program might be useful in Argentina, if it included selected Argentine parolees as well as Chileans and other refugees. We do not share rather negative assessment of UN representative, and believe program could be implemented in such a way as to take advantage of experience gained in Chilean parole program. It would be a humanitarian gesture and might be welcomed by the GOA as way to reduce its burden of refugees. On other hand, it would be difficult to limit program to very restricted numbers contemplated in Chilean parole program when potential pool of applicants exceeds

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10,000 for non-Argentine refugees alone. Inherent restrictions of US immigration law and exclusion of "economic" refugees would be likely create same disappointment of expectations cited by UNHCR official. Program would also of course require establishment in Buenos Aires of EDY consular/ immigration group to run program, adding to our security problem.

11. There is not sufficient justification for a parole program yet, and there may not be in future. Despite concern over the attacks on such figures as Torres, we do not yet see a situation resembling that of Chile, where we understand that most applicants for parole are under GOC detention. Few potential applicants here are in custody. Only if situation becomes much worse, and only if program could include Argentines as well as foreign refugees, could we recommend implementation of a parole program here.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

CONTROL: 3813

9 Jun 76

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AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

N/A

PINS, SHUM, AR

Detention of Liliana Nazario

ACTION:

SecState WASHDC

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 3813

Ref:

~~RAXX~~ State 129592

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LEGAT
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RF
CHRON
DCM

1. Mother and Amcit sister of Liliana Nazario-Aberbach, ~~xx~~ an Argentine citizen held without charge by Argentine authorities for one month, arrived in Buenos Aires from Kansas June 6 to help effect the daughter's release. The mother, Clara Aberbach de Nazario, reported to Emboffs June 7 that she visited her daughter in jail and found her in good health and spirits and apparently not mistreated in any way. The mother has engaged an Argentine lawyer and sought Embassy assistance. Emboffs have informally made inquiries and expressed Embassy's and USG's concern to FonMin and will make every effort to ensure Liliana's continued good treatment and early release. Embassy is receiving numerous congressional inquiries based on Amcit sister Sonia Nazario's form letter plea for assistance

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POL:YTH/ser:mg

CLEARANCES:

DRAFTING DATE

6/8/76

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CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

POL:WSSmith

CONS:GWhitman (in substance)

AMB:RChill

DCM:MChaplin

from USG officials. We will continue to follow and report all efforts made on her behalf.

2. Although no charges have yet been brought against Liliana, her aunt hypothesized that charges could be related to fact that subversive literature and a poster of Che Guevara were found in her room. We understand she was picked up for distributing subversive leaflets with a group which was rounded up by Federal Police. Her room was later sealed by police.

HILL

JUN 76 1815

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

 INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM

AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

N/A

SHUM, PINS, AR

Disappearance of Reymundo Gleyzer

ACTION:

SecState WASHDC PRIORITY

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 3848

Ref:

State 138507

1. The mother of missing Argentine film-maker Reymundo Gleyzer filed a petition of habeas corpus on behalf of her son in the First Instance Criminal Court No. 22, according to a June 4 BA Herald report.

2. In her presentation, the mother says Gleyzer was kidnapped in his home May 27 by attackers who stole cinema equipment and household belongings. Gleyzer arrived in Buenos Aires May 21 from the US where he planned to return on a film contract with UNESCO.

3. Embassy inquiries provided no further information on Gleyzer's whereabouts or abductors. We will continue to report new information.

4. Decontrol upon receipt.

~~4. Comment: Emboriffs continue to make informal representations to appropriate ForMin officials on specific Argentine~~

HILL

HILL

109-812-20

DRAFTED BY:

POL:YTher:mg

DRAFTING DATE

6/9/76

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CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

POL:WSSmith

CLEARANCES:

AM

George M. Chaplin

DCM

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CLASSIFICATION

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11 JUN 76
1818

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

INDICATE
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☐ CHARGE TO

FROM

AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

ACTION:

Info:

GDS

SHUM, PINS, PINE, PFOR, AR

GOA Says Will Not Forceably Repatriate Refugees

SecState WASHDC PRIORITY

AmEmbassy ASUNCION

" BRASILLIA

" CARACAS

" LA PAZ

" MONTEVIDEO

" SANTIAGO

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 3914

Ref:

A) Buenos Aires 3880, B) Buenos Aires 3727, C) Montevideo 2109

1. In the face of growing international concern over dangers

to political refugees in Argentina, the executive public

information secretariat issued a communique June 10 declaring

that "there is no danger, either for refugees or any other

foreign resident in Argentina. No foreigner has or will be

sent back to his own country for political or ideological

reasons."

2. The communique was prompted by an Agence France Presse

report in which UNHCR Director Gilbert Jaeger, a recent

visitor to Buenos Aires, condemned yesterday's armed theft

of refugee documents from the Argentine Catholic Commission

DRAFTED BY:

POL:YThayer:

DRAFTING DATE

6/11/76

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EDITS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

POL:WSSmith

CLEARANCES:

POL/R:DISmock (in substance) WBS

LEGAT:RWScherrer (in substance) WBS

JUN 14 1976

Chargé: MChaplin

LEGAL ATTACHE - BUENOS AIRES

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on Immigration (reftel A) and called on Argentine authorities to protect refugees.

3. The communique blames "the international campaign to discredit Argentina" for spreading tales that foreigners with either legal or illegal residence in Argentina are being sent back to their countries for reprisals. It suggests that "those persons or institutions that believe in this campaign provide residence quotas in their own countries for those persons whose continuing residence in Argentina is incompatible with internal peace and is a threat to national security."

4. At the same time, the Executive issued Decree No. 787, dated June 10, expelling 15 foreigners who were under arrest under the jurisdiction of the Executive "for carrying out activities against state security." The list included 15 Spanish names, but did not give their nationalities nor the specific charges, deportation date, or country of destination. As we reported in Para 4, reftel B, Argentine law authorizes deportation of foreigners engaged in activities that disrupt "social peace, national security, or public order." The same law was invoked recently to deport two Bolivian citizens to Caracas June 10.

5. Although Argentine law holds that a foreigner expelled from Argentina by decree must be sent back to his own country if he cannot obtain admission into a third country, the communique insists no foreigner will be forceably

repatriated for ideological or political reasons.

6. Comment. GOA is in same policy ~~XXXX~~ dilemma expressed
i.e.
in refitel C, how to relieve the country of dangerous or
potentially dangerous foreigners while not betraying the
accepted international practice of respect for political
exiles.

CHAPLIN *WRS for*

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FROM
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CLASSIFICATION
~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

E.O. 11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:

N/A
PFOR, SHUM, AR
Abduction of Chilean Refugees

ACTION:

Secstate WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO

Amembassy ASUNCION
" MONTEVIDEO
" SANTIAGO
USUN NEW YORK

REF

State 143914

Chargé
POL-4
POL/R
ECOM
USIS
USDAO
MILGP
SCIAT
LEGAT
RF
CHRON

1. All twenty-five refugees were released June 12. All were Chilean--with exception of proprietor of one of the hotels who was Paraguayan and apparently was taken along because he protested too loudly raid on his establishment.

2. Refugees have confirmed that they were taken away in to fifty usual unmarked Ford Falcons after some thirty-five/gunmen had raided two hotels where refugees were housed under auspices of UN. Raid reported by press to have been carried out in brutal manner, with families handled very roughly. According to refugees, gunmen identified themselves as representing "Superintendency of Army Police." (In fact, so far as we know, no such organization exists in Army.)

DRAFTED BY: POL:WSSmith:cc
DRAFTING DATE: 6/13/76
TEL. EXT. 128
CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: Charge: MChaplin

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JUN 14 1976
LEGAL ATTACHE
BUENOS AIRES

Human Rights file

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Twenty-five male refugees, including several who were ill, were taken blindfolded and to what they believed to have been a barracks, where they were beaten, tortured with electric prods and warned to get out of Argentina. All were then released.

3. UN rep Guy Prim told Emboff last night that the twenty-five were threatened with death if they talked too much about their ordeal. Several are in bad shape physically. All are naturally extremely frightened, according to Prim, and want to leave Argentina as soon as possible. Prim indicated UN Refugee Office here is in contact with Geneva and is trying to make arrangements to move them to other countries. He hinted that UN would be delighted if US would accept a few.

4. GOA has not yet issued any statements on its own regarding abduction; rather, it has responded to UN Refugee Office which has in turn passed on responses to press. According to UN reps, when they called to report the raid and mass kidnapping and to ask GOA to take immediate measures to assure safe return, GOA officials expressed shock, deplored act and gave assurances that measures would be taken to find and return the twenty-five and to protect other refugees. In fact, policemen were immediately placed on guard duty outside all hotels housing refugees.

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5. In subsequent communication (June 12) to UN reps here, GOA again deplored act and stated operation had not been carried out by police or military units.

(Note: Original wording said it had not been carried out by "irregular police or military units"---thus leaving question as to whether it had been carried out by "regular" units. GOA quickly changed wording to refer to all units.)

6. UN Refugee Office here has commented to us that they are satisfied so far with GOA response in this matter. Many observers, however, are asking themselves whether it is credible that thirty-five to fifty armed men could with impunity raid and conduct a lengthy search (gunmen were at hotels for over half an hour) of two hotels unless they enjoyed cooperation and support from elements ~~with~~ within GOA security forces?

7. Chargé will see Amb Pereyra, Director General of Policy at Foreign Ministry, June 14 and will raise matter with him, expressing USG's concern for safety of refugees here.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

CONTROL: 3960
15 Jun 76
1320
INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM: AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES
CLASSIFICATION: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:

GDS
SHUN, SREF, PINS, AR, CI, UR
Aftermath of Kidnapping of Refugees in Buenos Aires

ACTION:

SecState WASHDC IMMEDIATE

Info:

USUN
USMission GENEVA
AmEmbassy ASUNCION
" MONTEVIDEO
" SANTIAGO

Ref:

A) Buenos Aires 3918, B) Buenos Aires 3914, C) Buenos Aires 3880

AMB
POL-3
POL/R
ECOM
USIS
USDAO
MILGP-2
LEGAT
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1. Summary. Twenty-four foreign refugees, mostly Chileans, under UNHCR protection were kidnapped by band of unidentified armed men in Buenos Aires June 11. All were released June 12 suffering from beatings and electric torture, under threat of death if they did not leave Argentina within 48 hours (see ref A). UNHCR is now searching for countries to give visas to those threatened. GOA has made no public statement on incident, but is placed in embarrassing position due official statement shortly before kidnappings that "refugees in no specific danger" (see ref B). Given circumstances this and earlier refugee incidents, conclusion almost inescapable

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ECOM:WBeal (in substance)

POL/R:BSmoeck

Human Rights file

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that GOA security forces either directly responsible or at least tolerating extra-official actions. Embassy suggests Department raise the human rights issue with Martinez de Hoz in Washington. End Summary.

2. The weekend kidnapping and torture of 24 foreign refugees following theft of refugee documents from Catholic Commission on Immigration June 9 (ref C) has reportedly spread terror among thousands of refugees in Argentina. It has also embarrassed the now silent GOA, which insisted last Friday, June 11, that foreign refugees had no "specific danger" to fear in Argentina. Twenty-four refugees in Buenos Aires under UNHCR protection--23 Chilean, one Uruguayan--and the Paraguayan hotel clerk were kidnapped, beaten, tortured and freed June 11-12 and warned to "leave Argentina within 48 hours or be killed." UNHCR officials are frantically seeking foreign countries in which to relocate the threatened refugees, but as of June 14 had only secured two places in Netherlands, two in Canada and up to five in Sweden. (UNHCR Rep told Emboffs as June 14 that UNHCR/Geneva was asked to request asylum in the US for refugees endangered in Argentina.)

3. According to UNHCR Rep, the refugees reported they were ~~men they recognized as~~ interrogated by/security officers from Chile and Uruguay who had dossiers on each refugee. While undergoing beatings, electric torture and recorded music and screams, the Chilean

refugees were questioned by Chilean security officers and the ~~insisted they~~ one Uruguayan by Uruguayan official, whom they recognized, the UNHCR Rep said. Interrogating teams had records and photographs of the refugees, apparently from the documents stolen from the Catholic Immigration Commission and files from the country of origin, according to UNHCR Rep who spent most of the weekend with the terrorized refugees. Victims were asked about their own activities and about the UNHCR and told to leave Argentina within 48 hours or be killed. They told UNHCR Rep that they were brought to old building that was well equipped with "torture apparatus."

4. The kidnappings were very quietly played in all Buenos Aires press except English-language BA Herald, which ran weekend page one stories, a Sunday feature describing the kidnappings under heading, "An Ill Wind Blows," and a Monday morning editorial imploring govt to stop unexplained vigilante-type kidnappings which are undermining its image abroad.

5. There are currently 2000 refugees under UNHCR protection housed in 14 hotels in ~~AMSTERDAM~~ Buenos Aires, another 2000 in Mendoza and more in other provincial Argentine cities. UNHCR in Argentina and Geneva is appealing directly to more than 20 countries to provide safe haven for those threatened. (UNHCR Rep would welcome an extension of Chilean parole program or other US assistance on behalf of the refugees.

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He told Emboffs that none of the 25 threatened were "economic refugees" or highly politicized; perhaps five or more were members of the Communist Party.)

high Point

6. ~~REDACTED~~ On June 14 call on ~~REDACTED~~ official, Chargé discussed human rights situation in Argentina (septel).

7. COMMENT:

Pattern of kidnapping and murder of foreign refugees in Argentina cannot fail to suggest direct involvement of elements or at least their acquiescence. Argentine security forces/ The kidnapping of Gutierrez Ruiz-- at his apartment building a noisy, hour-long affair ~~REDACTED~~-- and the violent roundup of 25 foreigners by approximately 40 armed and hooded men near the local police station both occurred entirely unimpeded by local police. If, as refugees reported to UNHCR Rep, Chilean and Uruguayan security forces participated in kidnapping and interrogation of victims, it suggests close coordination of Southern Cone security forces to eradicate what they consider to be subversion and to terrorize refugees. However, we do not have information upon which to evaluate refugees' allegations.

7. GOA, now twice embarrassed by official pronouncements on security of foreign refugees--first, that Torres's disappearance could be casually explained away and then that foreign refugees were in "no specific danger", both of which were immediately refuted by subsequent events--has chosen to remain quiet for the time being.

8. Catholic bishops ~~REDACTED~~ sent a strong statement on refugee incident to GOA, which has not been publicly released, according to UNHCR Rep.

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9. In past, Economy Minister Martinez de Hoz ~~has said (sincerely, we believe) that GOA in no way responsible for right-wing terrorist acts such as Michelini/Gutierrez Ruiz murders and that they more likely represented effort on part of extreme left to embarrass GOA. /~~ ~~In Embassy view this position is simply no longer sustainable. Embassy hopes Martinez de Hoz visit to US is success and we would not suggest he receive anything less than warm reception. However, Department may wish to take opportunity to impress upon him in Washington (as we have tried to do here) that if such acts as June 11 mass kidnapping continue without effective measures on part of GOA to bring them under control, serious consequences could result for US-Argentine relations.~~

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16 June 76
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

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FROM Amembassy BUENOS AIRES CLASSIFICATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

E.O. 11652: GDS SHUM
TAGS: PINT, SOPH, AR
SUBJECT: Government and the Media

ACTION: Secstate WASHDC
USIA WASHDC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 3976

REF (a) Buenos Aires 3691, (b) Buenos Aires 1951

1. The June 10 issue of GENTE, the largest circulation (270,000) general interest magazine in Argentina, published an article containing a series of letters received by the government from abroad protesting specific human rights violations in Argentina and demanding the release of certain individuals believed held by the military govt. The letters were part of what Interior Minister Harguindeguy called "an international plot against Argentina" in a press conference June 2 (ref a), and, indeed, the article pointed out that the letters were so similar that they clearly represented a concerted letter writing campaign. Harguindeguy, however, had also claimed that he knew nothing about any of the individuals named in the letters; indeed, he said most had never been in Argentina. GENTE requested copies of the letters for a feature story on the "plot".

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DRAFTED BY: USIS:MO'Brien:cc	DRAFTING DATE SEARCHED 6/15/76 SERIALIZED 6/15/76	TEL EXT 113301	CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: POL:WSSmith WBS
CLEARANCES: USIS:HWoodward (in draft) HWoodward KOP Hill	JUN 16 1976 LEGAL ATTACHMENT		CHARGE:MChaplin me

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[The Minister agreed but when shown the galley proofs of the very favorable article, he had second thoughts and ordered that the letters not be published. GENTE explained that the edition had already gone to press and Harguindeguy responded that if ^{it} ~~they~~ were not withdrawn he would have the entire print run seized. When questioned closely by GENTE Managing Editor Samuel Gelblung (protect) as to the rationale for his attitude, Harguindeguy admitted sheepishly that he had lied at his press conference and in fact most of the individuals named in the letters were in government custody. Gelblung immediately requested some tape, covered the offending names, and the slightly-altered article appeared the following day.

2. This incident is illustrative of the government's rather naive and inept attempts to utilize the Argentine media since the coup. After a good start (ref b), the government-controlled media, which floundered in a sea of corruption under the Peronist administration, are now beset by a wave of military reforms that threaten to drown them in ~~the~~ confusing and overlapping jurisdictions. In addition, the newly created Public Information Secretariat, which replaced the traditional Presidential Press Secretariat, is sorely lacking in competent media professionals to guide its dedicated but media-inexperienced military leaders through the pitfalls

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Page 3 of BA-3976

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inherent in handling and dealing with the national and international press. As the human rights issue looms larger on the Argentine scene, media mistakes like Harguindeguy's may cost the military government dearly.

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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INFO RUESBA/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 4013

RUFHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 824

RUESLZ/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ 1721

BT

TO	ACT	INF	TO	ACT	INF
AMB		✓	DAO		✓
DCM		✓	L GATT		✓
			DEA		
FOI		✓	FAS		
ECOM			AID		
FOI/R		✓	MILGP		
CCWS	2		PE+		
ADM			GSO		
USIS			B & F		
SCI			C-PLAN		✓
SY			IF		✓

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 5218

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJ: VISIT OF GILBERT JAEGER, OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

1. IN MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR MAY 28, GILBERT JAEGER, UNHCR, INDICATED HIS ORGANIZATION WAS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED BY PROSPECT OF GREATER REFUGEE PROBLEMS IN SOUTHERN CONE, LARGELY AS RESULT OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN ARGENTINA. QUITE APART FROM ARGENTINES WHO MIGHT FLEE TO OTHER COUNTRIES, JAEGER POINTED OUT THAT ONLY SOME 2,000 OF THE 12,000 - 14,000 CHILEAN REFUGEES IN ARGENTINA HAD BEEN GIVEN PERMISSION TO REMAIN. HE FEARED MANY OF THE OTHERS MIGHT SOON BE EXPELLED.
2. JAEGER DISCERNED A GROWING THREAT THAT REFUGEES IN SOUTHERN CONE COUNTRIES WOULD BE FORCED TO RETURN TO THEIR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN, IN VIOLATION OF INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTIONS ON ASYLUM AND POSSIBLY OF UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON REFUGEES. HE SAID HIGH COMMISSIONER HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH COUNTRIES CONCERNED ON THIS MATTER. HE GAVE AS EXAMPLE REPORTED CASE IN WHICH SIX CHILEANS WERE ARRESTED IN BOLIVIA AND DEPORTED TO ARICA; JAEGER SAID THREE OF THESE WERE NOW IN TRES ALAMOS DETENTION CENTER AND WERE SEEKING TO BE RETURNED TO BOLIVIA.
3. JAEGER WONDERED IF WE COULD DO ANYTHING IN BEHALF OF ADAN SORIA, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE LA PAZ BAR ASSOCIATION, WHO HE SAID HAD BEEN EXPELLED FROM BOLIVIA IN 1974 AND WAS IN DANGER OF BEING SENT BACK. I EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT WE COULD BE HELPFUL EITHER IN THIS CASE, OR WITH RESPECT TO OBSERVANCE OF THE CONVENTIONS ON ASYLUM, TO WHICH WE WERE NOT A PARTY.
4. AS THE DEPARTMENT KNOWS, THE UNHCR OFFICE IN SANTIAGO LIMITS ITS ACTIVITIES TO FAMILY REUNION WORK. JAEGER SAYS THAT THEY ARE NOW HANDLING 30 TO 40 CASES A MONTH INVOLVING ABOUT 150 PERSONS, AND THAT THE NUMBER OF NEW APPLICANTS IS ABOUT EQUAL TO THE NUMBER RESETTLED.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

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FROM
Amembassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:

GDS
SHUM, PFOR, CVIS, AR, US
Jacobco Tieffenberg Released

ACTION:

Secstate WASHDC IMMEDIATE

REF

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 3784

a) State 129049, b) State 139624

AMB
DCM
POL-4
ECOM
POL/R
USIS
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DAO
LEGATT
MILGP
RF
CHRON

1. Emboff advised Tieffenberg's father of offer from University of Chicago (ref a) as soon as he returned from US. He confirmed that efforts to see his son were being turned aside with response that "no prisoners are being held here."

2. Late afternoon June 7, however, father called to say son, Jacobco Tieffenberg, had just been released. According to father, latter wishes to accept offer from Univ of Chicago and depart for US asap. He will apply for visa today. He is ineligible for visa under Section 212(a)(28) INA on basis of past membership in Communist Party. He may, however, apply for waiver under Section 212(d)(3)(A). Presume he would be applying for H or J visa, in which case his bona fides as non-immigrant would have to be examined.

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DRAFTED BY:

POL:WSSmith/CONS:Whitlock:cc

DRAFTING DATE

6/8/76

TEL. EXT.

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CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

AMB ROBERT C. HILL

CLEARANCES:

POL/R:DSmock (in draft)

DCM:MChaplin

CONS:GHuey

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

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CLASSIFICATION

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS:
SUBJECT:

N/A
SHUM, CVIS, AR (TIEFFENBERG, Jacobo)
Jacobo Tieffenberg Case

ACTION:

SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 4195

REF: State 158247

1. Jacobo Tieffenberg has not yet applied for visa. On June 21 he confirmed he had yet to have his passport renewed by Argentine authorities, but showed no particular concern about this. (Renewal of Argentine passports can take several weeks.) Tieffenberg has apparently not yet received Form DSP-66 from University of Chicago, nor has University of Chicago apparently yet requested INS approval of H petition for him. Absent one or other of these two documents, ^{AND} formal application for visa and valid passport, Embassy unable determine type of visa for which he qualified and unable prepare appropriate section 212(d)(3)(A):(28) waiver request.

2. Embassy ~~EXAMINE~~ is trying to contact Tieffenberg now.

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POL:YThayer:CONS:GOHuey:wwh

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6/25/76

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JUN 28 1976

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BUENOS AIRES

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OPTIONAL FORM 153
(Formerly FS-413)
January 1975
Dept. of State

CONTROL 4160
24 JUN 76 1320

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

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FROM

AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 11652:

XGDS-1

TAGS:

PINS, SHUM, IS, AR

SUBJECT:

Israeli View of Human Rights and Anti-Semitism in Argentina

ACTION:

SecState WASHDC

Info:

AmEmbassy TEL AVIV

Ref:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 4160

Buenos Aires 3741, Buenos Aires 3851

1. Israeli Embassy assessment of GOA position on human rights

in general and on anti-Semitism in particular was given to

Emboff June 16 by senior Israeli diplomat.

2. Source stated that his Embassy had concluded from informa-

tion available to it that human rights abuses such as kid-

nappings and killings of leftists and of foreign exiles living

in Argentina are result of policy decision by GOA, and not of

lack of control of security elements. According to reports

which have reached Israelis, and which they consider convinc-

ing, Argentine military made basic decision well before coup

of March 24 to eliminate subversion and terrorism, and to

silence and terrorize all significant potential opposition.

Only question remaining was how to do so with least exposure

to external criticism which had isolated military regime in

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POL:RSSSteven:mg

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CLASSIFICATION

Chile.

3. One group in military were understood to have urged "Pinochet" course, meaning mass roundups of suspects, large internment camps, and executions with or without formality of summary courts-martial. This course assumed that GOA would accept responsibility for actions and would argue internal security crises as justification.

4. Alternative course, which was adopted by new GOA, according to this assessment, was labeled "la basural" - in rough translation, the "trash disposal" method. Under this course, GOA gave green light to security forces to attack internal security problem with any methods considered appropriate, but always keeping GOA in position of what amounts to "plausible denial" of responsibility. Effort was to cast smokescreen of doubt for first few weeks or months while opposition being destroyed. According to this assessment, GOA accepted fact that it would be suspect and that moderate opinion would eventually begin to turn against it. At point where destruction of internal opposition no longer outweighed increasing domestic and international criticism, GOA would finally find itself able to bring abuses of "unauthorized security elements" and "rightist extremists" under control.

5. Sophisticated touch, according to stories reaching source, was cultivation of false idea that Pres. Videla and "moderates" were battling valiantly against certain "hardliners" and thus

unable, immediately, to bring situation under control. At appropriate moment moderates would begin to be successful, and GOA, having disposed of bulk of its opposition with limited damage to its image, would begin to build acceptable record in human rights area.

6. Israelis have studied situation with care to see if greater than normal Argentine anti-Semitism has emerged in security forces under new GOA. According to source, Jewish community has antennae vibrating at highest pitch, and every time Jew is arrested, or kidnapped by "non-official" forces, tendency is to see anti-Semitism on rise. Fact appears to be, however, that Jews suffering abuses are in rough proportion to their natural percentage among groups involved. Israeli Embassy recognizes, for example, that Jews are ~~maxim~~ heavily represented in academic and intellectual population which in turn is heavily involved in leftist subversive activities. It is not surprising or sinister to find fair number of Jews thus caught up in captures of real or suspected ERP or Montonero members.

Israeli source assumes that rightist, traditionally anti-Semitic security forces personnel and possibly semi-official "death squads" are doubly pleased when subversive in their power turns out to be Jew as well, but emphasis is on subversive quality, not Jewishness as such. Israeli Embassy and Jewish leaders on whole consider that present GOA has not initiated or permitted more than "normal" anti-Semitism, to

date. They will of course watch carefully trends in future.

7. Comment: Israeli theory concerning united GOA tactic with respect to violation of human rights is an interesting one and has been heard before. That Israelis believe it is significant in itself. Theory that Videla is simply pretending to be disturbed by violations of human rights is plausible, and, indeed, DAO is receiving indications from its sources which coincide to large degree with Israeli evaluation of GOA internal security policy. On other hand, it is also plausible that Videla and Viola would indeed like to bring abuses under control but do not have strength to do so without risking serious institutional splits--a risk they are not willing to take (see reftels). Embassy leans toward this view, but whatever the reason for Videla's inertia, results are the same. It is clear that elements of security forces are involved in illegal arrests, tortures and other violations of human rights. It is equally clear by this time that Videla must be aware of this involvement. Yet no rpt no measures that we are aware of have yet been taken to end it. Hence, Videla himself must bear the responsibility.

8. As time goes by it becomes apparent that while there are divisions, and possible serious ones, in the Armed Forces, those differences revolve more around questions of long-range political solutions (e.g., whether to dialogue with the present political parties or try to create new ones; whether

to use the present CGT structure or wipe it out and produce totally new concepts and structures for trade union activity) and far less around questions of human rights. Controlling terrorism is govt's number one priority and avoidance of violations of human rights in the process may simply be too difficult and subtle for govt to handle.

9. As this cable being drafted, UNHCR representative approached us to ask our opinion on GOA attitude toward Jews. He has been hearing warnings from some sources including French Embassy that anti-Semitism on rise. However, French concern apparently based on limited number of cases in which persons arrested formally or kidnapped informally on essentially political suspicion have later reported that captors displayed vicious anti-Semitism in addition to interest in subversion. This tends to validate Israeli assessment of situation rather than to indicate specific increase in anti-Semitism on part of GOA.

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02 JUL 76
1814

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM

AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 11652:

XGDS-2

TAGS:

SHUM, SREF, PINS, AR, CI, UY

SUBJECT:

Kidnapping of ~~XXXXXX~~ Refugees in Buenos Aires

ACTION:

AmEmbassy MONTEVIDEO

Info:

SecState WASHDC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 4378

Ref:

A) Montevideo 2208, B) Buenos Aires 3960

AMB
POL-3
POL/R
ECOM
USIS
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LEGAT
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1. UNHCR official who interviewed group of Chilean and Uruguayan refugees after their release by kidnappers June 12 is out of Argentina for about one month. Head of UNHCR office told Emboffs June 30 that he is aware that refugees told UNHCR subordinate that they recognized and could name Uruguayan security officials ~~XXXX~~ (plural) who are active in Buenos Aires in joint operations with Argentine officials against refugees, but he himself does not have names. He did himself talk with ^{the} one Uruguayan among those kidnapped who stated that he was questioned during incident by same Uruguayan security official who had interrogated him two years ago in Montevideo before he, ^{the} refugee, came to Argentina.

DRAFTED BY:

POL:RSSSteven:mg

DRAFTING DATE

7/2/76

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CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

POL:WSSmith

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LEGATT:RWScherrer

AMB:RCHILL

A/DCM:WBeal

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

2. We cannot evaluate refugee claims of recognition of Uruguayan security officials in kidnapping incident until we have more information. We will attempt to debrief UNHCR official who interviewed refugees when he returns to Buenos Aires. It is fact, however, that UNHCR officials accept stories as true and have spoken to other diplomats about them. Given weight of information accumulating through various channels ~~concerning~~ concerning cooperation between regional security forces, we do not find it improbable that cooperation to degree claimed by refugees could be occurring. We have not expressed this view or discussed UNHCR ~~allegations~~ allegations outside appropriate classified channels.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
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FROM AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, AR, UY
SUBJECT: Case of Andres Larisgoitia

ACTION: SecState WASHDC IMMEDIATE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 4527

Ref: State 168400

AMB
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1. Emboff called Larisgoitia's father as instructed. Father said Andres had had "small problem" but that nothing could be done about it. His tone and attitude strongly suggested he would prefer that Embassy not become involved. Father did not wish to discuss matter on phone and would not come by Embassy.
2. Embassy's informal inquiries have turned up no information on Larisgoitia or the two Freis.

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DRAFTING DATE 7/12/76 TEL. EXT. 128

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:
AMBASSADOR ROBERT C. HILL

A/DCM:WBeal

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TELEGRAM

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FROM

Amembassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:

GDS
PFOR, PINT, PINS, PORO, SHUM, AR
Asylum and Temporary Refuge

ACTION:

Secstate WASHDC IMMEDIATE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 4471

FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER FROM AMBASSADOR HILL

REF

State 167629

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CHRON

1. Department's instruction on asylum policy (reftel) which I have just received constitutes a reversal of traditional U.S. policy and has implications which I consider serious enough to bring to your attention.

2. The instruction tells us that we are to make known, through the UNHCR, that we are prepared now to accept, shelter, and intervene on behalf of persons or groups of persons requesting asylum even if they are under no immediate or visible threat.

Our traditional policy on asylum has served us well in Argentina; we are under no serious criticism to my knowledge as a result of holding to that policy. Persons in legitimate need of asylum have found it quite readily in the Latin American

Embassies with their long history of treaty-supported asylum

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POL:RSSSteven:cc

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CLEARANCES. All in substance:

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policy, or in other Embassies which have shown willingness to receive asylees. I am unaware that such a reversal of ~~pp~~ policy has been implemented in any other country where demand for asylum might be heavy, for example, Chile, Soviet Union, etc.

3. If, as instructed in reftel, we inform UNHCR that we are prepared to take in and shelter, while we investigate allegations of potential danger, individuals or groups of refugees, it will amount to a public solicitation of the community of at least 15,000 political refugees to apply for such asylum. Canadian Embassy, for example, is presently reluctant host to some 27 Chilean refugees who do not appear to be in immediate or potential danger but who cannot now be thrown out the door. We believe in all seriousness that advice to UNHCR of willingness to consider asylum requests will be quickly circulated throughout refugees community and will result in numerous requests for asylum motivated in large part by reasons unconnected with physical danger to applicant.
4. Further, we believe that GOA would interpret very negatively gratuitous advance notification that USG is prepared to intervene on behalf of refugees and Argentine asylees even before we have a case to consider. GOA knows our position on human rights and protection of refugees. It would be an unnecessary and counterproductive step to approach them at this point as we are instructed in final sentence of reftel.

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5. Finally, the members of my Embassy's Security Watch Committee are unanimous and emphatic in recommending to me that I point out the serious security implications inherent in encouraging in any way an influx of petitioners for asylum. We have just witnessed bombing of Argentine Federal Police Headquarters; permitting entry into USG buildings of individuals or groups claiming asylum, and especially sheltering them for minimum of two or three days while cases analyzed, is virtual invitation to extremists of left to breach our security. It is also most serious consideration that the elements of the GOA's own security forces who have been carrying out almost uncontrolled terrorist actions of their own could well retaliate against U.S.G. property or personnel for what they would consider aid and abetting of their opponents.

6. I, joined specifically at their request by my political, security, consular, military and intelligence staff members, strongly recommend reconsideration of instructions contained in reftel. We are all well aware of need to consult with Dept in cases of legitimate requests for asylum, and of sensitivity of present Argentine situation. We have no hesitation about telling GOA and UNHCR that we applaud their positions on involuntary repatriation of refugees. However, we feel that instructions to approach UNHCR and GOA on asylum policy are not warranted by situation and that negative aspects of doing so outweigh any benefits.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

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FROM
AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION
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E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, SCUL, AR
SUBJECT: Catholic Church Issues Restrained Statement on Political
Violence
ACTION: SecState WASHDC

~~SECRET~~ BUENOS AIRES 4617

Ref: (A) Buenos Aires 4487, (B) Buenos Aires 3866

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1. Executive Committee of Catholic Bishops' Episcopal Conference, which includes Cardinals Aramburu and Primatesta, released on July 13 a short statement deploring current political violence in Argentina. Message was addressed to President Videla and other Junta members, and expressed concern of Committee over "...various manifestations of violence..." which "endanger peace and bring suffering to the Argentine community." Message was inspired by "...recent events which have deeply wounded the heart of the Church and the people..."
2. Cardinal Aramburu and Papal Nuncio called on Min Interior Harguindeguy July 13 to advise him of message and reportedly also to express interest in status of priests being held by GOA under State of Siege provisions.

CRATED BY:
FOL:RSSteven :mg

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7/14/76

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CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:
POL:WSSmith *WSS*

CLEARANCES:

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A/DCM:WBeal *WB*

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3. Comment. During conversation with Ambassador July 8 (reftel A) Papal Nuncio said that Church would issue general statement on violence, without specific reference to killing of five priests and seminarians on July 4. Considering that Church knows that its clergy were killed by police, and Cardinal Aramburu threw accusation in face of Harguindeguy, tone of message to Videla and Junta is remarkably restrained. We suspect meeting of Aramburu and Nuncio with Harguindeguy yesterday may have been ~~stormy~~ stormy affair, but we do not yet have report on meeting. While Church apparently willing to speak harshly in private to GOA, it still clings publicly to restrained, neutral posture discussed in reftel B. If there are more direct attacks on Church itself, such as murder of priests, it may be forced into much more open criticism of GOA, under pressure of liberal elements within clergy.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

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FROM AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, UNHCR, AR, CI
SUBJECT: Chilean Mario Munoz Salas Surfaces, Requests Resettlement
in France through UNHCR

ACTION: SecState WASHDC

Info: AmEmbassy CANBERRA,
" PARIS
" SANTIAGO
USMission GENEVA

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 4734

Ref: (A) Buenos Aires 3754; (B) Buenos Aires 3234.

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1. Mario Munoz Salas, Chilean labor leader who fled to Argentina from Pinochet's Chile in 1973 and who was apparently hiding for last several months, appeared at UNHCR offices in Buenos Aires Friday night (July 16) to request assistance in leaving the country, UNHCR director told Emboff today (July 19). UNHCR Director avouched Munoz Salas' identity and said UNHCR had asked French Embassy to expedite Munoz Salas' resettlement in his choice, France.
2. Munoz Salas professed to UNHCR director to know nothing about international interest in his welfare (ref A) and is apparently unperturbed enough to arrange his own accommodations

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in Buenos Aires. He told UNHCR director that he was picked up recently in Mendoza by Argentine police and interrogated for two days then routinely released unharmed. UNHCR director marveled to Emboff how Argentine security forces could pick up and later release Munoz Salas, whose life was thought to be threatened by GOA and GOC security forces and who was subject of well-publicized international concern and numerous US congressional inquiries. (RefB). "Either it shows how poorly centralized and coordinated the Argentine security forces are, or there is something funny going on," the UNHCR director remarked.

3. Munoz Salas has apparently been in Mendoza where his wife, five children and four dependents are living. UNHCR director said he expects France will quickly accept Munoz Salas for resettlement and that his family will probably follow. This information has not been made public.

CHAPLIN 

CONTROL 4740
20 July 76
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

ACTION:

Info:

GDS

PFOR, SHUM, AR, UN

Situation of Refugees Worsens

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" MONTEVIDEO

" SANTIAGO

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 4740

Ref:

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~~DOOM~~

1. Summary. Situation of political refugees in Argentina continues to worsen with last week's disappearance of 30 Uruguayans, including daughter of murdered Uruguayan Senator Michelini. Refugee community is terrified, according to the UNHCR official, who said the number of "desperate cases" requiring immediate resettlement now far surpasses the 1000 originally announced by the High Commissioner for Refugees Aga Khan in his appeal to the US and 33 other governments in late June (reftel).

2. Plight of political refugees in Argentina has worsened considerably in recent weeks, and their terror has reached

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the stage of psychosis, UNHCR director told Emboff Monday (July 19). BA Herald reported and UNHCR acknowledged that about 30 Uruguayan exiles in Buenos Aires have been missing from their homes since last Tuesday (July 13), including Margarita Michelini--daughter of the slain Uruguayan Senator Zelmar Michelini--her husband, Pedro Altuna; Ines Quadros, daughter of Uruguay's former ambassador to West Germany; and Jose Felix Diaz, husband of the woman recently snatched from the Venezuelan Embassy in Montevideo.

3. Last week (July 12) three exiles--two Chileans and an Uruguayan--were abducted after leaving UNHCR offices, were beaten and freed two days later. The three had gone to UNHCR office to pick up medicines for some 50 Uruguayan and Chilean refugees on a hunger strike to publicize their appeal for resettlement opportunities outside Argentina. The hunger strike ended Saturday (July 17). (UNHCR director announced to the press July 13 that if the three didn't reappear within 48 hours, he would file a petition of habeas corpus. UNHCR has made no statement yet concerning the alleged disappearance of the 30 other Uruguayan exiles.)

4. UNHCR source said that although Canada has agreed to take in up to 1000 political exiles through its immigration program, the UK 70, and France continues to accept special cases (see septel on Mario Munoz Salas), the number of "desperate cases" has gone far beyond the 1000 originally

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announced in UN High Commissioner for Refugees Aga Khan's appeal to the US and 33 other governments in late June (reftel). "The situation has changed completely in the last three weeks," UNHCR director told Emboffs. "If before we said 1000, today they must all go. No refugee considers himself safe here any longer."

5. Number of ~~1111~~ exiles seeking UN protection increases daily, source reported. Many hundreds have come in since the Uruguayan politicians' murder in ^{late May} ~~early June~~ and the abduction and torture of 25 refugees from a UNHCR-sponsored hotel in mid June. Source said he has reports that Argentine employers, particularly in Bahia Blanca and other provincial towns, are firing their refugee employees, apologetically explaining it is "too dangerous" to be associated with refugees. This increases the refugees' desperation and determination to leave.

6. Source said that although he has unsuccessfully tried to persuade Argentine officials to accelerate regularization of the status of many thousands of aliens who previously considered ~~stay~~ remaining in Argentina, now it makes no difference: no refugee wants to stay in Argentina. He said when GOA agreed to consider specific cases for preparing residency documentation, he could not come up with one refugee who was willing to be considered. He also said that the increasingly panicky refugees are coming to Buenos Aires from the provinces, seeking direct UN protection and acceleration of their cases

7. ~~Comment:~~ UNHCR Director travels to UNHCR headquarters in Geneva next week, apparently to review and emphasize deteriorating refugee situation in Argentina. When Emboff called on him yesterday, he jumped up, asking if USG had favorable response to Aga Khan's appeal. He repeated urgency of situation several times during visit. ~~New Confidentiality~~

he said the Uruguayan situation appeared the most desperate and suggested that Uruguayan govt seems most determined to

CHAPLIN

OPTIONAL FORM 153A
(Formerly FS-413A)
January 1975
Dept. of State

CONTROL: 4785

22 Jul 76

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

GDS
SHUM, AR
Jacobo Tieffenberg Case

ACTION:

Secstate WASHDC

REF

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 4785

4567

Buenos Aires ~~170210~~ and previous

1. As reported in reftel, Jacobo Tieffenberg has been issued visa and is ready to leave Argentina as soon as his wife has safe conduct out of the country.

2. Meanwhile, however, his father Leon Tieffenberg has been arrested by local police in Monte (near which he has a small ranch). Father had told Emboff last week that Army had raided his ranch during week while he was in Buenos Aires, and had told ranch employees they were looking for arms because "Jacobo Tieffenberg is a dangerous subversive who is currently under arrest." This probably suggests lack of coordination rather than that new arrest order is pending. As soon as Army had searched his ranch, local police probably felt called upon to arrest ~~him~~ when he returned there.

3. Whatever the case, for the moment Jacobo Tieffenberg is in hiding, and his father is being detained.

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CONS:WHitchcock (in draft)

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LEGAL ATTACHE - BUENOS AIRES

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

CONTROL: 4797

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FROM AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES	CLASSIFICATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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E.O. 11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:

N/A
SHUM, PINT, SCUL, AR
More Priests Abducted, Found Murdered

ACTION:

SecState WASHDC

Info:

AmEmbassy PARIS

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 4797

Ref:

Buenos Aires 4617

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CHRON

1. Two priests, one French, the other Argentine, were found shot to death in La Rioja yesterday (July 21). They had been abducted Sunday night (July 18) from a convent near their church by two men in an unmarked car who claimed they were bringing the priests "downtown to testify about some prisoners."

In an official statement, the Interior Ministry condemned the murders of the two priests and that of the five Pallottine churchmen in Buenos Aires two weeks ago and ordered a full investigation.

2. Comment. The Catholic Church reacted cautiously to the Pallottine mass murder two weeks ago, restraining at least its public statements to general condemnations of violence (reftel). This latest abduction and killing, in the now

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Human Rights file

Charge: MChaplin

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well-known style of masquerading "security forces," ~~xxxx~~
may well push the Church to a stronger, more open criticism
of GOA.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

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FROM AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

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Info:

GDS
SHUM, PINS, CI, AR
Chilean National Munoz Salas Seeks Resettlement Outside Argentina

SecState WASHDC

AmEmbassy CANBERRA
" PARIS
" SANTIAGO
" VIENNA
USMission GENEVA

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 5020

Ref:

Buenos Aires 4734

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1. Chilean Munoz Salas remains in UNHCR-sponsored hotel in Buenos Aires awaiting a visa after interviews with French, Australian and Austrian govts. He does not appear to be in danger or particularly concerned about his safety, although he is determined to leave Argentina following his and 13 other registered refugees' 11-hour detention and mistreatment by Argentine provincial police in Mendoza July 2.

2. According to Munoz Salas' statements to immigration authorities of one Embassy, he worked undisturbed for the Juan San/~~XXXXX~~ Provincial Department of Mines from 1973 until

March 26, 1976, two days after the military takeover. Salas

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said that when his family was tortured by National Police on March 26, he fled to the UNHCR regional representative Social Action Coordinator in Mendoza, where he was registered as a mandated refugee and housed in a safe haven.

3. He said that on July 2, he and 13 other refugees were forcibly taken from the safe haven to the local police station and were beaten, tortured and humiliated by Argentine police in the presence of ~~xxx~~ an Army Intelligence officer. Eleven hours later they were released and returned to the safe haven. Munoz Salas says he was recognized and taunted for his union past, information which he claims the Social Action Coordinator must have given the police. He also blames UNHCR for not providing adequate economic assistance to his family (an amount well above the minimum wage) and for not representing him vigorously to foreign embassies where he is seeking visas.

4. Munoz Salas, who was National President of the Chilean Mine Workers Federation, freely admitted he had been an active, militant member of the Socialist Party in Chile before Pinochet, but stated he had not involved himself in politics or union matters in Argentina.

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USJS		✓	B & F		
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SY			IF		✓

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: DISAPPEARANCE OF RAYMUNDO GLEYZER

REF: BUENOS AIRES 3848

1. THE DEPARTMENT CONTINUES TO RECEIVE PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES REGARDING THE CASE OF RAYMUNDO GLEYZER, MOSTLY ON BEHALF OF THE "EMERGENCY COMMITTEE TO DEFEND LATIN AMERICAN FILMMAKERS." RECENT INQUIRIES REFER TO THE REPORT ISSUED BY SANFORD KATZ FOLLOWING HIS FIVE-DAY VISIT TO ARGENTINA TO LOOK INTO THE GLEYZER CASE. KATZ SAYS HE VISITED THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, WHERE HE SAYS HE WAS TOLD THAT THE EMBASSY HAD PREPARED A REPORT INDICATING THAT "MR. GLEYZER HAD PERMITTED CHILEAN REFUGEES TO USE HIS HOME IN HIS ABSENCE AND THAT HE HAD GIVEN HIS SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE TO FILM WORK ABROAD IN OPPOSITION TO THE CHILEAN JUNTA." KATZ SAYS THE EMBASSY ARRANGED FOR HIM TO MEET PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARY RICARDO YOFRE, WHO "DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF OR CONTROL OVER THE FATE OF MR. GLEYZER." HE SAYS THE EMBASSY'S QUERIES TO TWO FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS RECEIVED A SIMILAR NEGATIVE RESPONSE.

2. SEVERAL INQUIRERS HAVE SEEN OR HEARD OF A LETTER SAID TO HAVE BEEN WRITTEN BY AN ARGENTINE NOW RESIDING IN LIMA STATING THAT GLEYZER IS BEING HELD IN "THE SPECIAL TORTURE CAMP IN THE VICINITY OF THE AUTOPISTA GENERAL RICHIERI AND THE CAMINO DE CINTURA (NEAR THE EZEIZA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN BUENOS)."

3. DOES THE EMBASSY HAVE ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING GLEYZER FURTHER TO THAT REPORTED IN REFTEL? HAS SEEN NO REPORT, FROM THE EMBASSY OR ANY INDICATING THAT GLEYZER HAD BEEN SUPPORTING FILM WORK IN OPPOSITION TO THE CHILEAN JUNTA.

4. THE DEPARTMENT IS POUCHING TO THE EMBASSY A COPY OF THE KATZ REPORT, THE SUBSTANTIVE POINTS OF WHICH ARE OUTLINED IN PARA. 1 ABOVE. KISSINGER

BT

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FBI - BUENOS AIRES	

Human Rights file

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

CONTROL: 4941
28 JUL 76 1613

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM

AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

ACTION:

N/A

SHUM, AR

Disappearance of Argentine National Raymundo Gleyzer

SecState WASHDC

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 4941

Ref:

(A) State 184787; (B) Buenos Aires 3848; (C) State 138507

Charge

POL-4

POL/R

ECOM

USIS

USDAO

MILGP-2

LEGAT

SCIAT

RF

CHRON

1. Attorney Katz did visit Embassy where he spoke with Pol officers about Gleyzer case. As noted reftel A, we obtained appointment for him with Yofre.

2. We have prepared no rpt no report on Gleyzer, as Katz claimed. He apparently misunderstood source of information given him. Allegation that Gleyzer had allowed Chilean refugees to use his home came from Gleyzer's supporters in US, and was transmitted to us in State 138507. Story from New York Post dated June 30, sent to us by inquirers, also refers to allegation that Gleyzer involved with Chilean refugees. We do not know source of suggestion that Gleyzer supported film work in opposition to Chilean Junta. Given his occupation, this may have come up as one of various speculative theories about reason for Gleyzer disappearance.

DRAFTED BY:

A/POLCOUNS:RSSteven:mg

DATE

7/28/76

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in various conversations held by Katz in Buenos Aires. At no time have we reported or suggested that Gleyzer in fact was supporting such activities.

3. We have not seen alleged letter concerning Gleyzer's presence in "torture camp" near Ezeiza. Katz himself sent us telegram from New York on June 23 containing this charge. We have been unable to confirm existence of such a facility. Our informal inquiries about Gleyzer have been met with complete silence to date.

CHAPLIN *me*~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

* Classification

CONTROL: 4865
26 Jul 76
1240

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM

AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

ACTION:

GDS
SHUM, AR
Jacobo Tieffenberg Case
SecState WASHDC : PRIORITY

Ref:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 4865

Buenos Aires 4785

Charge
POL-3
POL/R
ECOM
USIS
USDAO
MLGP-2
LEGAT
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RF
CHRON

1. Jacobo Tieffenberg left Argentina for Chicago July 22.

His Chilean wife and daughter flew to Chile same day and will follow to US shortly.

2. Father Leon Tieffenberg remains detained by local Monte police (reftel). His wife told Emboff today (July 26) he is being well treated but she is seeking a lawyer. She said most of their ranch property was stolen or destroyed in a raid by uniformed persons from the local military garrison who later forced the caretaker's wife to sign a statement that nothing in the house was missing. The house was later sealed by local police.

3. Son's travel was not hampered in any way and it seems local security forces may be acting belatedly on long-delayed instructions or rumor in detaining father. Family

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7/26/76

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JUL 26 1976

LEGAL ATTACHED
BUENOS AIRES

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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MMN

hopes son's departure will facilitate father's release.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TELEGRAM

5109
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☐ CHARGE TO

FROM AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, PFOR, AR, GW, IS
SUBJECT: Arrested Israelis Freed

ACTION: SecState WASHDC

Info: AmEmbassy BONN
" TEL AVIV

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 5109

Charge
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CHRON

1. Five Israelis--four of them dual Argentine-Israeli nationals--and three other Jewish Argentine youths, whose arrest and detention by military authorities July 22 sparked public protest by GOI, were released unconditionally yesterday (August 3), according to a Israeli Embassy source.
2. The five Israelis, recent arrivals in Argentina as representatives of the World Zionist Organization's youth and pioneer department, were arrested after attending a seminar in a Jewish Club in Cordoba. The Israeli Foreign Ministry protested the arrests to the Argentine Charge in Tel Aviv on July 26 and the Israeli Ambassador to Argentina, Ram Nirgad, asked Argentine Foreign Minister Guzzetti for "clarification" of the case on July 30. Argentine authorities promised an immediate investigation and attributed the

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AUG 5 1976

LEGAL ATTACHMENT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

delay to the need to translate the materials found on the detainees which was printed in Hebrew.

3. Comment. GOA, loathe to find itself embroiled in international disputes over citizens' rights, is nonetheless facing increasingly vocal protests abroad over missing and arbitrarily detained foreign citizens. Israeli govt's quick and loud protest apparently moved the arrest case straight to the highest levels of the Interior Ministry, which washed its hands of the case as quickly as form allowed. (Perhaps Argentines feared Israeli paratroops might appear over Corioba unless they heeded GOF's protests.) German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, however, who wrote President Videla July 7 that the continued disappearance of two German dual nationals, missing since early April, could severely affect relations between the two countries, has yet to receive a reply. Embassy is now preparing round-up of other cases of missing or detained foreign nationals in Argentina.

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CONTROL: 5200

9 Aug 76

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INDICATE
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FROM

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CLASSIFICATION

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

N/A

SREF, SHUM, SR, CH

Chilean Refugees to Leave for Caracas

ACTION:

SecState WASHDC IMMEDIATE

Info:

X AmEmbassy SANTIAGO

"

CARACAS

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 5200

Ref:

State 196876

Charge

POL-5

POL/R

ECOM

USIS

USDAO

MIUGP-2

LEGAT

SCIAT

RF

CHRON

Emboff attempted contact Eugenio Velasco and Jaime Castillo

evening of August 8, but was informed they had checked out.

Call to UNHCR this morning indicates two are safe and are

staying in home of friend.as recommended by Argentine

authorities. According to UNHCR, two Chileans have visas

for Venezuela and will travel to Caracas sometime today

(August 9).

CHAPLIN *me*

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8/9/76

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CLARANCES:

Charge: MChaplin *me*

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

N/A
SREF, SHUM, AR, CI
Chilean Refugees Leave for Caracas

ACTION:

Secstate WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO Amembassy CARACAS IMMEDIATE
Amembassy SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 5237

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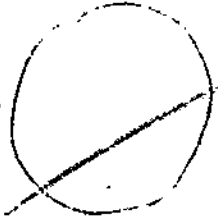
Buenos Aires 5200

UNHCR and Venezuelan Embassy confirm that Eugenio Velasco and Jaime Castillo departed last night for Caracas and arrived there safely this morning (August 10).

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8/10/76

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

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FROM: Amembassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION
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E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

ACTION:

REF

GDS
PINT, SHUM, AR
Leon Tieffenberg Released

Secstate WASHDC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 5269

Buenos Aires 4865

Charge
POL-3
POL/R
ECOM
USIS
DAO
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SCIAT
LEGAT
RF
CHRON

1. Emboff spoke to Leon Tieffenberg this morning. Latter was released evening of August 5 and is now at home. He informed Emboff he had been very correctly treated and that military authorities had apologized to him upon his release, saying that detention had been result of gross error. He informed Emboff that govt itself is now conducting an investigation to determine why he was arrested in the first place. Tieffenberg expressed himself as satisfied with the government's attitude, and says he considers the case closed.

2. Tieffenberg thanked Embassy for its efforts on his and his son's behalf.

~~INVESTIGATION OF THIS CASE~~

CHAPLIN *me*

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POL:WSSmith:cc *WBS*

CLARANCES:

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8/11/76

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CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

CHARGE: MChaplin *me*
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AUG 12 1976

LEGAL ATTACHE
BUENOS AIRES

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

CONTROL: 5274

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INDICATE
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FROM

AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

N/A

SHUM, PINS, AR, AS, AU, CI, FR

Chilean National Mario Munoz Salas

ACTION:

SecState WASHDC

Info:

AmEmbassy CANBERRA

" PARIS

" SANTIAGO

" VIENNA

USMission GENEVA

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ 5274

Ref:

Buenos Aires 5020

Charge
POL-4
POL/R
ECOM
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MILGP-2
LEGAT
SCIAT
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CIRON

1. Munoz Salas and family left Argentina for Austria during week of August 2, according to reliable diplomatic sources.

2. Diplomatic and international agency sources with whom we have consulted on Munoz Salas case consider his is notable example of campaign by interest groups more concerned with embarrassing right-wing governments in region than with welfare of refugees. Sources who interviewed Munoz Salas note that he himself was apparently genuinely perplexed by international interest shown in his case. While naturally concerned about his and family's personal safety, he did not demonstrate extreme fearfulness of many refugees.

CHAPLIN

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POL:RSSSteven:mg

DRAFTING DATE

8/10/76

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FROM: Amembassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION
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INFO: 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: Human Rights Situation in Argentina

ACTION: Secstate WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO: Amembassy ASUNCION
" BRASILIA
" MONTEVIDEO
" SANTIAGO

~~SECRET~~ BUENOS AIRES 5637

REF: (a) State 195912, (b) Buenos Aires 4852, (c) Buenos Aires 5521

CHARGE
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BIRON

1. SUMMARY: Political violence, with consequent violations of human rights, has been a feature of Argentine life for several years. Left-wing terrorism began in 1969 and over the years has been responsible for hundreds of political assassinations, kidnappings and attacks against private property and military and police installations. Counter, or right-wing, terrorism appeared in 1974 with the emergence of the famous Triple A (comprising ^{ED OF} off-duty policemen and labor goons). Counterterrorism, prior to the change of govt, however, seemed to be aimed not so much at leftist terrorists as at progressive political figures and opponents of Mrs. Peron and Lopez Rega. Its victims numbered in the hundreds and it was guilty of shocking atrocities. This, then, was the situation the military inherited

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when it took power on March 24 of this year. President Videla immediately promised to defeat left-wing terrorism and at the same time to respect human rights; the government, he said, would monopolize power (i.e. vigilante activities outside the law would not be tolerated). In terms of the struggle against leftist subversion, Videla has been as good as his word. The govt has had marked success. The ERP has been severely damaged if not neutralized. The Montoneros have suffered important losses. The hope that counterterrorism would be brought under control, however, has not been realized. If anything, counterterrorism has increased. Kidnappings, tortures and murders of real or suspected "leftists" are commonplace--often on the flimsiest pretexts. Further, it is clear that in most cases the security forces themselves, or at least elements thereof, are the authors of these abuses. President Videla and those around him continue to insist that this does not represent govt policy, which remains one of respect for human rights. Policy or not, however, police violations of human rights remain uncurbed. There is contradictory evidence as to why. Some believe Videla is simply insincere in his protestations. This cannot be disproved or rejected out of hand. What seems more likely, however, is that the security forces are taking advantage of divisions within the govt, unclear policy guidelines, fuzzy lines of command and the fact that the govt must depend upon them in its fight against subversion.

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In short, because of these conditions, the security forces are operating with mission-type orders without much subsequent reference to the top levels of control. Even if this is the case, of course, the results are the same. Human rights violations continue. The willingness and ability of the present leaders of the GOA to correct this situation and stop human rights violations are not yet clear, but there is some evidence that they are moving in the right direction. The political ambience in which they are operating is complex in the extreme and the options are few. Even though leaders of what might be described as the political opposition (the UCR, the Peronists, labor leaders, etc.) are deeply concerned over the question of human rights, they remain willing to give Videla the benefit of the doubt and more time to bring about rectifications. They have ~~been~~ good reason to be patient, for most observers are convinced that if Videla is pushed aside, he would be replaced by someone far worse--probably a hardliner who would not even give lip service to respect for human rights. In sum, as the democratic forces in the country see it, Videla may be a weak reed for them to lean upon, but he is the only reed they have. President of Peronist Party, Deolindo Bittel, just coming out of four months of house arrest, for example, commented to Emboffs on Aug 26, "Dr. Balbin of UCR and I are in full agreement that only the most irresponsible Argentine would wish to bring about the failure of the Videla govt, for

[what would follow it would doubtless be worse." END SUMMARY.]

2. The Environment of Terrorism. In contrast to the Chilean situation, political violence and human rights violations are not a new factor in Argentina. Anti-govt terrorism and repressive countermeasures are familiar themes in recent Argentine history. The current State of Siege was not instituted by the present govt; rather, it was imposed by Mrs. Peron's govt (the Lanusse govt had also ruled under a State of Siege).. Political prisoners in significant numbers were held by the previous regime, and by the regime before that, as well as by the present govt. Terrorism and counterterrorism regularly left bodies in the streets well before the latest military coup. There has been a relative rise in the numbers of victims on both sides since March 24 of this year, but the major change has been in the degree of interest shown by international opinion. Prior to the change of govt there were few expressions of concern from abroad concerning counterterrorism. Now, such expressions

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are commonplace.

3. The terrorist threat from the left certainly did not end on March 24. On the contrary, since then an estimated 200 military and police have been killed by terrorists and an unknown but significant number of civilians have died at their hands. An average of at least one active or retired member of the military or police is being killed every day, and bombings of specific targets are common. There have been several "spectaculars" such as the killing of the Federal Police Chief in his own bed and the July bombing of Police Headquarters. Left-wing terrorism has been the most significant factor in Argentina's inability to attract foreign investment.

4. GOA Drive to Control Leftist Subversion. In its drive to defeat the terrorists, the GOA has acknowledged killing some 450 claimed terrorists since March 24, and an unknown but undoubtedly large number of real or suspected terrorists and "subversives" have been detained. The GOA has had considerable success in reducing the ERP, but it is generally conceded that the Montoneros, despite losses, remain a dangerous and intact organization of an estimated 7,000 militants. This basic struggle between security forces and terrorist organizations is likely to continue for at least another year or so, with a clear-cut victory for the GOA not yet assured.

5. The Visible Battlefield. It is a grim fight and as in most such struggles of blood and passion there are violations of

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human rights on both sides. On the govt side, for example, it is generally accepted that the police and military are using torture to obtain information from captured terrorists. This type of abuse is unfortunately all too common in forces around the world engaged in combat when immediate operational intelligence is of direct and urgent concern and members of the engaged forces feel that the "enemy" has forfeited any rights by taking up arms. As in most such circumstances, it is usually impossible to pinpoint the degree of abuse or specific responsibility.

6. Legal Detentions. Also as part of their visible efforts against terrorism and subversion, the security forces have detained numerous persons for investigation and questioning under either the provisions of the State of Siege, the arms control laws, etc. Treatment of those who are actually "booked" tends to be relatively "proper". Their homes may be ransacked and valuables stolen during the arrest, but once in custody torture does not seem to be routine. Some are held indefinitely, as they legally can be under the State of Siege (see para 7), but others are freed after a short time and still others passed on to the procedures of the regular courts or to military courts. ~~////~~ martial when this is prescribed by law.

7. State of Siege. The State of Siege currently in effect in Argentina was imposed by Mrs. Peron's govt on Nov 6, 1974.

The current military govt has not changed its status. As with

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[State of Siege provisions in most Latin American constitutions which have been regularly invoked throughout their history, many individual guarantees are suspended, the govt is authorized to hold suspects indefinitely and to move them from place to place within the country. Habeas corpus is suspended, as are many other rights, but judicial recourse is not altogether absent. Sooner or later those held under the State of Siege must either be charged and turned over to the courts or they must be released. And the courts continue to function. The State of Siege is not an exceptional state of affairs in countries such as Argentina, and a reasonable utilization of such powers by the govt is not considered by most Argentines as constituting a violation of human rights. It does become questionable to public opinion when abused, as with the mass roundups of suspects in sports stadiums in Chile. Some Argentines are concerned that the govt here may be verging on abuse. An estimated 3,000 to 5,000 persons are now detained under the provisions of the State of Siege. The GOA has released no total or list of those detained, and as various individuals are released others are detained; hence, it is almost impossible to determine how many prisoners are being held for a "reasonable" few weeks or a month and how many for an "unreasonable" few months. Whatever the length of time, enough people are affected by the detentions so that there is widening concern.]

8. Other Juridical Measures. In addition to the State of Siege, the GOA, since taking power, has promulgated a number of new laws and modifications to old ones. The Penal Code has been modified to include new offenses and to increase penalties for others. Certain laws, such as the "Act of Institutional Responsibility", described even by the cautious Argentine press as "revolutionary justice", clearly appear to be violations of political and civil rights by any objective standard, but they do not appear to constitute violations of human rights in the generally understood sense. Moreover, the regular civil courts continue to function. They are, for example, dealing with charges of corruption and other abuses against members of the deposed govt. The courts have even challenged the GOA's failure to observe a provision of the Constitution which permits a person held under State of Siege to elect to leave the country, and the GOA has committed itself to resolve the legal conflict explicit in this case.

9. Counterterrorism. While the above-described spin-off effects of the govt's visible and "legal" drive against left-wing terrorism--e.g. a propensity not to take prisoners in combat, harsh interrogation of captured terrorists, legal detention of those suspected of terrorist connections, and emergency legislation which suspends certain rights--may have negative implications for the human rights situation, they do not by any means represent the main problem. The area

which is the cause of greatest concern is the much more complex and obscure matter of counterterrorism practiced by elements of the security forces whose authority (in terms of the origin of the orders upon which they act) is unclear. Since 1974, elements commonly described as representing the "extreme right" of the political spectrum have conducted their own terrorist campaign against the leftist guerrillas and, almost indiscriminately, against persons and groups identified-- sometimes only very vaguely so--with the left. During Mrs. Peron's govt, the best known of the rightist counterterrorist groups was the Triple A, made up largely of police personnel operating unofficially and some labor union goon squads. Without doubt, the Triple A counted with support at the highest levels of Mrs. Peron's regime. With the advent of the military govt, the Triple A faded from the forefront (probably because of its identification with the Peron regime), but counterterrorism, if anything, increased. Our best estimate is that such activities are now carried out almost exclusively by active-duty and retired military and police personnel who are pursuing the anti-leftist campaign in something of the manner of a crusade. The worst of these units seem to spring from the Federal Police, rather than from the military. Their method of operation is well known: civilian clothes, movement in the night in unmarked cars, kidnapping (as distinct from the legal arrest described in para 6), torture and even murder. Their victims have

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sometimes been targeted on the flimsiest of pretexts. The five priests who were murdered in July, for example, had nothing to do with terrorism, nor did the Bishop of La Rioja, who ostensibly was killed last month in an automobile accident but is believed to have been murdered by rightist "death squads". A particular target has been the foreign refugee community living in Argentina, particularly Uruguayans and Chileans, with the Michelini-Gutierrez Ruiz murders and the recent disappearance of 17 Uruguayan refugees the most notorious cases so far. There are no statistics concerning the numbers of kidnappings, sessions of torture and bodies left scattered about, but the total since March must be in the hundreds.

10. Weeks' Case. To be sure, the line between "legal arrest" and "kidnapping" is sometimes blurred. The case of Father James Martin Weeks is perhaps illustrative. Weeks was taken into custody by Air Force Intelligence agents in civilian clothes on Aug 3. The seminary in which he lived was ransacked and many valuables stolen. To the ex-nun housekeeper, the intruders pretended they were Montoneros, but they made no such pretense to Weeks; to him, they freely admitted they were intelligence agents (suggesting they may originally have planned to kill Weeks and the others and blame it on the left). Weeks was not involved with subversion and the only "evidence" found against him were a few "Marxist" books

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and a "revolutionary" record. Even so, Weeks might never have been seen again had it not been for the Embassy's urgent inquiries on his behalf. Once the Embassy's interest became known, Weeks and those arrested with him apparently were switched from the category of "clandestine detainees" to "legally arrested". Even at that, however, the GOA denied consular access for almost ten days and never replied to US protest notes on the subject.

11. Official Position of GOA? The modus operandi of security forces engaged in these extra-legal activities makes it clear that they enjoy support from above. The question is: how high does that tolerance reach? One theory is that the top levels of the GOA, including President Videla, are fully aware and approve of these sub rosa operations. In order to mute consequent damage to the govt's image at home and abroad, however, this theory runs, Videla feigns innocence and promises rectifications which he in fact has no intention of making. Such a theory cannot be rejected out of hand, but some available evidence--see para 12-- tends to refute it, and it imputes to Videla a more Machiavellian turn of mind--and a greater ability to dissemble--than he appears to merit.

12. GOA Must Depend Upon Security Forces. Videla must be aware of the myriad human rights violations, but the factors behind his failure to curb those abuses are probably far more complex than those suggested in the paragraph above. First,

unlike the present Chilean or Uruguayan govts, the GOA faces a dangerous terrorist threat from the left, one which if not brought under control could paralyze the economy and threaten the very existence of the govt. To defeat that threat, the Videla govt must rely on the existing security forces. So long as the threat from the left is there, therefore, the govt will hesitate to take steps to curb the excesses of the security forces if there is a high risk that in so doing it might demoralize, divide or alienate them. Evidence that the govt would like to control them, however, was seen in the appointment in early July of Gen Corbetta as Chief of Federal Police. Corbetta stated publicly that he would not tolerate illegal methods and he made genuine efforts to stop them. His efforts unfortunately coincided with the bombing of police headquarters in early July. Within days, police extremists had reacted by killing five Catholic priests and dozens of other victims. Corbetta was soon forced out by a near mutiny of the police and replaced by an officer who, while described as having the same inclinations as Corbetta, took command with a public expression of support for the police and any measures they deemed necessary to defeat subversion. The govt had tried and failed to control the police. (see Buenos Aires 4852)

13. Divisions Within Govt. Secondly, Videla must concern

himself not only with the reaction of the security forces, but

~~SECRET~~

Classification

must also guard his flanks within his own institution. There are many officers who regard him as too soft, others who oppose his govt's economic program, and still others who are bitterly opposed to the opening to the civilian political sectors which Videla and Viola hope at some point to bring about. Some observers hold that should Videla move to force the human rights issue before he has consolidated his political position, the result might be that in the ensuing turmoil he and his moderate followers would be removed from office and be replaced by hardliners who would not even wish to restrain counterterrorism.

14. Lack of Coordination. Finally, the Junta system itself is a contributing factor. Collegiate rule and division of responsibilities among the three services militate against a strong central authority and clear lines of command. This results in a situation in which each Corps commander, each provincial governor, each municipal interventor and so on down the line, tends to operate with a high degree of independence. If a commander, or governor, is anti-Semitic, then Jews in his district are likely to have a hard time. If he is anti-Radical, UCR headquarters may be closed, etc. This is further complicated by an absence of coordination among the services or among individual units. Confusion often seems to reign. People working for the Army are arrested by the Navy. People who have been given a clean bill of health and released from

~~SECRET~~

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[detention in one zone are arrested the next day in another.]

Until this situation is corrected, until there are clear guidelines and clear lines of command from a strong central authority capable of enforcing its orders, excesses on the part of the security forces are not likely to be effectively controlled.

15. Conclusions. In sum, while human rights abuses are certainly occurring in Argentina, they do not appear to result from a policy on the part of the top levels of the GOA; rather, they represent acts on the part of elements of the security forces which the present leaders of the govt, because of the conditions mentioned above, are hampered or prevented from controlling. This is not to say the GOA does not, in the end, bear responsibility. And if the present leaders cannot in due time bring their subordinates under control, they cannot expect to continue to convince other govts or private investors that the GOA is worthy of confidence. Hence, what is in question more than anything else are the intentions--and the ability--of the present leadership to clear up lines of command, bring the security forces firmly under control, and curb human rights violations. There is some evidence that they are moving in that direction. Sanctions have been promised against those (police) responsible for the mass murder on Aug 20 (see I Corps Commander, moreover, has instructed Buenos Aires 5521). ~~Further, protected changes in the military~~

military forces in his area to apprehend "unauthorized" persons or groups operating against leftists (see IR 6804 0212). Further, projected changes in the military command structure may represent a first step on Videla's part toward consolidating his position. Certainly most Argentine political, religious and labor leaders with whom we are in contact, while very disturbed over the excesses, at this point, remain willing to give Videla the benefit of the doubt and hope that he will yet right these wrongs. Indeed, they have few other options, for the consensus of opinion is that if Videla and the moderates are replaced, they will be replaced by hardliners, even less acceptable to those concerned over human rights. A high-ranking official of the Office of the Presidency recently stated to Emboff: "We know we must get human rights matter under control and we want to do so, but if we move precipitately the only result may be the overthrow of Videla, and what good will that do the cause of human rights in Argentina?" The President of the Peronist Party, Deolindo Bittel, virtually echoed these words in a remark to Emboffs on Aug 26 concerning possibility of improvement in human rights situation. "To be sure, there must be rectifications," he said, "but it would be folly to push Videla so hard that we push his govt to failure."

CHAPLIN *mc*~~SECRET~~

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CONTROL: 5572
30 AUG 76 1735

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM

AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

GDS

SHUM, PINT, AR

Human Rights: Voices of Concern Beginning to Be Heard

ACTION:

SecState WASHDC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 5672

Ref: (A) Buenos Aires 5637 (B) Buenos Aires 5521

Chargé
POL-3
POL/R
ECOM
USIS
USDAO
MILGP-2
LEGAT
SCIAT
RF
CHRON

1. We are beginning to see an increasing outspokenness on political violence and human rights situation from liberal and moderate political circles, the Catholic Church, and elements of the press. It is cautious, expressed often in euphemistic terms, and by no means constitutes any great upsurge of repudiation of the present GOA or its leaders, but it is a qualitative change from the situation prevailing from the March coup to only recently.
2. Some of this evidence of growing concern is coming to us in individual contacts with a considerable range of representative political figures, Churchmen, journalists, and even some civilian career officials in the GOA. Most of these individuals were content to see the military takeover on March 24.

They believed President Videla's promises to control the

DRAFTED BY:

POL:RSSSteven:mg

DRAFTING DATE

8/27/76

TEL. EXT.

121

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

POL:WSSmith *WSS*

CLEARANCES:

POL/R:DLSmock *DL*

DAQ:ColPACoughlin *pac*

MOB

Chargé: MChaplin

SEARCHED *W* INDEXED *W*
SERIALIZED *W* FILED *W*

AUG 1 1976

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oppose or openly criticize

No one appears to be prepared to ~~xxx xxxxxx~~ the govt over this
~~xxxxxxx xxxxxxxx xxxxxxxx xxxxxxxx xxxxxxxx xxxxxxxx xxxxxxxx xxxxxxxx xxxxxxxx xxxxxxxx xxxxxxxx~~
situation,
~~xxxxxxx~~ (since there appear to be no acceptable alternatives
to the Videla govt), but concern is growing.

4. Second change can be dated to beginning of July when left-
ist terrorists killed Federal Police Chief and then bombed
central police headquarters leaving many dead and injured.
Vicious counter-terrorist reaction from security forces
(acting clandestinely), including killing of several priests
and dumping of slaughtered bodies all over Buenos Aires,
shocked many Argentines into new awareness of just how far
things have gone. Subsequent counter-terrorist kidnappings
and murders, which now considerably overshadow efforts of
leftist terrorists, have struck home among politicians and
Churchmen. Union Civica Radical (UCR), the moderate center
of Argentine politics and the largest non-Peronist party,
has for example just issued a statement signed by Ricardo
Balbin and other leaders, deploring the disappearance of two
of its former legislators, Solari Yrigoyen and Amaya. State-
ment is carefully worded so as not to directly say what all
know--that the two congressmen were taken officially or
unofficially by the security forces, but readers are left in
little doubt as to who the UCR considers is responsible. UCR
also condemns the "barbaric mass immolation" of 30 bodies
found in Pilar (Buenos Aires 5521)!

5. Expressions of concern voiced by Catholic Church were

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7. Third development directly related to second, above, is increasing fear. It is becoming evident to Argentines that it is not only the terrorist or real subversive who is in danger from the counter-terrorism, but anyone, even priests, who is considered by the very broad standards of the counter-terrorists to be a threat. Liberals and moderates are beginning to realize that they, their families, colleagues and friends are not exempt.

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8. Finally, mass murder of 30 young people found in Pilar, and possibly another 16 or 17 found in another location, is generally attributed to police, and has lifted level of violence in public eyes to a new dimension. Even those Argentines who dismiss with unconcern the whole human rights problem are now recognizing that sheer numbers involved in latest atrocity, and its blatentness, have shocked both domestic and international opinion into new awareness of problem in Argentina. There are reports that President Videla was stunned and outraged by Pilar massacre, although it is not clear whether from a concern with human rights or over lack of discretion of police. We have been told that Videla knows who is responsible, and intends to do something about it (Buenos Aires 5521). There are unconfirmed reports/^{August 27} today that some 50 Buenos Aires Province police who were on duty in Pilar area during night of massacre have been arrested for investigation. It may be that GOA leaders are finally being forced into at least an effort to sanction those responsible for the killings.

9. We do not wish to suggest that public opinion is rising in outrage against the GOA. Many sectors of Argentine society, especially in the upper and middle classes, heartily approve of the counter-terrorism and do not hesitate to say so even to American diplomats. The moderates of the center and liberal political and Church circles are more concerned

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CHAPLAIN

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12 AUG 76
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

INDICATE
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☐ CHARGE TO

FROM

AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

ACTION:

Info:

GDS

PINS, PFOR, SHUM, SREF, AR

Foreign Embassies' Reaction to Missing Nationals, Refugees, Asylees

SecState WASHDC

AmEmbassy BONN

"

MADRID

"

PARIS

"

ROME

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 5299

Ref:

(A) Buenos Aires 5109, (B) Buenos Aires 5218

Charge

POL-4

POL/R

ECOM

USIS

USDAO

MILGP-2

LEGAT

SCIAT

RE

CHRON

1. Summary. Cases of missing or arbitrarily detained foreign nationals continue to concern embassies in Argentina and fuel Argentina's bad press abroad. USG's protest of denial of consular access to detained American priest remains unanswered. West German govt received a negative reply from President Videla to its inquiries on whereabouts of two missing Germans. Italians have some 40 citizens in undefined status. In addition to problems with their own nationals, several embassies feel themselves increasingly pressured by refugee problem, especially after refugee invasion of Canadian Embassy. End

Summary.

2. Cases of foreign citizens missing or detained without

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POL:YThayer:mg

DRAFTING DATE

8/12/76

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CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

POL:WSSmith

CLEARANCES:

Charge: MChaplin

SEARCHED INDEXED

SERIALIZED FILED

AUG 13 1976

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CLASSIFICATION

LEGAL ATTACHE - BUENOS AIRES

charge under state of siege continue to perturb several embassies in Argentina and reverberate in the foreign press. Not counting the many hundreds of South American exiles detained in Argentina, there are at present some 40 Italians, 5 West Germans, and 8 French and 2 Americans either missing or detained for ostensibly political reasons. A number of them are dual nationals.

3. Although intense pressure by the Israeli govt secured the release of five Israeli and three Argentine Jews August 4 after two weeks in jail (ref tel A), efforts by other govts have met with considerably less success. (The freed Jewish youths are still working in Argentina and the Israeli govt apparently considers the incident a "misunderstanding.") USG's strong protest over denial of consular access to American priest James Weeks has not yet been answered (ref B). President Videla delivered a negative reply Monday (August 9) to West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's July 7 letter on behalf of two Germans--one a dual national--missing since early April. In his four-page reply, Videla expressed his concern and cooperation but denied that the two are in hands of Argentine authorities. Chancellor Schmidt had said that the case, which has aroused intense interest and a hunger strike in Germany, could seriously damage relations between the two countries. A German Embassy source said ^{FRG} ~~FRG~~ is considering its next step.

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4. Other embassies have been similarly frustrated. Various consular officers have charged that Argentina disregards the Vienna Convention provisions concerning consular access. The French Consul told Emboff that each time he has formally requested access to one French prisoner being held under state of siege, the prisoner has been removed to another jail. Italians, Spanish and others--as well as US--have been denied consular access.

5. When possible, embassies try to have the foreign detainee expelled. To date, 46 foreigners have been expelled from Argentina under a March 24 decree that authorizes the Executive to expel foreigners who engage in "subversive or disruptive activities." Most have been Chileans or Uruguayans; others include five French, three Italians and one American. Another American--Gwenda Mae Loken--was ordered expelled but later returned to jail in ^{Rosario} Cordoba for further questioning. GOA has frequently said none of the expellees has been or will be returned to his own country against his will.

6. A number of Western embassies have increased efforts to resettle refugees. UNHCR recently reported that Canada has agreed to take an additional 1,000, Austria 250, Norway 130 and Britain 75. In most cases, however, the quotas refer to all of Latin America and many will come from Chile and elsewhere. Several foreign diplomats have privately worried to Emboffs that their programs extend primarily to Chilean

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refugees, while they are convinced Uruguayan refugees face considerably greater physical danger in Argentina. Denmark, France, Switzerland, and West Germany will continue to consider taking refugees only in exceptional cases.

7. Some Embassies are also tightening security--intensifying visitor checks and restricting public access--to prevent takeovers by refugees seeking asylum, as happened recently in the Canadian Embassy on June 3, when 27 Chilean refugees refused to leave the building, claiming their lives were in danger. All but three have since gone to ~~XXXXX~~ Canada under that country's immigration program. Another five Chilean refugees are staying at the Italian Embassy. Apparently the Italian govt has not granted them entry and the Embassy is seeking an alternate recipient country. Several Chileans invaded the Swedish Embassy last month but were persuaded to leave.

CHAPLIN 

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8 Sep 76
1103

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

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E.O. 11652: TAGS: SUBJECT: ACTION:	FROM Ambassy BUENOS AIRES	CLASSIFICATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
	N/A PINT, SHUM, AR Human Rights Round-Up Secstate WASHDC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 5844	
REF	(a) Buenos Aires 5756, (b) Buenos Aires 5672	
Chargé Amb POL-34 POL/R ECOM USIS DAO MLIGP SCIAT LEGAT CONS RF CHRON SY ADMIN	1. Some 780 refugees, mostly Chilean and Uruguayan, have left Argentina in the past three months, according to UNHCR sources. The latest to leave were 49 Uruguayans who left for Havana Sept 2. Three hundred more already have resettlement offers outside the country and will leave shortly, sources add. 2. Although the atmosphere among the refugee community had relaxed somewhat in recent weeks--probably because there have been no major incidents of persecution since the disappearance of 23 Uruguayans in mid-July--a recent government regulation on illegal aliens is causing new alarm. On Sept 2, GOA announced that all foreigners without proper documents would have 60 days in which to report to Immigration authorities. Similar regulations, described as necessary to control "migratory fluctuations", have been routinely announced but rarely enforced in the past. Many	

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CHARGE: MChaplin

109-812-47

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SEP 8 1976	
LEGAL ATTACHE--BUENOS AIRES	

of the estimated 500,000 illegal residents have always been welcome as low-cost additions to the labor force, particularly in border towns. This time, however, refugees fear it will be used against them. As GOA does not share the UNHCR's definition of a refugee under UN protection, nor has it cooperated in providing refugees with Argentine documents in the past, it remains to be ^{seen} if--and how--the govt intends to press compliance or sanctions on the some 20,000 persons illegally in the country for political reasons. UNHCR officials have told Emboff that right now their hands are tied and they must wait to see how the government enforces the regulation once the 60-day deadline is up.

3. La Opinion reported Sept 1 that at least 20 asylees are housed in three foreign Embassies--Austria, Italy and Mexico. Ex-President Hector Campora and his son have reportedly not requested safe conduct out of the country from the Mexican Embassy where they have been since the coup. The paper noted that a number of the asylees leave the Embassies occasionally to visit family and friends and go about the city apparently with no major worries.

4. Former UCR legislators Solari Irigoyen and Amaya remain detained (see ref a) "almost incommunicado" according to friends, in Fifth Corps headquarters. Authorities say they are still studying the case of the two lawyers who were kidnapped from their homes August 17 and later dumped at a police checkpoint

in Rio Negro. Meanwhile, in a note to UCR National Committee members on Friday, Sept 3, an Interior Ministry official reprimanded them for releasing an appeal for the safety of the two kidnapped lawyers Aug 25. The official gratuitously said that the UCR appeal gave "a false impression of party activities, which had been suspended in order to insure internal peace".

5. The Permanent Assembly for Human Rights, a group of religious and political persons formed last December, completed its first working session last week, Sept 1, by inviting all Argentines to join in its fight for "peace and the right to live without fear". The sessions were divided into four topics: the right to live, security and national defense, constitutional precedences, and the protection of constitutional freedoms. The previous week, the Assembly had strongly protested increasing violations of human rights in a message to President Videla (see ref b).

6. Significantly, in a declaration Aug 28, the Buenos Aires Lawyers Association added its voice to those previously raised against rising violence. Citing the assassination of General Actis and the kidnapping of Solari Irigoyen and Amaya as well as the disappearance of two Buenos Aires member lawyers, the Association repudiated the rise of uncontrolled violence and called on the government to "lead the country back to the path of law and respect for human rights and constitutional guarantees".

7. An American priest from ~~Buenos Aires~~ ^{Cordoba}, told Embaff today, Sept 7, that the five seminarians arrested with Father James Weeks in early August are still in jail in ~~Buenos Aires~~ ^{Cordoba} but that authorities have promised to do what they can to "accelerate" the investigation. The priest, Frederick Kettner, picked up student visa applications for the seminarians who will continue their studies in the US if and when they are released.
8. Note: Human rights roundup series is not intended as primary reporting instrument on subject; rather, it is being initiated as device through which developments not necessarily warranting cable in and of themselves can be brought to attention of Department in timely fashion. Series will also be used to report minor developments in ongoing cases (such as Solari Irigoyen and Amaya cases) which may have been subjects of separate reports.

CHAPLIN *the*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

CONTROL: 5908
10 Sep 76
1608

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM: Embassy BUENOS AIRES CLASSIFICATION: ~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

E.O. 11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:

N/A
SHUM, PINS, AR
Status of Argentine Juan Mendez

ACTION:

SecState WASHDC

Ref:

State 221837

AMB
CHARGE
POL-4
POL/R
ECOM
USIS
USDAO
MILGP-2
LEGAT
SCIAT
RF
CHRON

Re Embassy has no new information on Mendez case. However, it is not uncommon that persons remain in jail under state of siege even after they are cleared on charges brought against them. Authorities often claim they have not received official orders to release apparently acquitted prisoners, which could mean further investigations are underway or simply that the process from the courts to local authorities has been stalled somewhere along the way. Embassy will report new developments.

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LEARANCES:

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109-812-48

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LEGAL ATTACHMENT		
BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS		

TELEGRAM

28 Sep 76

1241

INDICATE

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FROM

AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

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E.O. 11652:

N/A

TAGS:

PFOR, SHUM, PINS, AR

SUBJECT:

Congressional Interest in Juan Mendez

ACTION:

SecState WASHDC

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 6365

Ref:

State 238765

Embassy has already expressed personal interest and made unofficial inquiries on behalf of Juan Mendez to FonMinistry, so far without result.

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SEP 28 1976

LEGAL ATTACHE - BUENOS AIRES

DRAFTED BY:

POL:YThayer:mg

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9/27/76

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DCM:MChaplin

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CONTROL: 5909
10 Sep 76
2609

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
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E.O. 11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:

B/A
SHUM, AR
Disappearance of Carmen Sabino

ACTION:

SecState WASHDC

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 5909

Ref:

State 221838 221838 221838

AMB
CHARGE
POL-4
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MILGP-2
LEGAT
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CHROM

1. Embassy in contact with Ford Foundation on case. Foundation official told Embaffs that Miss Sabino was taken from her apartment by unidentified men August 29, who later picked up her typewriter. Apparently she is suspected of preparing subversive literature. A writ of habeas corpus has been filed.
2. Embassy's unofficial inquiries to GOA have turned up no new information.

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DRAFTED BY:

POL:YThayer:mg

CLEARANCES:

DRAFTING DATE

9/10/76

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CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

POL:EGSmith

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LEGAL ATTA	
BUENOS AIRES	

TELEGRAM

CONTROL: 0150

7 Jan 77
1636

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION
~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

E.O. 11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:

NA
SHUM AR
Status of Argentine National Juan Mendez

ACTION:

SECSTATE WASHDC

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 0150

RA 7429
REF: ~~STATE 221837~~ and others

AMB
DCM
POLB
POL/R
ROOM
USIS
USDAO
MILGP2
SCIAT
LEGAT
RF
CHRON

1. Julio Mendez, father of Juan Mendez, told Emboff Jan. 6 that a decree authorizing his son to leave Argentina was "on President Videla's desk" and would likely be signed within three weeks. Mr. Mendez said he received this news yesterday from an Under Secretary of the Ministry of Interior. Mr. Mendez refuted the information given to Cong. Drinan by Interior official Colonel Flouret that there were three charges pending against his son. He said that the Under Secretary assured him that Flouret was misinformed, that there were no outstanding charges against his son and that his "good name and honor" would not be impugned. Mr. Mendez also remarked that although the Judge responsible for the case had recommended Juan Mendez be allowed to leave the country, the family decided that rather than continue to work for his release through the Justice Ministry Mendez should petition the Interior Ministry to leave Argentina as

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POL:YThayer:jr

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CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:
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DCM:MChaplin

AMB:RCH

JAN 10 1977

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CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL FORM 153
(FORMERLY FS-413)
January 1975
Dept. of State

permitted by a recent decree.

2. Mr. Mendez said that his son's petition included his intention to leave for either France or the US, if authorized to leave Argentina. Although he intends to resettle in the US, he would go via France if necessary (i.e., if he were unable to get a US visa immediately--see septel on discussions with FonMinistry human rights working group; or if the decree specifically authorizes his departure only to France). Mr. Mendez said that when the decree is signed he would contact the US Embassy to try to arrange son's visa to US. Mendez said that he has been in direct contact with Congressmen Koch, Railsback and Drinan, all of whom have allegedly pledged to help facilitate Juan Mendez' entrance into the US. He added that his son has never been a member of the Communist party and has no police record. Mr. Mendez also told Emboff that he received a letter in December from Cong. Koch in which the congressman said he intended to present a bill in the 1977 Congressional session to recommend the parole program be extended to include Argentine citizens. (Mr. Mendez is aware that such a step would take some time and is hopeful that his son can get a regular visa to the US.)

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

CONTROL: 6309

24 Sep 76
1900

INDICATE
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FROM
Amembassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION
~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: Human Rights Round-Up
ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 6309

pp. 1,3+4

REF: (A) BUENOS AIRES 5844, (B) BUENOS AIRES 5979,
(C) BUENOS AIRES 5954

AMB
DCM
POL-3
POL/R
ECOM
USIS
USDAO
MILGP-2
LEGAT
SCLAT
RF
CHRON

1. UCR politicians Hipolito Solari Irigoyen and Mario Abel Amaya are now being officially held by Executive authority under stage of siege, sources report. Previously the two were being held for "questioning" in a military garrison, following their kidnapping and reappearance August 30. Former Economy Minister Antonio Cafiero is also under detention at the disposition of the Executive in Buenos Aires, despite the fact that he was exonerated three weeks ago of any irregularities in a state-owned winery while he was Interventor in Mendoza.

2. In the past week's only reported attack against a Jewish establishment, the Argentine Hebraic Society was hit by a bomb thrown from a moving car Sept. 21. The number of reported anti-Semitic incidents has fallen off considerably

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SEP 24 1976

DCM:MChaplin

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL FORM 103
(Formerly EO 410)
January 1975
Dept of State

since a rash of bombing attacks in late August and early September. GOA banned some anti-Semitic publications and closed the pro-Nazi Editora Milicia Sept. 14 (see ref B).

3. Seven Peruvian students returned to Peru Sept. 17 and another five on Sept. 19 following death threats addressed to 23 Peruvian students at the University of La Plata in late August (see ref C). GOA announced Sept. 14 that all foreign students would be counted between Oct. 4-8 to ascertain their student status.

4. Refugees continue to leave Argentina, most of them Uruguayans, Chileans and Paraguayans destined for resettlement in Europe. Fifteen left for Sweden and Switzerland on Sept. 19; another nineteen went to Paris, Geneva and Vienna on Sept. 23. The UNHCR director told Emboffs Sept. 13 that the resettlement effort is progressing well, but that he fears that when Europe fulfills its offered quotas, many refugees will be left behind in Argentina. Sweden and Denmark, he said, have sent special immigration personnel to Buenos Aires to review selected cases. The director said that he has sought assurances from Argentine immigration officials that the recent requirement for illegal aliens to register with Argentine authorities by early November will not be used against refugees. Many of the refugees are afraid of identifying themselves to

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Argentine authorities, he said, despite UNHCR efforts to have them comply with the new law.

5. Meanwhile, diverse groups continue to press the government on human rights cases. The Argentine Actors Association Sept. 21 issued a statement demanding an investigation into the disappearance of four of its members, who disappeared separately in recent weeks. Amnesty International on Sept. 20 urged President Videla to investigate charges that Uruguayan security officials had kidnapped Uruguayan citizens in Buenos Aires and demanded ransoms for their ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ release. The allegation was made by an Uruguayan citizen recently arrived in Sweden from Argentina who claimed he had been forced to act as an intermediary in ransom demands.

6. The Popular Socialist Party sent telegrams Sept. 22 to President Videla and the Interior Ministry appealing for the release of 70-year-old former deputy Pablo Legarraga, who has been held incommunicado for several days in a military prison in Bahia Blanca. GOA publicly criticized the UCR three weeks ago for disobeying the ban on political activities by issuing a statement in the name of the party on behalf of Solari Irigoyen and Amaya (see para one).

7. At its Assembly in Corrientes, the Argentine Newspaper Publishers Association (ADEPA) yesterday (Sept. 23) again strongly appealed to the government to restore freedom of

the press in spite of "the closures, threats, attacks and kidnappings". ADEPA president Juan Valmaggia also said that President Videla had acknowledged earlier ADEPA pleas on behalf of missing and arbitrarily detained journalists and said he would pass on the information to "appropriate authorities". In a related case, the Cordoba paper Los Principios reappeared today after 12 days closure. The paper was officially shut down for six days for criticizing excessive military budgets and refused to publish for another six in protest of the arrest of seven of its journalists. Three remain detained at disposition of the Executive. ~~A~~ Corrientes newspaper Epoca remains shut since Sept. 3.

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CONFIDENTIAL: 6003

24 Sep 76

1856

TELEGRAM

INDICATE
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FROM

AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

GDS

CVIS

Visas for Witnesses for Congressional Hearings

ACTION:

SecState WASHDC IMMEDIATE

Info:

AmEmbassy MEXICO PRIORITY

" ROME PRIORITY

" SANTIAGO PRIORITY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 6308

Ref:

State 235506

1. Embassy files show Rudolfo Puiggros to be a former member of the Communist Party and therefore ineligible for a visa under 212 (a) (28).

2. Puiggros is a well-known Marxist who reportedly left the Communist Party because it was too rigid and conservative for his tastes. As rector of the University of Buenos Aires in 1973, Puiggros was widely held responsible for the deep ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Communist inroads and revolutionary leftist take-over of UBA during the Hector Campora government. Ousted in former President Juan Peron's purge of Marxists in 1973, Puiggros dramatically and unnecessarily sought asylum in the Mexican Embassy, and later settled as a voluntary exile in

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DRAFTED BY:

FOL:YThayer:mg

DRAFTING DATE

9/24/76

TEL. EXT.

121

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

POL:WSSmith

CLEARANCES:

CONS:Whitcomb by substance

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INDEXED AND FILED

DCM:McChaplin

SEP 27 1976

LEGAL ATTACHE - BUENOS AIRES

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CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL FORM 153
(Formerly FS-413)
January 1976

Mexico.

3. Puiggros is one of 36 former Peronist officials who was stripped of his political rights by the military junta's "Act of Institutional Responsibility June 23. Under the act, officials accused of negligence, corruption, or subversive leanings in execution of their public duties lose their right to vote, hold office or appointive public sector jobs and may be detained at convenience of executive authority.

4. Embassy files show no derogatory information on exiled leftist poet Juan Gelman. It should be noted, however, that Gelman's daughter, son and daughter-in-law disappeared August 24, apparently abducted by extremist groups. A writ of habeas corpus was filed but no further information has come available.

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TELEGRAM

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28-Sep-76

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FROM

AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

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E.O. 11652:

N/A

TAGS:

SHUM, PINS, AR

SUBJECT:

Query re Francisco Jalics

ACTION:

SecState WASHDC

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 6364

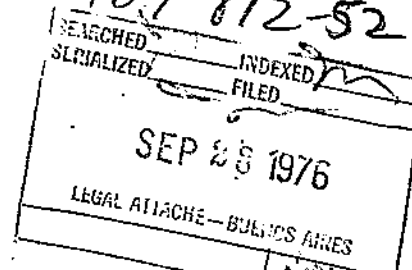
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State 236295

Embassy is aware that Francisco Jalics was arrested in May under state of siege, but has no further information concerning his legal status. So far, GOA has been very slow to process state of siege cases, although the Constitution guarantees that charges must be brought and trials called for all those detained by the Executive. We will report any new developments.

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Handwritten: Human Rights file

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POL:YThayla:mg

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9/28/76

TEL. EXT.

121

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

POL:WSSmith

CLEARANCES:

AMB:RCHill

DCM:MChaplin

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(Formerly FS-413)
January 1975

TELEGRAM

CONTROL: 6338
27 Sep 76
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FROM AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

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E.O. 11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:

GDS
PINT, PINS, SHUM, AR, CI
Query from B'Nai B'rith

ACTION:

SecState WASHDC

~~SECRET~~ BUENOS AIRES 6338

1. Embassy inquiries have so far turned up no information on the cases of Ernesto Benado Rejovisky and Dr. Mario Schraier.

We will continue to follow the cases and report any new developments.

2. Our files do, however, include a Chilean Ernesto Benado (no second surname given) allegedly arrested in November 1975, who is probably the person referred to in the query. According to our information, Ernesto Benado is a militant Communist who was deeply involved in the Chilean left. As ~~xxxxxx~~ reported in a secret memorandum from Robert Zimmerman to Joseph Grunwald July 23, 1976, Benado was known to have headed a Chinese Communist-supported cultural institute in Chile and a pro-Chinese Communist splinter group of the Chilean Communist Party. We understood that he had been arrested in November 1975 by the former Peronist government and there was some speculation that

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CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

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AMB:RChill

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he might have been forceably repatriated to Chile; although we have nothing to support that charge, nor any other information concerning his present status. This information on Benado is strictly ~~confidential~~ and the Department should use discretion in responding to Rabbi Rosenthal.

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01 OCT 76

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TELEGRAM

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Amembassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

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E.O. 11652:

GDS

TAGS:

CVIS, SHUM, PFOR, AR, US

SUBJECT:

Witnesses for Fraser Sub-Committee

ACTION:

Secstate WASHDC

INFO

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" SANTIAGO

~~SECRET~~ BUENOS AIRES 6473

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REF

(a) State 235506, (b) State 239312, (c) Buenos Aires 6396

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1. For many months this Embassy has been pressing GOA on the subject of human rights. One of the major obstacles that we have faced is a siege mentality on the part of the Argentine military (i.e. the conviction that they are locked in a no-holds-barred struggle with International Communism) and the concomitant belief that criticism from abroad on the human rights issue reflects or is stimulated by the Communists. We have worked diligently to disabuse the govt here of such a simplistic view. We have insisted that there are serious, responsible people in the US who have nothing to do with the extreme left and who are concerned over issue of human rights.

2. Our efforts in this regard are not helped at all by the fact

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CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

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CLEARANCES:

CONS:GHuey (in draft) *WSS*

DCM:McChaplin *McChaplin*

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(Formerly FS-413)
January 1975

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that of the five witnesses called by the Fraser Sub-Committee and referred to in refs a, and b (Rodolfo Puiggros, Juan Gelman, Gustavo Roca, Lucio Garzon Macedo and Roberto Pizarro), the first four are all members or ex-members of the Argentine Communist Party (PCA) or of the ERP. Are these witnesses? At least one of these people represents group that has been responsible for hundreds of murders and kidnappings over the past few years. How are we now to argue to GOA that criticism in US does not in any way reflect manipulation of extreme left? This kind of performance does not advance, on contrary, it is detrimental to cause of human rights in Argentina.

3. To help us argue a creditable case to GOA, Embassy would appreciate any light Dept can shed re criteria used by Sub-Committee in calling witnesses. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

~~that Department sought to expedite witness for these witnesses~~
~~XXXXXX~~
~~with a view to the fact that the witnesses are not~~

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

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FROM
AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION
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N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, AR

SUBJECT: Newspaper Owner Asks to Testify at House Hearings on Argentina

ACTION: SecState WASHDC

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 6490

1. Jacobo Timerman, owner and editor of the influential independent Buenos Aires daily La Opinion, called Press Officer Sept 30 in high dudgeon over what he considered biased testimony being given by Argentine exiles before Fraser sub-committee. He asked for guidance on how he could volunteer to go to Washington himself to speak before the Committee. Acting on suggestion that he communicate directly with Committee, Timerman sent letter addressed to Congressman Fraser, which he also published in the Oct 1 issue of his newspaper.

2. Letter expresses Timerman's concern that Committee *story, and notes that La Opinion has opposed volume and abuse of* is hearing biased testimony giving only part of human rights no matter what the source. He then asks to be invited to testify, to help Committee to understand

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CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

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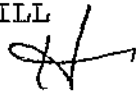
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human rights situation of all Argentines and avoid an unnecessary deterioration in relations between the two countries.

3. COMMENT: Timerman and his paper have well-earned reputation for courage and firm independence in matter of human rights, attacking violence and abuses both of the security forces and of the terrorists. La Opinion has also taken lead in exposing and protesting anti-Semitism. His gesture will be noted in Argentina, and will convince even more members of GOA, the military, and the general public that witnesses called by Committee, and purposes of hearing itself, are so-biased as to raise questions concerning motivation. It must also be noted, without detracting from his other qualities, that Timerman is something of an opportunistic and will not have failed to see a fine opportunity to gain some favorable publicity in Argentina for his paper and himself.

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TELEGRAM

CONTROL: 6494
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FROM: Amembassy BUENOS AIRES
CLASSIFICATION: ~~SECRET~~

0. 11632:
TAGS: MASS, PFOR, SHUM, AR, US
SUBJECT: Human Rights Observance Report

ACTION: Secstate WASHDC IMMEDIATE

REF: State 241180

Following is submitted in response to reftel. Reftel was received noon, Sept 29 with indication that Embassy should respond by COB Sept 30. Here it is. Response is in four parts:

1. Summary;
2. Embassy's Comments on Report Prepared by Department;
3. Steps Taken by Embassy to Advance Respect for Human Rights in Argentina;
4. Update of Embassy's Overview of Human Rights Situation

1. SUMMARY: Embassy is in basic agreement with report on human rights prepared by Department in response to Congressional request. Embassy has consistently--even before March 24 change of government--pressed issue of human rights observance to GOA. Approaches have been made at all levels and have included series of approaches

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REFERENCES: IN DRAFT: <i>pac</i> DAO: PACoughlin POL/R: DSmock			DCM: MChaplin ECOM: WBeal LEGATT: RScherrer

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since March on part of Ambassador to top levels of GOA.

Despite these approaches and despite recent release of detained American citizens, Embassy is not optimistic regarding significant improvement in human rights situation in Argentina.

2. EMBASSY'S COMMENTS ON REPORT PREPARED BY DEPARTMENT: Rather than give series of line by line changes, Embassy submits below its suggested revised text of Department's report. It will be noted that we have deleted, among other things, paragraph for the reasons given in ~~SECRET~~ BA 5950 and BA 6041. on Jehovah Witnesses, ~~XXXXXX while this may or may not~~
~~we believe~~
~~XXXXXX~~

Begin Text:

A. Political Situation. Argentina is the most politically violent country in Latin America today. Historically, modern violence in Argentina dates to the late sixties and the formation of the People's Revolutionary Army (ERP) and the Montoneros, both Marxist organizations dedicated to the overthrow of the government via a war of liberation. These organizations worked closely with Marxist guerrillas in Uruguay, Chile and Bolivia. When guerrilla organizations were defeated or ousted in these three countries, many of their members fled to Argentina, beginning in the early 1970s with the defeat of the Tupamaros in Uruguay. In the three years of the Peronist administration (1973-76) preceding the March 24 coup that brought General Jorge Rafael Videla to power, over 2,000 Argentines died

as a result of left and right-wing terrorism. Since the coup, political violence has claimed at least 1,000 lives.

Serious mismanagement of the economy under Peron contributed to the climate of political instability in Argentina and vice versa. At the time of the coup, the consumer price index was increasing at a 566 annual rate with a rising trend, there was deepening recession, and an external payments crisis threatened an Argentine default on foreign debts.

The new government's first priorities were to contain inflation, refinance the foreign debt and fight leftist terrorism, the latter perceived as the greatest threat to the government's economic and political plans. In this climate, right-wing terrorism grew at an alarming rate. While Argentina's immediate economic problems are being dealt with, recession and labor discontent over falling real wages continue.

The security forces have taken strong action against leftist terrorists, killing hundreds and arresting thousands. It is clear that counter or right-wing terrorism, which first appeared under Peron in 1974, has involved elements of the Argentine security forces. Whatever Videla's personal views and wishes may be (and he has promised to respect human rights), effective steps to control this kind of terrorism have not yet

been taken. Under Peron, right-wing terrorists attacked the regime's political opponents as well as terrorists on the left. Since March 1976, a wide spectrum of leftist and progressive individuals, and even ordinary citizens, have been victimized, including priests and foreign political refugees.

Leftist terrorism dates to 1969 and has been responsible for hundreds of political assassinations and kidnappings. Policemen, military personnel, and businessmen have often been shot at random. In 1975, the consular agent in Cordoba, John Patrick Egan, was murdered by leftist terrorists, while USIA officer Alfred Laun narrowly escaped death in the same city.

B. Legal Situation. The Argentine Constitution of 1853 is technically in effect, but, in practice, the decrees and laws promulgated by ^{the military} ~~both de jure and de facto~~ government, take precedence even over constitutional provisions. This principle has been consistently upheld by the Argentine Supreme Court. The Argentine Constitution is closely patterned after the United States Constitution and provides most of the legal guarantees that ours does. The major exception is a "State of Siege" provision, which gives the federal government power to suspend habeas corpus temporarily, hold suspects indefinitely and to move accused persons from place to place within the country without consent. Arrested persons are supposed to

have recourse to trial eventually or be released. The State of Siege has been in effect since November 6, 1974.

C. Observance of Internationally-Recognized Human Rights.

1. Integrity of the Person:

Article 3: Life, Liberty and Security of the Person.

This Article is violated regularly by elements of the GOA security forces, whether operating in an on-duty or off-duty status. Their method of operation is well known: civilian clothes, movement at night in unmarked cars, kidnappings, torture and even murder. There are no statistics on ~~right~~ the they have committed ~~very~~ atrocities/but the number of victims is in the hundreds and includes many foreign refugees.

In the most notorious episode, on August 20 thirty leftist prisoners were executed ^{in Pilar} in part as a retaliation for the murder of General Actis and in part as a warning to leftist extremists before anticipated actions to mark the anniversary of the Trelew massacre of 1972. The government condemned the mass murder as a "barbaric episode," although there is no doubt that the GOA's own security forces were responsible.

Article 5: Torture, Cruel, Inhuman, Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Torture is undoubtedly used by the security forces to extract some information from/prisoners, particularly suspected or proven terrorists. Once they are actually "booked," however, prisoners apparently receive more or less reasonable treatment.

Article 9: Arbitrary Arrest, Detention or Exile.

The security forces have detained numerous persons for investigation and questioning under the provisions of the State of Siege or other laws, e.g., arms control laws. Some are held indefinitely but others are freed after a short time and still others passed on to the procedures of the regular courts or to military courts martial when this is prescribed by law. An estimated 3,000 to 5,000 persons are now detained under the provisions of the State of Siege. The Argentine government has released no total or list of those detained, and as various individuals are released others are detained; hence, it is impossible to determine how many prisoners are being held or for how long.

Article 11: Fair Trial.

Argentine courts function normally in most cases. The exception applies to individuals held under the State of Siege. Some of these are freed, some passed on to the procedures of the regular courts, others to courts martial and still others held without charges or acknowledgment of their detention. Right-wing intimidation of lawyers and judges makes it very difficult for prisoners accused of subversion to receive a "fair trial," (in the few cases in which there have been trials). Before March, it was the left wing which threatened court officials thereby influencing decisions.

2. Other Important Freedoms:

Article 18: Thought and Religion.

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Anti-Semitism, a recurrent problem in Argentina for decades, was recently manifested anew by right-wing attacks against Jewish synagogues and shops. There have been no reports of deaths or injuries as a result of anti-Semitic incidents. The GOA has condemned such actions and moved to ban anti-Semitic literature.

Article 19: Expression and Opinion.

Some right-wing and left-wing extremist publications in Argentina have been banned by the Videla government. This includes Marxist as well as anti-Semitic literature. The Argentine press is required to exercise self-censorship, and is specifically prohibited from mentioning terrorist and anti-terrorist operations unless officially authorized by the government. On August 21, the Argentine Newspapers Owners Association, representing over 100 editors and publishers, complained to President Videla about press restrictions. There is, nevertheless, criticism of human rights abuses in the Argentine press. Few journalists have suffered arrest and only for short periods. Foreign correspondents file their stories freely.

Article 20: Assembly.

Upon taking power in March, the military Junta dissolved the parliament and banned political and labor activity. Some labor unions were intervened and, on September 8, a law was passed providing up to ten years in prison for strike organizers.

D. Available Non-USG Human Rights Reporting by Multilateral and Non-Governmental Organizations and Media. Many

organizations, including Amnesty International, have denounced human rights violations in Argentina. However, comprehensive reports on the situation in Argentina since March 24, 1976 are not yet available.

3. STEPS TAKEN BY EMBASSY TO ADVANCE RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN ARGENTINA:

The Embassy made the military aware of the USG's concern with respect for human rights even before the change of government in March. In a conversation before the coup took place, the Ambassador took up the human rights issue with Navy CINC Massera and was assured that "if it took power" the military would scrupulously respect human rights. As an indication of ~~Massera's~~ military's early awareness, President Videla himself was careful to assure the Argentine public and international observers shortly after the coup that human rights would be fully observed.

Since March the Embassy has constantly stressed to the GOA the potential danger to US-Argentine relations if the GOA did not adhere to a policy of respect for human rights. The Ambassador has frankly and frequently discussed this issue with such top-ranking officials as President Videla, Interior Min Harguindeguy, Foreign Min Guzzetti, / and Economy Min Martinez de Hoz. (Reports of these approaches are on file with the Department. Most are classified ~~secret~~.)

Exdis or Limdis. We leave it to the discretion of the Department as to whether or not they should be referred to in a report to Congress.) In addition to the Ambassador's approaches, Embassy officers at all levels have taken every opportunity to express US concern over human rights and possible consequences with their colleagues and contacts in the govt and with religious, professional and business leaders. Human rights has been a recurring topic at both social and official gatherings. The Economic Counselor has discussed human rights at periodic meetings with prominent Argentine businessmen and officials of the Economy and other ministries. In an Aide Memoire to the Foreign Ministry Sept 23, the Embassy reviewed the specific US legislation which makes the provision of economic, developmental and security assistance dependent on the recipient govt's observance and practice of internationally-recognized human rights standards. Texts of the pertinent provisions of the new security assistance legislation and the Harkin amendment were also supplied to the FonMinistry. Visiting Department officials, including ~~Hewson/Ryan~~, Robert Zimmermann, Fred Rondon and Jim Buchanan have conveyed firsthand or been present when Emboffs conveyed to GOA officials US concern over human rights abuses.

Besides its representations in cases involving American citizens, Emboffs have frequently made informal inquiries to FonMinistry

officials on behalf of missing and arbitrarily detained non-US citizens, such as the five seminarians arrested with Father Weeks in Cordoba, Juan Mendez, Liliana Nazario and Jacobo Tieffenberg, the last two of whom were subsequently released. (These cases have been reported and are on file at the Department.)

In these necessarily unofficial efforts, Emboffs have emphasized the personal concern expressed by members of Congress.

4. UPDATE OF EMBASSY'S OVERVIEW OF HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION: Our last general summary and judgment on human rights situation in Argentina was submitted one month ago, in Buenos Aires 5637. At that time, we were in hopes that the highest levels of the GOA might soon be in a position to begin to get the human rights situation in hand. Among other things, sanctions had been promised against those responsible for the mass murder at Pilar, and President Videla seemed to be moving to consolidate his position against the harder liners. Such hopes now appear forlorn. Detained Americans--Father Weeks, Gwenda Mae Loken, and Patricia Erb--have either been released and expelled or^{are} in the process of so being. This indicates a greater responsiveness on the GOA's part to our demarches concerning American citizens (probably flowing from the dawning realization that unresponsiveness could seriously jeopardize Argentine relations with the US). We do not see any such responsiveness, however, in terms of the overall human rights situation. No significant measures

have been taken to curb excesses on the part of the security ~~forces~~ forces. No sanctions were taken against those responsible for the Pilar massacre. On the contrary, it is clear that there was relatively high level authorization for those killings.

Finally, the shifts in the military, which were originally designed to contribute to the consolidation of Videla's position, are now expected to produce nothing of the sort. Indeed, they may not even materialize for another several months. Rather, than improvement, what is seen increasingly is that Videla is either unwilling or unable to curb excesses on the part of the security forces. Nonetheless, in the view of the Embassy, and, indeed, of the GOA's internal critics, such as the UCR, hierarchy Catholic ~~hierarchy~~ and even Bob Cox of the Buenos Aires Herald, there is no better alternative to the Videla government.

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TELEGRAM

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FROM

AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

N/A

SHUM, PINS, AR

Asylum Request for Argentine Juan Mendez

ACTION:

SecState WASHDC

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 6619

REF:

Buenos Aires 6365

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1. Father of Juan Mendez called on ConsOff September 29, bringing with him a thick file of correspondence on son's case and asking for help in securing asylum for son in U.S. if and when he is released or allowed to exercise the now-suspended right to opt to leave the country. Mendez has been jailed without charge under state of siege for more than 13 months. Father explained that U.S. friends were campaigning among congressmen and human rights organizations to have son released and brought to U.S. ConsOff informed him of U.S. law regarding asylum.

2. Father described his son as a leftist and former member of J.P., the now outlawed Peronist Youth organization, many of whose members either were Montoneros or ~~XXXX~~ had ties to that leftist extremist group (which makes it doubtful Mendez could

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CONS:MSherman

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AMB:RCHill

DCM:MCNOLLY
OCT 8 1976

LEGAL ATTACHE - BUENOS AIRES

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OPTIONAL FORM 153
(Formerly FS-113)
January 1975

get a U.S. tourist visa, or even an Argentine passport, for that matter, once he is released). According to father, Mendez is being satisfactorily treated in the La Plata prison and has been asked by prison authorities to provide legal advice to other prisoners. He is visited by his family twice weekly and is in good health.


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TELEGRAM

CONTROL 6628
7 OCT 76
1700

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FROM AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES	CLASSIFICATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, PGOV, AR
SUBJECT: Foreign Ministry Establishes Special Office for Human Rights
Inquiries
ACTION: SecState WASHDC
INFO: USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 6628

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RF
CHRON

1. We have received copy of circular note to all Embassies from FonMinistry which refers to "fact that various governments and international organizations have expressed and continue to express theirpreoccupation over respect for human rights in Argentina, as well as situation in which persons of different nationalities may find themselves within its territory." Note states that authorities wish to cooperate as fully as possible in solution of any problem raised by "legitimate disquiet" over human rights.

2. Therefore, Ministry has established "Working Group" in offi of Under Secretary, which will concentrate on this task. Embassies are asked to request their governments in future to channel all approaches and inquiries on human rights matters to the Working Group.

DRAFTED BY: POL: XTHAYCXXM RSSteven:mg	DRAFTING DATE 10/7/76	TEL. SEARCHED 12	INDEXED FILED	CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: POL: WSSmith
CLEARANCES:		107-812-58 OCT 8 - 1976 AMB: RCHILL DCM: MChaplin LEGAL ATTACHE - BUENOS AIRES		

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CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL FORM 213
(Formerly DD FORM 213)
January 1976

3. We have been informed directly by (Navy) Captain Seisdedos of the Ministry, who has been handling such matters and with whom we have had dealings, that he will head Working Group and will welcome informal direct calls to him on any matter of concern to us. Presumably formal representations such as protest notes will go to the Working Group for action.

4. Comment. It would appear that Ministry has finally recognized that informal arrangement of past, in which Embassies and International Organizations seeking information about their own nationals or other_s of interest to them approached Ministry through variety of desk officers and other contacts, needed to be formalized and channeled to responsible officer. It may also indicate that GOA is becoming aware ~~that~~ that it has growing problem which will not go away in near future, and that it had best get organized to deal with it. Under these circumstances, our inclination will be to use FonMinistry channel more freely for inquiries on individual human rights cases.

~~HELL~~

TELEGRAM

OCT 76 1212

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION ~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

E.O. 11652: N/A
 TAGS: PINT, SHUM, AR
 SUBJECT: Human Rights Round-Up No. 3

ACTION: SecState WASHDC

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 6611

REF: Buenos Aires 6309

AMB
 DCM
 POL-3
 POL/R
 ECOM
 USIS
 USDAO
 MILGP-2
 LEGAT
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 RF
 CHRON

1. GOA has in recent weeks released more than 300 persons whom it found innocent of subversive connections, reported La Opinion October 3. La Opinion noted that the government had made no official announcement, in keeping with its policy of not releasing the names of those detained by the Executive, since such information might be useful to subversive groups. La Opinion further reported that GOA would continue to release innocent persons as it completes its investigations. (At a press conference September 19, Interior Minister Harguindeguy declared it was his policy not to release the names of those detained under state of siege, even though he claimed to have the exact number and all background information on each case. The BA Herald on September 26 again appealed to the government to release the



pp.2

DRAFTED BY: POL:YThayer:mg

CLEARANCES:

DRAFTING DATE 10/6/76

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CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: POL:WSSmith 26

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OCT 8 - 1976

AMB:RChill

DCM:MChaplin

LEGAL ATTACHE - BUENOS AIRES

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CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL FORM 153
 (Formerly FS-413)
 January 1975

names as a "definite step toward restoring law and order.")

2. Chilean citizen Guillermina Alicia Gayilan, who had been detained under state of siege, left for London September 28.

Argentine citizen Liliana Nazario, subject of much human rights correspondence, was released from jail September 22 and is now vacationing in Santiago del Estero with her relatives.

3. Sixteen Chilean and Uruguayan refugees left for Geneva and Paris under UNHCR auspices October 1.

4. For the second time in five months, a federal judge ruled that the Constitutional right of persons detained under state of siege to opt to leave the country is in force. In ruling on a writ of habeas corpus, Judge Eugenio Zaffaroni gave the Executive Branch 20 days to release 66-year-old Pablo Alfredo Piza, who has been held without charge since last November.

The Federal Prosecutor immediately appealed the decision to the Supreme Court. In an earlier case last May, a different judge ruled that the option was in force because, although it had been suspended by the Junta in March, it was mentioned in a subsequent revision of the penal code. (That ruling was also appealed to the Supreme Court, which has yet to hand down a judgment.) In his later decision, Zaffaroni used the same argument and added that prolonged detention was contrary to the principles of the Catholic Church (official religion of Argentina) and the UN's universal Declaration of Human Rights

to which Argentina is party.

5. President Videla hosted a widely-publicized ecumenical luncheon September 29 for religious leaders of ten different faiths, including the Catholic, Jewish, Islamic, Russian and Greek Orthodox. The churchmen later said that all problems facing the country were fully and frankly discussed. Rabbi Benhamu Anidjar said after the meeting that he hoped "the peace and understanding we found at the President's table are a reflection of what is to come for Argentina."

6. A group of prominent Argentine writers asked President Videla to intercede on behalf of an ailing Argentine writer,

Antonio Di Benedetto, who has been detained without charge in Mendoza since March 24. The letter, published in La Opinion October 5, said Di Benedetto was suffering mental and physical deterioration after being held incommunicado for more than six months.

7. In a rare reported case of legal action taken against the police for "excessive violence," five policemen were arrested in Cordoba on September 23. They were charged in the deaths ~~in the~~ of two persons linked to the drug trade who were kidnapped July 17 and later turned up shot to death in a field.

8. Two young children of an extremist couple killed in a recent shootout with security forces were kidnapped from a hospital September 23, according to an army communique. The communique stated that it was the military's policy to restore

orphans of extremist victims to relatives for adoption. The two children have not yet been found.

9. A Montonero extremist convicted of murdering a policeman was sentenced to "indefinite reclusion" by a court martial in Cordoba September 27. Two other Montoneros were xx sentenced to from four to ten years for illegal possession of firearms and other offenses.

10. The Buenos Aires press has been highly critical of last week's congressional hearings on the human rights situation in Argentina, most attributing the USG's "sudden new interest" in human rights to the international leftist campaign to discredit the country ^{to} or irresponsible US election year politicking. Reflecting the strongly-held Argentine belief that its battle against subversion is a fight against an international Communist threat, La Nacion October 3 said that paradoxically, instead of assisting its friends against such a threat, the USG is now acting in such a way as to favor its Communist enemies. It blamed "pro-guerrilla influences" for the recent anti-Argentina attitude ^{of} the US congress and said it was incredible that something as important as the security of the continent should be taken advantage of as a "transitory election issue." La Prensa the same day rejected the ~~committee's~~ committee's right to "sit in judgment of a sovereign country" and declared outright that "whoever reproaches the Argentine government defends extremism."

11. Even those newspapers that have been the most outspoken in repudiating violence and human rights abuses in Argentina objected to what they labeled as ⁷unconstructive and insensitive meddling in Argentina's internal affairs. The BA Herald, in its October 2 editorial, charged that human rights campaigns, instead of helping governments to tackle terrorism and protect innocent victims of guerrilla warfare, generally only succeed in making things worse. Argentina, it said, had no need of commissions outside the country "either to protect us or try and exploit us." Observing that what was at stake was some 48 million dollars in US military aid, Herald Columnist James Neilson the next day was even more biting: "That the (Argentinian) military government should expose itself to such humiliations over such a piddling sum is rather incredible--perhaps it should be returned with a note recommending it ^{be} spent on victims of US neglect in Detroit (whose violence rivals our own)."

12. The press expressed outrage at the selection of such long-time Communists as Gustavo Roca and Garzon Macedo, and other clearly hostile witnesses, to testify at the Fraser hearings. "Such action clearly throws into doubt the good faith of those responsible," observed La Nacion. La Opinion yesterday ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ (October 5) noted that not one State Department official, not even the American Ambassador to Argentina, had been called to testify. (LA Editor Jacobo Timmerman himself

wrote Rep. Fraser on September 29 warning against the danger of one-sided witnesses and himself asked to be called to testify.)


HILL

TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM Amembassy BUENOS AIRES	CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL
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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, AR, US
SUBJECT: Congressional Letter on Anti-Semitism

ACTION: Secstate WASHDC IMMEDIATE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 6575

REF Buenos Aires 6547

1. Embassy has just received through the mail letter to President Videla from 56 U.S. Congressmen deploring incidents of anti-Semitism in Argentina and calling upon Argentine government to do something about them. Embassy is requested to transmit letter to Videla.
2. Embassy requests instructions. Our inclination would be to deliver letter to FonMinistry with explanation that we have been requested by Congress to transmit. Does Dept concur?

AMB
DCM
POL-3
POL/R
ECOM
CONS
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DAO
MILGP
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RF
CHRON

HILL

109-812-60

DRAFTED BY: POL:WSSmith:cc	DRAFTING DATE 10/6/76	TEL. EXT. 128	CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: JAM ROBERT C. HILL
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CLEARANCES:

DCM:MChaplin

Human Rights file

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CLASSIFICATION

TELEGRAM

8 OCT 76 1223

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM

AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

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CO 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

N/A

PINT, SHUM, AR

Foreign Businessmen Concerned over Human Rights Hearings

ACTION:

SecState WASHDC

6647

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES

~~664706238~~

MB

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FOL-3

FOL/R

ECOM

USIS

LEDAO

CLGP-2

LEGAT

SGIAT

FF

CHRON

1. Members of the American and foreign business community, among others here, have expressed their concern to Embaffs over last week's congressional hearings on the human rights situation in Argentina. A number of these persons have lived in Argentina for many years and have seen first hand the rise of terrorist violence and later counter-terrorist warfare in this troubled country. They are chiefly disturbed by what they consider to be the one-sided view-point presented by overtly anti-GOA witnesses and the apparent tendency in the U. S. to ignore the terrorist violence that has wracked Argentina for at least four years.

2. Indicative of that concern was a letter sent by foreign businessman Gisbert/X. Boch to Rep. Fraser, which was published in today's BA Herald (October 7). In his letter (copies of which were sent to Embassy, to Senators Church

PREPARED BY:

FOL:YTHayering

DRAFTING DATE

10/7/76

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CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

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DISSEMINATION:

AMB:RChill.

DCM:MChaplin

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~
 CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL FORM 153
 (Formerly FS-413)
 January 1973
 Dept. of State

and Kennedy and to the New York Times) von Boch described the terrorist violence and deteriorating security situation which forced him and his family to leave Argentina in September 1974 and asked why the media and Congress "always seem to defend the human rights of terrorists, yet never those of their innocent victims." Describing the present authorities as "decent, hardworking people" trying to overcome inherited difficulties, von Boch suggested that the committee also consult its Embassy and Americans living in Argentina before making too hasty conclusions on Argentina's human rights record.


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TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM

AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

ACTION:

INFO:

GDS

PGOV, SHUM, AR

Supreme Court and GOA Agree on Limit of Military Justice
Jurisdiction

SecState WASHDC

USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

AmEmbassy MONTEVIDEO

" SANTIAGO

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 6648

REF:

Buenos Aires 6611

AMB
DCM
FOL-3
FOL/R
ECOM
USIS
USDAO
FTIGP-2
LEGAT
SCIAT
RF
CHRON

1. Argentine Supreme Court has ruled that jurisdiction of
military justice system over subversion and arms control
violations applies only when it is clear that offense is
actually linked to security of nation.

2. Case arose last May in which individual was detained
in Santa Cruz Province on suspicion of violation of ordin-
ary criminal laws. While being interrogated in police
station, suspect verbally "chided and offended" police
chief. Local civilian judge, backed up by judicial authori-
ties of province, declined to accept charge presented by
apparently outraged police, holding that this "attack" on
security forces came under law giving competence to

PREPARED BY:

FOL:RSSSteven:mg

DRAFTING DATE

10/7/76

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Riggs file*

661-1570

AMB:RCHill

DCM:MChaplin *me*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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┌ military courts. Court Martial having jurisdiction over zone ┐
in turn refused to hear case as it did not involve actual
subversion and did not affect security of nation in sense of
laws placing such offenses under 'military courts. Case
reached Supreme Court with recommendation of GOA Attorney
General that it be placed under civilian courts of province,
citing reasoning of Court Martial that it did not affect
national security or the security forces. Supreme Court
agreed and instructed local Santa Cruz province civilian judge
to accept jurisdiction.

3. In somewhat similar ruling, court held that federal civil
court in Cordoba had competence in case of individual charged
with illegal possession of firearm classified as "military
weapon" (which includes for example any pistol or rifle of
military caliber), as it had not been demonstrated that the
offense was linked to subversive activities.

4. Comment. We consider these heartening developments, as
they demonstrate that Argentina still has an independent
civilian judicial system, and that military themselves
apparently recognize some degree of rationality in applica-
tion of military justice to "subversion" cases. Civilian
courts are forced to be reckoned with here, and have dis-
played independent judgment in past few months of military
regime. Guidelines are not completely clear, as is illus-
┌ trated by differing civilian judges' interpretations of ┐

1148

[applicability of GOA's suspension of constitutional right to
opt to leave country rather than be detained under State of
Siege provisions. One federal judge has just ruled that
suspension of option is ineffective and has ordered GOA to
permit departure of a detainee (reftel), while another federal
judge has ruled the opposite and denied a petition to leave
under the constitutional option. Rather than simply assert
that civil courts have no jurisdiction in State of Siege
matters, GOA has submitted its case to Supreme Court.

5. We are well aware that many detainees never reach court
jurisdiction, civil or military, being killed or indefinitely
detained by security forces. It is encouraging, however, that
GOA at least recognizes principle of independence and juris-
diction of civil courts and that civil courts in turn show
clear evidence of some willingness to declare limits to
government's powers in security (and thus human rights)
matters.


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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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DATE 04-28-2017 BY C87W44B73 ADG

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY 4351/4352/4353

BT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

STATE 251209

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, AR, US

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL LETTERS TO PRESIDENT VIDELA

REF: BUENOS AIRES 6426 (A), BUENOS AIRES 6440 (B)
BUENOS AIRES 06575 (C)

1. DEPARTMENT IS AWARE OF THREE LETTERS ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT VIDELA BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. THEY INCLUDE THE TWO NOTED IN REFTELS AND A THIRD SIGNED BY CONGRESSMAN HARRINGTON AND FIFTEEN OTHER HOUSE MEMBERS, INCLUDING FRASER, HARKIN AND KOCH, ASKING VIDELA TO INTERVENE ON BEHALF OF ANDRES CULTELLI OF URUGUAY, REGINA MACONDES OF BRAZIL, MARIO MUÑOZ SALAS OF CHILE AND ARGENTINIAN RAYMUNDO GLEYZER.

2. LETTER MENTIONED IN REFTEL B DATED SEPTEMBER 28 IS FROM CONGRESSWOMAN ELIZABETH HOLTZMAN AND FIFTY-SIX OTHER HOUSE MEMBERS INCLUDING NINE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.
TEXT FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: DEAR PRESIDENT VIDELA:

WE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS WISH TO EXPRESS OUR DEEP CONCERN ABOUT RECENT REPORTS OF ANTI-SEMITIC VIOLENCE IN ARGENTINA.

IN THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS, THE PRESS HAS REPORTED A NUMBER OF SHOOTINGS AND BOMBINGS OF JEWISH INSTITUTIONS AND BUSINESSES IN YOUR COUNTRY, AS WELL AS THE KIDNAPPING OF SEVERAL PROMINENT JEWS. THESE ATTACKS HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN CONDONED AND EVEN ENCOURAGED BY SOME GROUPS WITHIN THE ARGENTINE MILITARY AND POLICE FORCES. IN ADDITION, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE DISTRIBUTION OF NAZI LITERATURE WITHIN ARGENTINA HAS INCREASED SHARPLY IN RECENT MONTHS.

TO	ACT	INF	TO	ACT	INF
AMB		✓	DAO		✓
DCM		✓	LEGATT		✓
			DEA		
POL	3		FAS		
ECOM		✓	AID		
POI/R		✓	MILGP		✓
CONS		✓	PEH		
DDM			GSO		
USIS		✓	B & F		
STI			CHRON		✓
SY			RF		✓

P2 WE DEPLORE THESE INCIDENTS OF VIOLENT ANTI-SEMITISM WHICH ARE REPUGNANT TO AMERICANS AND PEOPLE OF GOODWILL EVERYWHERE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT YOU, TOO, HAVE EXPRESSED YOUR OPPOSITION TO THESE ACTIONS.

WE MOST RESPECTFULLY CALL UPON YOU, THEREFORE, TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO END ANTI-SEMITIC TERRORISM IN YOUR COUNTRY.

SINCERELY, HOLTZMAN, ABZUG, ALLEN, AMBRO, BEARD, BEDELL, BINGHAM, BLANCHARD, BRODHEAD, BURTON, BURTON, CHISHOLM, CORMAN, DERWINSKI, DIGGS, DOWNEY, DRINAN, EDWARDS, EILBERG, EVANS, FASCELL, FRASER, FRENZEL, GUDE, HALL, HARKIN, HARRINGTON, HEINZ, HUGHES, KOCH, KREBS, LEHMAN, LONG, MAZZOLI, MEZVINSKY, MITCHELL, NIX, OTTINGER, PEPPER, RANGEL, RICHMOND, RIEGLE, RONCALIO, ROSENTHAL, ROYBAL, SANTINI, SOLARZ, STARK, TRAXLER, UDALL, VANDER VEEN, WAXMAN, WOLFF, WON PAT, WRIGHT, WYDLER, WHITEHURST. UNQUOTE.

3. HARKIN LETTER REFERRED TO IN REFTEL A DATED SEPTEMBER 7 STATES:

QUOTE: DEAR SIR:

I AM WRITING IN REGARD TO FIVE THEOLOGICAL STUDENTS WHO ARE BEING HELD INCOMMUNICADO IN YOUR COUNTRY SINCE THEY WERE ABDUCTED FROM THEIR RESIDENCE IN CORDOBA ON AUGUST 3, 1976.

I AM INFORMED BY EYEWITNESSES TO THE ABDUCTION THAT THE STUDENTS DANIEL GARCIA CARRANZA, ALEJANDRO DAUSA, JOSE LOUIS DESTEFANI AND ALFREDO MELANDA (ALL ARGENTINIANS). THE CHILEAN, HUMBERTO PANTAJO TAPIA, AND REV. WEEKS WERE TAKEN FROM THEIR HOUSE AFTER BEING BOUND, GAGGED AND, IN

AT LEAST ONE CASE BEATEN BY A GROUP OF MEN IN PLAIN CLOTHES, ARMED WITH SUBMACHINE GUNS. THESE MEN OFFERED NO IDENTIFICATION OTHER THAN A STATEMENT TO A WITNESS THAT THEY WERE MONTONEROS. THE STUDENTS AND REV. WEEKS WERE TAKEN WITHIN SEVERAL HOURS TO A LOCAL JAIL AND HAVE SINCE BEEN TRANSFERRED AT LEAST ONCE. REV. WEEKS WAS RELEASED ONLY AFTER PROTESTS BY MY GOVERNMENT. THE STUDENTS REMAIN IMPRISONED.

I WISH TO KNOW WHAT THE LEGAL STATUS OF EACH STUDENT IS. HAVE ANY CHARGES BEEN FILED AGAINST ANY ONE OF THEM? WHERE ARE THEY BEING HELD? HOW LONG MAY THEY BE HELD UNDER YOUR LAW BEFORE CHARGES MUST BE FILED OR THEY MUST BE RELEASED? SPECIFICALLY WHAT EVIDENCE DOES YOUR GOVERNMENT HAVE THAT ANY OF THE STUDENTS HAS ENGAGED IN ANY ACT OF SUBVERSION AGAINST YOUR GOVERNMENT? WERE THE MEN WHO ABDUCTED REV. WEEKS AND THE STUDENTS POLICE OR MILITARY

CONFIDENTIAL

P3

OFFICIALS? WERE THEY ACTING IN AN OFFICIAL CAPACITY AT THE TIME? IF SO, IS THIS TYPICAL AS POLICE PROCEDURES IN ARGENTINA? IF NOT, HAVE ANY ACTIONS BEEN TAKEN BY YOU OR OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO DISCIPLINE THE OFFICIALS INVOLVED AND TO ENSURE THAT SUCH PRACTICE CEASE? I AM EAGER TO HEAR ANYTHING FROM YOU THAT WOULD JUSTIFY THE METHODS WHICH YOUR GOVERNMENT USED IN THIS MATTER. BASED ON THE ACCOUNTS OF THE INCIDENT BY WITNESSES AND SOME KNOWLEDGE OF THE PERSONS INVOLVED, I PRESENTLY CAN FIND NO SUCH JUSTIFICATION FOR THESE ACTIONS.

I AM WELL AWARE THAT TERRORISTS ON BOTH ENDS OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM THREATEN THE STABILITY OF YOUR NATION. I CONDEMN ALL TERRORIST ENDEAVORS REGARDLESS OF IDEOLOGICAL ORIGIN. HOWEVER, IT IS APPARENT THAT RIGHT-WING TERRORISTS ARE TOLERATED IN SOME AREAS BY POLICY AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES AND, IN SOME CASES, HAVE SECURED THE ACTIVE COOPERATION OF THESE OFFICIALS IN ASSAULTS ON ARGENTINE CITIZENS, POLITICAL REFUGEES FROM OTHER NATIONS AND U.S. CITIZENS WHO ARE GUILTY ONLY OF HOLDING VIEWS AND OPINIONS CONTRARY TO THOSE OF THE OFFICIALS.

THE CASE I HAVE NOTED ABOVE IS ONLY ONE OF A NUMBER WHICH ILLUSTRATE THE IMPUNITY WITH WHICH RIGHT-WING TERRORISTS ACT IN YOUR COUNTRY, IN CONTRAST TO GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO SUPPRESS SIMILAR LEFT-WING ACTIVITIES. AS ALLIES OF ARGENTINA AND FRIENDS OF YOUR PEOPLE, WE LOOK FAVORABLY UPON EFFORTS TO RESTORE DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY. IN EQUAL MEASURE, WE DEPLORE THE SELECTIVE ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS RESULTING IN POLITICAL PERSECUTION AND INCREASING POLITI-

CAL POLARIZATION RATHER THAN CIVIL PEACE. SUCH BRUTAL ATTEMPTS TO FORCE POLITICAL CONFORMITY UPON THE POPULATION FALL WITHIN THE SHADOW OF TOTALITARIANISM AND HAVE NO PLACE IN ANY CIVILIZED SOCIETY WHICH PROFESSES BELIEF IN THE ABILITY OF PEOPLE TO RULE THEMSELVES.

I AM HOPEFUL THAT YOUR RESPONSE TO MY QUESTIONS WILL INDICATE A WILLINGNESS TO APPLY THE LAW IN EQUAL MEASURE TO ALL RESIDENTS OF YOUR COUNTRY. MANY MEMBERS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS WOULD SUPPORT EFFORTS TO CEASE THE ABUSE OF AUTHORITY BY A LIMITED NUMBER OF ARGENTINIAN POLICE AND MILITARY OFFICIALS. SUCH EFFORTS ARE ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY IN ORDER TO RECTIFY ACTIONS WHICH ARE DESTRUCTIVE BOTH OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN YOUR COUNTRY AND OF THE LONG HISTORY OF AMICABLE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES.

I WISH TO EMPHASIZE THAT I SPEAK IN A SPIRIT OF CONCERN FOR A CONTINUATION OF THAT RELATIONSHIP. YOUR PROMPT AND THOROUGH REPLY WILL BE APPRECIATED.

SINCERELY, TOM HARKIN.

CONFIDENTIAL

94 4. TEXT OF THIRD LETTER DATED AUGUST 13 FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

THE UNDERSIGNED MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS WRITE TO YOU TODAY DEEPLY CONCERNED WITH THE STATUS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN YOUR COUNTRY, AND RESPECTFULLY REQUEST YOUR INTERVENTION IN THE FOLLOWING CASES: MR. ANDRES CULTELLI, A URUGUAYAN; MRS. REGINA MACONDES, A BRAZILIAN; MR. MARIO MUNOZ SALAS, A CHILEAN; AND RAYMUNDO GLEYZER, AN INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN AND RESPECTED FILMMAKER. AS YOU INDICATED IN YOUR INAUGURAL ADDRESS, CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IS A CONCERN OF HUMANITY NOT DEPENDENT ON INTERNATIONAL DECLARATIONS, BUT ON CONCRETE ACTIONS. THEREFORE, WE FEEL CONFIDENT THAT YOU WILL INVESTIGATE THOROUGHLY THE ALLEGATIONS CONTAINED HEREIN.

MR. ANDRES CULTELLI, A URUGUAYAN WHO SOUGHT POLITICAL ASYLUM IN YOUR COUNTRY, WAS FIRST ARRESTED IN MARCH 1975, BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ISABEL PERON. AS OF APRIL OF THIS YEAR, MR. CULTELLI'S FAMILY WAS STILL UNAWARE OF ANY OFFICIAL CHARGES AGAINST HIM. RESPONDING TO INQUIRIES, AMBASSADOR VAZQUEZ RELEASED INFORMATION ON JULY 1ST THAT MR. CULTELLI WAS BEING HELD FOR VIOLATION OF FEDERAL LAW 20.840 (SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES). RELIABLE SOURCES HAVE ALLEGED THAT ARGENTINE AND URUGUAYAN OFFICIALS HAVE TORTURED

HIM EXTENSIVELY SINCE HIS ARREST. IF THE ALLEGATION IS TRUE, THEN MR. HARRINGTON'S PREVIOUS REQUEST THAT MR. CULTELLI NOT BE EXTRADITED TO URUGUAY UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES IS UNDERSTANDABLY JUSTIFIED.

THE SECOND CASE INVOLVES MRS. REGINA MACONDES, A BRAZILIAN NATIONAL, WHO WAS ARRESTED APRIL 10, 1976. THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT WAS URGED AT THAT TIME TO RELEASE INFORMATION AS TO WHERE SHE WAS BEING HELD AND ON WHAT CHARGE. IT WAS ALSO REQUESTED THAT SHE NOT BE EXTRADITED TO BRAZIL DUE TO THAT GOVERNMENT'S MANIFEST DISREGARD FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. MRS. MACONDES' FATE IS AS YET STILL UNKNOWN TO US.

THE THIRD CASE, THAT OF MR. MARIO MUNOZ SALAS, A CHILEAN UNIONIST, IS SIMILAR TO THE PREVIOUS ONES. MR. MUNOZ WAS ALSO A NON-ARGENTINE SEEKING POLITICAL ASYLUM IN YOUR COUNTRY. IT HAS BEEN ALLEGED THAT THIS INDIVIDUAL IS BEING HUNTED ON THE ORDERS TO BE SHOT ON SIGHT. WE ONCE AGAIN EXTEND THE REQUEST THAT HE AND HIS FAMILY BE GRANTED SAFE CONDUCT OUT OF ARGENTINA. AS MR. HARRINGTON NOTED IN HIS LETTER DATED JUNE 4, 1976, TO AMBASSADOR VAZQUEZ, EXTRADITION OF THIS MAN TO CHILE WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO SENTENCING HIM TO INDEFINITE INCARCERATION OR DEATH. WE,

P5 THEREFORE, URGE THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT TO REJECT ANY COURSE THAT WOULD DENY MR. MUNOZ' RIGHT TO LIFE AND LIBERTY BECAUSE OF HIS POLITICAL BELIEFS.

ALSO EXTREMELY DISTURBING TO US IS THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN FILM MAKER, RAYMUNDO GLEYZER, WHO WAS IN ARGENTINA TO VISIT HIS FIVE-YEAR OLD SON. WE URGE THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT IN THE STRONGEST TERMS TO INVESTIGATE HIS DISAPPEARANCE. IT HAS BEEN ALLEGED THAT MR. GLEYZER, ALONG WITH HAROLDO CONTI, IS TO BE FOUND AT THE SPECIAL TORTURE CENTER NEAR THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT OF EZEIZA, AND BOTH THEIR CONDITIONS ARE GRAVE. THEREFORE, WE REQUEST THAT BOTH MR. GLEYZER AND MR. CONTI BE GRANTED THE RESPECT WHICH THEIR REPUTATION ENTITLES THEM TO, AND THAT THEY BE RELEASED, FOR THEIR LOSS WOULD INDEED BE TRAGIC.

MR. PRESIDENT, WE APPEAL TO YOUR SENSE OF HUMANITY, AND RESPECTFULLY REMIND YOU OF YOUR INAUGURAL PROMISE TO RE-ESTABLISH A RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN ARGENTINA. IN ANY EVENT, WE TRUST THAT YOU WILL WANT TO INITIATE A COMPLETE INVESTIGATION INTO THE ALLEGATIONS CONTAINED HEREIN.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

YOURS RESPECTFULLY, MICHAEL J. HARRINGTON, FRASER, SCHROEDER, HARKIN, HAWKINS, BINGHAM, ABZUB, CONTI, DRINAN, FRENZEL, KOCH, STARK, ROSENTHAL, FLOOD, SOLARZ, RIEGLE.

5. WE HAVE DISCUSSED LETTERS WITH CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES OF SIGNATORIES, EMPHASIZING THE INADVISABILITY OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WRITING DIRECTLY TO OFFICIALS (INDEED, IN THIS CASE, A HEAD OF STATE) OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS. THEY APPEAR SENSITIVE TO OUR CONCERNS AND APPEARED WILLING TO INFORM THE DEPARTMENT BEFORE ANY LETTERS ARE SENT IN THE FUTURE.

6. FYI: AS YOU CAN SEE THE LETTERS DIFFER ONE FROM THE OTHER. THEY ALL REFLECT THE INCREASED CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN ARGENTINA WHICH HAS BEEN STIMULATED BY THE WIDESPREAD MEDIA COVERAGE OF DEVELOPMENTS THERE, AS DOES THE VERY STRONG CRITICISM OF GOA ABUSES OF HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH SURFACED AT THE RECENT FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS. WE DISAPPROVE OF THE PRACTICE OF MEMBERS WRITING DIRECTLY TO OFFICIALS OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS AND DO NOT WANT TO ENCOURAGE FURTHER EXCHANGES AND DO NOT FEEL IT ADVISABLE THAT WE ACT AS A TRANSMISSION BELT. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT WANT TO DISCOURAGE GOA RESPONDING TO LETTERS. END FYI.

P6 7. YOU SHOULD TELL GOA THAT THE PROCEDURES USED AND THE SUBSTANCE OF A RESPONSE BY GOA TO THE LETTERS IS A DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY GOA.

8. LETTER OF REFTTEL B& C SHOULD BE DELIVERED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY WITH EXPLANATION THAT WE HAVE BEEN REQUESTED BY SOME MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO TRANSMIT THE LETTER. ROBINSON

BT
1209

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NNNN

TELEGRAM

CONTROL: 6742
14 Oct 76
1125

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM

AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~SECRET~~

E.O. 11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:

GDS
CVIS, SHUM, PFOR, AR, US
Fraser Subcommittee Witnesses

ACTION:

SecState WASHDC ~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~ BUENOS AIRES 6742

REF:

(A) State 250024; (B) Buenos Aires 6490; (C) Buenos Aires 5298;
(D) Buenos Aires 6373; (E) Buenos Aires 6396; (F) Buenos Aires 6611

1. We believe that Department's consultations with Fraser subcommittee can be helpful in producing objective view of Argentine human rights situation. However, to hold a second round of hearings expressly for witnesses "who support GOA's position" (reftel A), as we see it, misses the point altogether. Witnesses should be as objective, conscientious and well-informed as possible. A session with blatantly anti-GOA ideologues cannot be "balanced out" by another with pro-GOA apologists. There are many persons deeply concerned with human rights in Argentina who are not openly hostile to GOA. Nor, as conservative BA Herald ^{columnist} ~~Communist~~ James Neilson points out in Sunday's edition (October 10), do all critics of the government's action belong to left wing.

AMB
DCM
POL+3
POL/R
ECOM
USIS
USDAO
MILGP-2
LEGAT
SCIAT
~~BA~~
CHRON

DRAFTED BY:
POL:YThayer:mg

DRAFTING DATE
10/13/76

TEL. EXT.
121

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:
POL:WSSmith *WSS*

CLEARANCES:

POL/R:JSears (in draft) *WSS*

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

AMB:RChill
DCM:MChaplin *me*

OCT 14 1976

~~SECRET~~
CLASSIFICATION

2. There are responsible and reputable Argentines willing to testify on the Argentine human rights situation. Jacobo Timerman, for one, ~~a widely known Argentine businessman~~, a Jew, and a courageous and critical newspaper publisher, has offered personally to testify (reftel B). Another possibility is Emilio Mignone, a prominent educator and former OAS official in Washington from 1962-67. Mignone's daughter was abducted in May. He is closely connected to the Catholic hierarchy in Argentina and is a member of the Permanent Assembly on Human Rights and yet cannot be considered either a leftist or right-wing apologist. Well-known columnist Mariano Grondona could also be considered. Grondona was kidnapped by the Triple A in August (reftel C).

3. As for Garzon Maceda and Gustavo Roca, the Argentine government, press, opposition parties and general public have been thorough in denouncing their background and activities. In addition to SRF information (refrels ^{D and E}), Embassy also has information concerning them from local press reports and various Embassy sources. In our judgment, which is based on info from the above, it is clear that both have had a long and close connection to subversive groups and activities. Instead of cabling full text of bio information given to the Ambassador, we will summarize salient points of our own evaluation:

4. The material on Gustavo Roca shows conclusively that he was a member of the Communist Party and was closely linked to

terrorist groups. Gustavo Roca's record goes back to 1944 when he was first investigated for Communist connections. He was a member of the Popular Movement for Peace, a Communist organ, in the late 1940's and was listed as a main leader of the Argentine Communist Party of Cordoba in 1955. In 1957 he was arrested for subversive activities. In 1970, Roca reportedly was a member of the Revolutionary Worker's Party (PRT), the Trotskyite "political arm" of the ERP. By 1972 he was reported to be a leader of the August 22 splinter faction of the ERP, and director of its publication "Liberation." He apparently handled ERP funds, including the "laundering" of some ~~\$1.4~~ \$1.4 million in ransom for Esso Director Victor Samuelson in 1974. Roca traveled frequently to Cuba, most recently in 1972 when he reportedly coordinated the escape to Cuba of ERP leaders after the Trelew break from Rawson Prison that year.

5. The information on Garzon Maceda identifies him with the Communist Party (PCA) and with left-wing subversive groups. Garzon Maceda was reportedly expelled from the Socialist Party in 1959 for his Trotskyite views. He was arrested and jailed for crimes against "national security" in 1970. A lawyer, he shared a law office with Gustavo Roca for many years in Cordoba, where he also was prominent for defending left-wing extremists. Like Roca, Garzon Maceda has been reported to be a member of the PRT (the political arm of the ERP).

6. The military government issued arrest warrants for both

Gustavo Roca and Garzon Maceda when it took over in March. Apparently both men were in hiding in Argentina until early September when they left clandestinely for Europe. Argentine authorities claim they were in contact with the Revolutionary Coordinating Junta (JCR) while in Europe.

7. Both men have been well known for their extreme left-wing sympathies and activities long before the hearings and non-governmental opinion in general regards them as committed, militant Marxist extremists with close ties to the ERP. The press here has particularly criticized the subcommittee's selection of witnesses as irresponsible and biased as these (reftel F). Robert Cox of the BA Herald, a courageous exponent of human rights in Argentina, for example, on October 9 described Roca as the editor of a "scurrillous magazine which jubilantly reported assassinations" and Garzon Maceda as "another apostle of violence." With witnesses like these, Cox adds, "it's not difficult to see why 'human rights' crusaders have gotten themselves such a bad name."

8. Garzon Maceda's brother Felix, a teacher in Cordoba, issued a statement October 6 repudiating his brother's testimony and disassociating himself from his brother's ideology and politics.

9. On balance, Argentine governmental and moderate public opinion has been deeply concerned and distressed over what appeared to be blatantly biased and non-objective testimony

presented by Argentine witnesses called by committee. This has made more difficult our task of convincing GOA that human rights concern in U. S. is not simply Marxist plot to discredit government. Recommend that Department encourage Fraser subcommittee to call a few Argentines who, while deeply committed to defense of human rights, are not so identified with radical left as to lack all credibility as witnesses.

HILL

CONTROL: 6774

11 Oct 76

TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM: AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES
CLASSIFICATION: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 11652:
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SHUM, AR, CI
SUBJECT: Human Rights Roundup No. 4

ACTION: SecState WASHDC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 6774

AMB
DCM
POL-3
POL/R
ECOM
USIS
USDAO
MILGP-2
LEGAT
SCLAT
RF
CHRON

1. The Irish Embassy has asked GOA to investigate the kidnapping of Irish priest Patrick Rice. Father Rice was abducted on October 11 by a group of armed men in unmarked cars from a prayer meeting in a shanty town just outside Buenos Aires. He has been in Argentina for six years. Catholic Church officials are looking into Rice's disappearance as well as that of two Jesuit priests who disappeared after being seized by unidentified men last May, according to the BA Herald (October 13).
2. A Venezuelan-edited publication called "Opulence and Misery" was banned and the two Catholic agencies responsible for its distribution in Argentina closed down by a GOA decree issued October 11. The decree cited the material for inciting social disintegration. The two agencies--Claretiana Distributors and Paulinas Editions--are connected to religious

DRAFTED BY:
POL:YThacker:mg

DRAFTING DATE
10/14/76

TEL. EXT.
121

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:
POL:WESmith WJS

CLEARANCES:

LEGAT: RWScherrer

SEARCHED ~~AMB:RCH~~
SERIALIZED ~~DCM:McChaplin~~

OCT 15 1976

LEGAL ATTACHE--BUENOS AIRES

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL FORM 173
(Formerly FS-413)
January 1975
Dept. of State

orders based in Italy, according to press reports. Paulinas

Editions was also responsible for distributing the Latin

American Bible in Argentina. The Bible was banded as "leftist

and subversive" by two Argentine bishops who prohibited its

circulation in their dioceses. GOA and Argentine Church authorities are
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

currently studying the Bible, which sets Biblical scenes in modern-day Cuban and Latin American settings, for ideological content.

3. Fourteen Paraguayan and Chilean refugees flew to Switzerland October 7.

4. More than two-thirds of the UNHCR's 4.3 million-dollar budget for Latin American in 1977 will go to Argentina, UNHCR sources report. The allocation for Argentina is 2.9 million dollars, which covers refugee assistance and maintenance, as well as travel and resettlement costs. Argentina has 38,000 refugees, including 28,000 Europeans, 8,000 Chileans and 2,000

Bolivians and Uruguayans, according to official UNHCR documents. (The 28,000 Europeans are post World War refugees who are still receiving some UN assistance. They are

5. Orders detaining 48 persons at the disposal of the Executive were lifted October 8, according to press reports.

La Nacion published the names of another four persons detained under state of siege since April who were freed on October 12.

Embassy sources confirm that state of siege prisoners are

being released in a steady stream as security officials

complete their investigations. Others are turned over to

military tribunals for trial and sentencing. Three left-wing

not involved in current refugee problems, which concern political refugees from neighboring South American countries.)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification

extremists were sentenced on October 8 to up to 18 years'

imprisonment for possession of firearms, explosives and other offenses. Those who are sentenced to prison terms are being removed from Buenos Aires and sent to provincial prisons, sources say.

6. Seven Federal police were dismissed for offenses including robbery, unlawful use of firearms, injuries to others and the shooting of four persons in a local train, according to a government decree published October 11. Although such cases are rarely reported in the press, Embassy sources report that a significant number of police have been quietly punished or fired (or in some cases even eliminated) in recent weeks. According to these sources, Federal Police Chief Ojeda and other military officer supervisors are slowly but steadily weeding out undesirable and undisciplined elements from the federal and provincial police forces, including some who have been responsible for Triple-A type activities, kidnappings, robbery and physical brutality. Many of those guilty of violence and petty crime were elements brought into the police force toward the end of the Peron administration, sources report, who used the anti-terrorist effort for personal gain and to settle private scores. (Embassy sources say that a high-ranking police officer implicated in the Pilar massacre has been put "on leave," which means at least temporarily suspended.)

7. Moderate Argentines have been particularly stung during

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification

recent USG scrutiny of GOA security practices by the implied and overt comparison of their country with Chile. While not necessarily sympathetic toward the Chilean people, many Argentines reject both Pinochet's image as a strongman military dictator and the repressive tactics of his government. Moderates are quick to point out fundamental historical, political and social differences between the two countries. They also make a definite distinction between the circumstances that led to the Chilean coup in 1973 and those that forced a military takeover in Argentina in 1976. Moreover, they claim there are vast differences in attitudes and actions on the part of the two military governments.

8. In a report October 6, La Opinion traced what it called basic differences between the Argentine and Chilean positions contrasting quotes from GOC's "Declaration of Principles" with public statements made by ranking Argentine officials on a number of topics. Some of its major points were:

On democracy-- Argentina: The final objective of the current reorganization process is the reimplantation of an authentically representative, republic and federalist democracy in Argentina.

Chile: As long as the principles of democratic-liberal regimes exist, the conditions for Marxism exist: chaos, division, anarchy, party conflict, etc.

On political parties--Argentina: The Armed Forces have

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification

repeatedly anticipated the eventual development of authentic movements of national opinion.

Chile: Since the French Revolution, political parties have been the instrument of corruption and destruction. Carried to its extreme, but logical, end, the system leads to civil war.

On human rights--Argentina: Respect for human rights is the result of our profound Christian belief in the dignity of man. (Note: This may not be lived up to, but at least it is a stated principle in Argentina whereas in Chile it is not.)

Chile: Rights are relative with respect to social necessities. Rights, such as that of life, are not absolute.

On foreign relations--Argentina: Argentina seeks solid contacts with all countries and greater participation in international fora, while rejecting any kind of hegemony or intervention in internal affairs of another state.

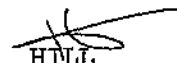
Chile: The campaign to isolate Chile is partly to hide the human rights violations of the USSR. If the U. S. chooses to ally itself with the Soviet Union, Chile has the same right to confront its adversaries.

9. Some of the differences may be more a matter of wishful thinking on the part of Argentine moderates who fervently hope that moderate forces in GOA will prevail over what well could be a Pinochet-style hardline position. Although they have

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification

been united in condemning the Fraser subcommittee's invitation of leftist Argentine fugitives to testify on GOA's security practices, moderates are nevertheless concerned that GOA avoid Chilean-style defensiveness and confrontation with the U. S. Argentina, writes La Opinion columnist Mario Diamant, does not have to choose between isolationism and submission (to outside pressures). GOA can take a lead from Israel, suggests Diamant. "Despite pressure from its allies, the Israeli government conducts its war against terrorism as it sees necessary. But, at the same time and with the same efficiency, it maintains an ongoing campaign in international fora, clarifying its motives, responding to criticism and appealing to world sympathy."


HMLL

CONTROL: 7022

3 Nov 76

1730

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

TELEGRAM

FROM

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~SECRET~~

E.O. 11652:

XGDS-2

TAGS:

SHUM, PFOR, PINS, AR

SUBJECT:

Irish Priest Patrick Rice detained under state of seige

ACTION:

SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO:

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

REF:

~~SECRET~~ BUENOS AIRES 7222
State 268058

1. BEGIN ~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~. Father Patrick Rice is presently being held in a La Plata jail under provisions of state of seige. Irish Embassy has visited him several times and reports that he appears to be in good health. The Superior-General of Rice's religious order has come to Argentina from Europe, but has not yet been allowed to visit the prisoner. (Only immediate family members and, generally in case of foreigners, consular representatives, are allowed to visit persons detained under state of seige.) Irish Embassy, Papal Nuncio and Argentine Catholic Church are all working actively "behind the scenes" to secure Rice's expulsion from the country, Irish Embassy officials told Emboff. Official also said that arrest appears to have been a "mistake," but that GOA officials are "stalling" on bringing charges or issuing release order. If the case is not resolved earlier, Irish Embassy said a petition to leave the country will be filed for Rice in accordance with a new law on right to leave the country. (The new law,

AMB
DCM
POL 3
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USDAO
MILGP 2
SCLAT
LEGAT
RF
CHRON

DRAFTED BY:

POL:YThayer:jr

DRAFTING DATE

11/3/76

TEL. EXT.

121

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

APOICOUNS:TFreeman

CLEARANCES:

ADCM:WSmith
AMB:RCM

107-812 65A
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

NOV 4 - 1976

LEGAL ATTACHE
BUENOS AIRES

~~SECRET~~

CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL FORM 106
(Formerly FS-61)
January 1976
Dept. of State

dated Oct. 27, 1976, permits persons who are held under state of ~~seige~~ seige to petition to leave the country 90 days after their arrest order. The Interior Ministry then has 90 days to rule on the petition. Approval will be granted only in cases of detainees who are not considered threats to national security.) ~~END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.~~

2. BEGIN ~~SECRET~~ X-GDS. Irish Embassy official (protect) confidentially related his Embassy's understanding of the Rice episode to Emboff today (Nov. 3). Rice was forceably taken from a village church service by unidentified and heavily armed men late Monday night (Oct. 11). He was first brought to a nearby police station, then bundled into the trunk of a car and taken to an unidentified location. There he was roughly interrogated for two days, beaten and burnt with cigaret butts. On Oct. 14 he was delivered to a federal police detention center and GOA officially informed the Irish Embassy that Rice was being detained under state of seige. He was then transferred to Villa Devoto and later La Plata prison. Since his first interrogation session, he has been satisfactorily treated. However, Irish officials saw the burn marks near his eyes and on his hands on their first visit.
3. The Irish Embassy official also told Emboff that Irish Government called in the Argentine Ambassador in Dublin to protest Rice's ill treatment. According to official, the Argentine Ambassador declared that such incidents were totally out of the hands of the Foreign Ministry, that the Interior Ministry and Armed Forces conducted their business as they saw fit and that the Forn Ministry could only do what was dictated to it by the Armed Forces. The Ambassador then confidentially advised GOI to

~~SECRET~~

Classification

use that other channels it had at its disposal to help secure the
release of Father Rice.

Comment: While the Argentine Ambassador's claims of Foreign Ministry
impotency in security cases, even those involving foreigners, comes
as no surprise, his frankness with ~~SEC~~ ^{GOEE} officials and his ~~confidential~~
recommendation that they apply pressure through other channels are
remarkable. It does, however, point up the relative status of the
Ministries under the current military regime, as well as the frustra-
tion of Argentina's official overseas representatives in handling sensitive
bilateral issues involving human rights.

HILL

H (by phone)

~~SECRET~~

~~Classification~~

TELEGRAM

CONTROL 6818

15 OCT 76

1741

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM	AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES	CLASSIFICATION	LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: State of Siege

ACTION: SecState WASHDC IMMEDIATE

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 6818

REF: State 254558

AMB
DCM
POL-3
POL/R
ECOM
USIS
USDAO
MLGP-2
LEGAT
SCIAT
RF
CHRON

1. Amnesty International Report is incorrect. To best of our knowledge (and we have checked with Osvaldo Perez Pardo, as then well as several figures who were/there in Congress), Supreme Court made no such declaration. It would have been very strange if it had done so since so far as we know there is no constitutional requirement that duration of state of siege be specified (See Articles 23, 26 and 86 (14) of Constitution). In past, as now, state of siege is imposed for "duration of the emergency" which called it into being.

2. Ex-Senator de la Rua (UCR) and other ex-congressmen confirm that question of state of siege was not treated by Congress. They point out, however, that interpretation of Article 26 of Constitution has always been that if Congress did not take up question of state of siege decreed while Congress in recess, this amounted to tacit approval. HILL

DRAFTED BY: FOL:WSSmith:mg	DRAFTING DATE 10/15/76	TEL. EXT. 128	CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: AMBASSADOR ROBERT C. HILL
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CLEARANCES:

Human Rights file

DCM: MChaplin

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL FORM 100
(Formerly FS-413)
January 1975
Dept. of State

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RR RUESBA
DE RUEHC #6850 2900845
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R 160130Z OCT 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO RUESDOUOAMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 4192
INFO RUESBA/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 4422
BT

76 OCT 18

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ STATE 256850

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, UY

SUBJECT: RETURN TO URUGUAY OF SUSPECTED URUGUAYAN TERROR-
IST

1. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, W.O.L.A., THE US CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE AND OTHER GROUPS HAVE RECENTLY RECEIVED INFOR-
MATION THAT THE THIRTY URUGUAYANS WHO DISAPPEARED IN
ARGENTINA IN MID-1976 ARE NOW BEING HELD IN MONTEVIDEO.
THESE GROUPS ALSO BELIEVE THESE PERSONS HAVE BEEN
TORTURED. MEDIA STORIES CAN BE EXPECTED AT SOME POINT.
HOWEVER, SOME OF THESE GROUPS HAVE BEGUN TO DOUBT THE
AUTHENTICITY OF THE INFORMATION AND COULD BE EXPECTED
NOT TO SEEK PUBLICITY. DEPARTMENT WILL KEEP EMBASSIES
INFORMED OF ANY DEVELOPMENTS. HABIB

BT
#6850

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TO	ACI	INF	TX	ACT	INF
AMEMB		☒	CAO		☒
DCM		☒	L GATT		☒
			DEA		
POL	3		FAS		
ECOM		☒	AID		
POI/R		☒	MILGP		☒
CONS		☒	PEI		
ADM			GGO		
USIS		☒	B & F		
SCI			CHRON		☒
SY			RF		☒

157-112-67

SEARCHED INDEXED

OCT 1 1976

Human Rights file

BA-9
4-12-76

CONTROL: 6884

TELEGRAM

19 Oct '76
1735

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM

Amembassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECRET

E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

GDS

PFOR, SHUM, AR, UY

Rumors of Uruguayan exiles Return to Uruguay

ACTION:

INFO

Secstate WASHDC

Amembassy MONTEVIDEO

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 6884

~~SECRET~~

REF

State 256850

AMB

DCM

POL-3

POL/R

ECOM

USIS

DAO

MIIGP

SCIAT

LEGAT

CH

CHRON

Rumors that the group of Uruguayans kidnapped in Argentina this July have been returned to Uruguay have also been circulating within the intelligence community here, according to Embassy sources. The story is that of the group of Uruguayans including Michelini's daughter, who were kidnapped around July 13, some were shortly after turned over to Uruguayan authorities and returned to Uruguay for questioning. [Presumably according to the rumor, the Uruguayan government not taken care to dispose of the prisoners or cover the alleged transfer, and the story had leaked inside Uruguay] The Embassy has no information to either confirm or deny these rumors.

HILL

109-812-68

INDEXED
FILED

OCT 20 1976

DRAFTED BY:

POL:YThayer:cc

DRAFTING DATE

10/19/76

TEL. NO.

121

CONTENT AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

POL:WSSmith

CLEARANCES:

LEGATT:RScherrer (in substance)

DCM:MChaplin

AMB:RCHill

~~SECRET~~

CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL FORM 103
(Formerly 50-103)
January 1975
Dept. of State

TELEGRAM

6975
22 Oct 76
1629

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

E.O. 11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:

FROM
AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION
~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

N/A
PINT, PINS, SHUM, AR
UCR DEPUTY AMAYA DIES WHILE UNDER DETENTION

ACTION: SecState WASHDC

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 6975

AMB
DCI
POL-3
POL/R
ECOM
USIS
DAO
MILGP
SCIAT
LEGAT
CHRON
RF

REF: B.A. 5756

1. Former Radical Party (UCR) Deputy Mario Abel Amaya died of reported heart failure in the Villa Devoto prison hospital in Buenos Aires October 19. The army communique announcing his death said that he had been under treatment for chronic asthma and heart trouble. Amaya, who was being held ~~under~~ at disposition of the Executive along with UCR Senator Solari Irigoyen in Bahia Blanca, was transferred to Villa Devoto last month after suffering a heart attack. The two lawyers were kidnapped from their homes Aug. 17, and reappeared August 30, only to be promptly arrested and detained under state of seige. Amaya was 40 years old.

2. Newspapers last weekend (Oct. 16-17) printed a list of accusations leaked from "responsible sources"

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DRAFTING DATE

TEL. EXT.

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

POL:Yvonne Thayer/pa

Oct 21, 76

128

POL:WSmith

CLEARANCES:

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FILED
OCT 26 1976

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~
CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL FORM 153
(Formerly FS-413)
January 1975
Dept. of State

(i.e. Army) linking both Amaya and Solari Irigoyen with extremist groups. (Both were prominent defense lawyers well known for representing left-wing detainees.) The accusations listed a number of "dangerous subversives" allegedly connected with the ERP and Montoneros, ~~some~~ ^{some successfully,} of whom had been ~~subsequently defended~~ by Solari Irigoyen and Amaya. The lawyers were also cited for having expressed support for Chilean President Allende, petitioned for the release of prisoners allegedly linked to the ERP and Peronist Youth, and driven released prisoners in their cars. Amaya was said to have taught Marxist doctrines and been involved in the Trelew prison escape in 1974.

3. The accusations, which impute subversive connections to the two lawyers for activities including defending alleged leftists found innocent by the Argentine courts, elicited a sharp protest from the BA Herald Oct. 17.

In an editorial titled "Witch hunting won't help us win the war" the Herald denounced the smear campaign being carried out by anonymous "responsible sources" against the two lawyers, whose major crime appears to have been defending persons charged with subversion.

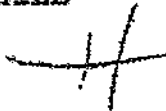
"Argentina has not, and surely never will, reach the point of hatred and bigotry at which a lawyer is held responsible for the crimes of the man he is defending

before the courts", the editorial said, and called for

public defense of the two men and a swift investigation.

4. COMMENT: The anonymously leaked accusations can be taken as an indication that the authorities have found it impossible to come up with any real evidence against the two lawyers. ~~With Anayas' death coming only days later, government critics are likely to speculate that the government was in some way responsible, though Embassy has no information to support this speculation.~~

HILL



TELEGRAM

CONTROL: 7022
1752 26 OCT 76
1752

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES CLASSIFICATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: CVIS, SHUM, US, AR
SUBJECT: Status of Four Argentine Seminarians Who Had Been Detained with
AmCit Father James Weeks
ACTION: SecState WASHDC PRIORITY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 7022

REF: Buenos Aires 6912

AMB
DCM
FOL-3
FOL/R
ECOM
USIS
USDAO
LILGP-2
LEGAT
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RF
CHRON

1. Embassies met with four young Argentine seminarians and Father John Paul Bradford, the American priest who is escorting them to the U. S. this evening October 26. They are proceeding to Hartford, Connecticut.
2. The four said that during their detention in Cordoba they were not rpt not tortured or otherwise maltreated. During interrogation they were threatened, however, and experience was not pleasant. One of four, who was released a few days ahead of the others, said that police apologized to him for detention, saying that all problems had been cleared up by investigation. They had no difficulty obtaining passports. Seminarians believed that their release may have been delayed because authorities were checking their possible links with fifth seminarian, a Chilean still detained, who has apparent criminal charges pending

DRAFTED BY: FOL:RSSSteven:mg	DRAFTING DATE: 10/26/76	TEL. EXT. 121	CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: POL:WSSmith <i>per M</i>
CLEARANCES: CCNS:GWhitman <i>(A)</i>	SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED AMB:ROM:11		
Human Rights File			DCM: MChaplin <i>me</i> OCT 27 1976
CONFIDENTIAL			LEGAL ATTACHE - BUENOS AIRES

OPTIONAL FORM 153
(Formerly FS-413)
January 1975
Dept. of State

Classification

against him. They understood that the Chilean Government may request extradition of the Chilean on criminal charges (Catholic Church is not attempting to defend or assist the Chilean seminarian).

3. Father Bradford and the young seminarians are aware that press may try to interview them upon arrival in U. S. They wish to avoid this, and plan to say nothing if contacted by press.

~~HILL~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification

CONTROL: 7029

26 OCT 76

1811

TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM

AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 11652:

GDS

TAGS:

SHUM, UK, AR

SUBJECT:

Human Rights: Amnesty International Group to Visit Argentina

ACTION:

SecState WASHDC

INFO:

AmEmbassy LONDON

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 7029

1. British Embassy told us privately October 26 that it has instructions from Foreign Office to provide "appropriate assistance" to Amnesty International group due to visit Argentina to examine human rights situation and to ask cooperation of GOA in preventing abuses. Group of three will include Lord Avebury, a British Liberal Party leader, U. S. Congressman (Father) Robert Drinan, and Miss Patricia Feeney of the staff of AI in London. Miss Feeney is scheduled to arrive in Buenos Aires November 1 to prepare for arrival Lord Avebury and Congressman Drinan, who are due ~~to arrive~~ ^{WILL} November 5 and remain until November 15.

2. Foreign Office was informed of visit by letter from AI and subsequent direct communication. Emboff examined copy of letter, which notified Fon Off of intended visit and

DRAFTED BY:

FOL:RSS:steven:mg

DRAFTING DATE

10/26/76

TEL. EXT.

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CONTROLLED AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

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FOL:RSS:steven:mg

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AMB:RCHALL
DCM:MChaplin
OCT 27 1976

LEGAL ATTACHE - BUENOS AIRES

Human Rights file
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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(Econolx ES-413)
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Dept. of State

stated that AI had already communicated intention to visit and request for appointments to Argentine FonMin Guzzetti, Min Interior Hargu^Nigegy, and Army Chief of Staff General Viola. Letter indicated that AI recognized importance of establishing its impartiality before GOA, and delegation planned to bring copy of its studies of Soviet abuses to show to Argentines. Instruction British have received states the AI plans to make all of its own contacts in Argentina, but would call on British Embassy if it encountered difficulties in obtaining appointments, etc. British Embassy was given discretion to define "appropriate ^Sassistance."

3. British are inclined to informally convey to GOA, at level probably of head of new human rights section of MFA, their view that AI might best be taken seriously as important element in forming of international opinion concerning Argentine human rights situation. We agreed that it would appear to be in best interests of all if respected organization such as AI could obtain full and objective view of situation on the ground. British would appreciate any information we may be able to obtain concerning participation of U. S. Congressman in this AI delegation.

4. Request Department send any information obtainable on reported intended visit of AI and specifically of Congressman Drinan to Argentina. We will coordinate to degree appropriate with British Embassy.

HILL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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TO RUESBA/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY 4528

INFO RUDTC/AMEMBASSY LONDON 87951

BT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ STATE 266594

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:AR, UK, PFOR

SUBJECT: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ARGENTINE VISIT

REF: BUENOS AIRES 7029

1. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IN WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK HAVE LITTLE INFORMATION REGARDING VISIT TO ARGENTINA OTHER THAN THAT CONTAINED IN REFTEL. THEY ARE ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL DETAILS FROM AMNESTY LONDON, WHICH PLANNED THE TRIP. CONGRESSMAN DRINAN DOES INTEND TO GO AND DEPARTMENT WILL DISCUSS ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION WITH HIM NEXT WEEK, WHEN HE RETURNS HERE FROM MASSACHUSETTS. AMNESTY APPARENTLY EXPECTED THIS TRIP WOULD TAKE PLACE IN AUGUST, BUT DRINAN ASKED FOR POSTPONEMENT BECAUSE OF ELECTION CAMPAIGN. OTHER CONGRESSMEN WHO HAD THOUGHT OF GOING, BUT WHO HAVE SINCE DROPPED OUT, INCLUDED MCCLOSKEY AND EDWARDS OF CALIFORNIA AND DON FRASER.

2. AMNESTY STATES ONE OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO INVESTIGATE STATUS OF REFUGEES IN ARGENTINA. HOWEVER, IT IS STILL UNCLEAR WHETHER ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT HAS APPROVED THIS VISIT. KISSINGER

BT

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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Human Rights

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TO RUESDO/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO IMMEDIATE 4285

INFO RUESBA/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY 4538

BT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ STATE 267364

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, AR, UY

SUBJECT: ARRESTED URUGUAYANS

REF: STATE 256850; B.A. 6884; MVD 4097

1. JUAN FERREIRA, SON OF WILSON FERREIRA, HAS INFORMED DEPARTMENT HE LEARNED LATE YESTERDAY THAT URUGUAYAN AUTHORITIES HAVE ANNOUNCED THEY HAVE ARRESTED 14 URUGUAYANS. FERREIRA CLAIMS THESE ARE 14 OF THE 30 URUGUAYANS WHOSE FORCIBLE RETURN TO MONTEVIDEO HAD BEEN RUMORED EARLIER. FERREIRA SAID THE GOU APPARENTLY PRODUCED ONE OF THE PRISONERS, ANA MARIA QUADROS, AT A PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY. GERARDO GATTI WAS ALSO SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED. FERREIRA STATES GOU SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THE 14 URUGUAYANS PURPOSELY RETURNED HOME TO EOARRASS THE GOVERNMENT. FERREIRA BELIEVES ORGANIZATIONS DEVOTED TO HUMAN RIGHTS WILL ISSUE PRESS STATEMENT AND LODGE COMPLAINT WITH OAS IAHRC ACCUSING BOTH ARGENTINA AND URUGUAY WITH VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS WITH RESPECT TO THESE 14 URUGUAYANS.

2. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY SUBSEQUENT INFORMATION EMBASSIES MAY HAVE CONCERNING THIS ISSUE NOT CONTAINED REFTELS

KISSINGER

BT

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

*Heinrich
Legato file*

109-812-73

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POL/R		☒	MILGP		☒
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ADM			GSO		
USIS		☒	B & F		
SCI		☒	CHRON		☒
SY			RF		☒

CONTROL: 7740
1 Nov 76
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TELEGRAM

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FROM

AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 11652:

GDS

TAGS:

SHUM, UK, AR

SUBJECT:

Amnesty International Visit to Argentina

ACTION:

SecState WASHDC

PRIORITY

INFO:

AmEmbassy LONDON

PRIORITY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 7740

REF:

(A) Buenos Aires 7029; (B) State 266594

AMB
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POL/R
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LEGAT
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1. British Charge informs us that GOA has decided to permit Amnesty International group to visit Argentina as "tourists," without according them any official or semi-official status. They will not rpt not be received by any high-ranking GOA official unless they are presented under the "sponsorship" of a responsible international organization such as the UNHCR.

2. Comment. We do not know if UNHCR or other such agency could or would "sponsor" the AI group, and do not wish to raise the subject with UNHCR. We and British expect that when AI group finds that it cannot get appointments on its own it will turn to British Embassy and quite possibly to us, as well as to UNHCR, with requests for assistance in getting appointments. In this event, we will plan to offer Congress-

DRAFTED BY:

POL:RSSSteven:mg

CLEARANCES:

DRAFTING DATE

11/1/76

TEL. EXT.

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CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

A/POLCOUNS:AGFreeman

AMB:RCH

A/DCM:WESmith

INDEXED

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CLASSIFICATION

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man Drinan courtesies appropriate and normal for any visiting figure of his rank, including assistance in requesting appointments, unless otherwise instructed by Department.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
HELL

TELEGRAM

CONTROL: 7203
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INDICATE
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FROM

AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

GDS

PFOR, SHUM, AR, UY

GOA Silent on Uruguay Revelation of Terrorist Plot

ACTION:

SecState WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO:

AmEmbassy MONTEVIDEO

~~SECRET~~ BUENOS AIRES 7203

REF:

(A) State 267364; (B) Montevideo 4161; (C) Buenos Aires 6884

AMB
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1. The Uruguayan government's revelation of a terrorist organization whose members allegedly infiltrated back into the country after feigning kidnappings in Argentina has received no official comment and little press coverage in Argentina. La Opinion Saturday (October 30) and La Nacion Sunday (October 31) summarily reported the GOU communique without comment, including the accusation that several of those arrested had simulated their kidnapping in Argentina to discredit the two governments. The press did not run the names of the 14 accused.

2. Embassy sources dispute GOU's version of the disappearances.

A UNHCR official told Emboff today (November 2) that 12 of the 14 names were on its list of Uruguayan refugees kidnapped in

DRAFTED BY:

POL:YThayer:mg

COPIANCES:

UNIS:MO'Brien (in draft)

POL/R:DSmock (in draft)

LEGAT:RWSchexxx

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11/2/76

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CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

A/ POLCOUNS: AGFreeman

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NOV 3 1976

ATTACHE - Buenos Aires

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July and September and that writs of habeas corpus had been filed in Argentina by the families of nine of them. He also said that at least 24 Uruguayans disappeared in July and another 28 in September, which indicates that not all of them have been accounted for (reftel B). The official claimed that there were Argentine eye witnesses to the kidnappings, but said that no legal testimony had been sworn in at the time and it might be difficult to find Argentines willing to testify against the GOU version now.

3. Comment. Our evaluation of the evidence and reports we have convinces us that the kidnappings of Uruguayan refugees in July and September were carried out by Argentine and Uruguayan security forces, acting clandestinely and in cooperation. And while it is apparent that Uruguayan authorities have prepared evidence to support their version, it is not likely that it will be fully believed, either in Argentina or abroad. Along with last month's rumors that the disappeared refugees were alive and in Uruguay (reftel C), there was some indication that Argentine security forces were concerned that their cooperation with Uruguayan agents in forcing the repatriation of refugees would be revealed and so destroy ^{G6A} their claims that no refugee would be returned to his country against his will. Nevertheless, since the GOU announcements were probably coordinated with GOA beforehand, it may have been decided that the public relations benefit of exposing a terrorist plot and

advertising GOU's fair and decent treatment of prisoners would
~~will~~ outweigh any adverse speculation. The pointed silence
from GOA and the press caution in reporting on subject so far
suggest that GOA considers it Uruguay's baby and prefers to
diminish its role as much as possible.

HILL *att. by phone*

~~SECRET~~

Classification

TELEGRAM

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E.O. 11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:

FROM: AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
CLASSIFICATION: ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ ~~SECRET~~ ~~TOP SECRET~~

CA
CHUM, AR
Human Rights Inquiries on Chilean National Carlos Dandan Hilloz and
Argentine National Federico Alvarez Rojas

ACTION: TELETYPE MESSAGE

REF: (A) State 265231; (B) State 264534

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ ~~SECRET~~ ~~TOP SECRET~~ 715

1. Embassy has no information on whereabouts of Chilean National Carlos Dandan Hilloz (Refitel A), but has informed Form Ministry working group on human rights of US congressional concern.

2. Embassy has no information on case of Federico Alvarez Rojas (Refitel B), Suboffic raised Alvarez case with an Argentine National. / Form Ministry human rights working group informed however, latter responded Suboffic Nov. 14 that it does not entertain queries on behalf of Argentine citizens, which is considered internal Argentine matter. The working group, Suboffic were told, coordinates queries on behalf of non-Argentines coming from foreign governments and official organizations which have some legitimate interest such as family connections, etc. In practice, Form Ministry will probably respond in cases of Argentine nationals where it has easily available information or sees political advantage in so doing, but GOA clearly differentiates between its own citizens and foreigners in responding to inquiries.

HILL

DRAFTED BY: J. J. Hayer/jr

DRAFTING DATE: 11/3/76

TEL. EXT. 121

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: ALBUQUERQUE

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CLASSIFICATION

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(Formerly FS-413)
January 1975
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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TELEGRAM

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Amembassy BUENOS AIRESCLASSIFICATION
~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, TECH, AR
SUBJECT: Disappearance of Federico Alvarez Rojas

ACTION: Secstate WASHDC

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 7250

REF: (A) State 264534; (B) Buenos Aires 7215

AMB
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1. Alvarez Rojas is not rpt not known to Embassy's S & T Counselor/ERDA Scirep.
2. We are considering inquiry concerning him at appropriate level within CNEA, but, to determine where best to inquire, it would be helpful if we knew what his job was in CNEA and in what Center.
3. Post would appreciate Dept. obtaining such info from Fagen and/or subject's brother.
4. Advise.

HILL

109-812-77

DRAFTED BY: POL/ERDA: RHWilcox/kc <i>RHW</i>	DRAFTING DATE 11/4/76	TEL. EXT. 377	CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: EMB: RCH <i>RCH</i> SERIALIZED <i>FILED</i>
POL: XH <i>XH</i>			A/DCM: WSSmith <i>WSS</i> 11/19/76 LEGAL ATTACHE - <i>WSS</i>

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FROM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES	CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL
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E.O. 11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT: GDS
PFOR SHUM AR IS
Forn Ministry reply to Congressional letter

ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO: AmEmbassy TEL AVIV
REF: ~~CONFIDENTIAL BUENOS AIRES~~ XXX 7266
BA 6575

1. Embassy today (Nov. 4) received from the Forn Ministry a copy of the September 28 letter sent to President Videla from 56 Congressmen and its reply. Forn Ministry note is being pouched.

Text of reply follows:

2. QUOTE The Under Secretariat of Foreign Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Relations and Worship is pleased to send to the United States Embassy, for its information, a copy of the letter sent to His Excellency the President of the Republic Lt. Gen. Jorge Rafael Videla signed by various members of the US Congress and having to do with alleged incidents described as anti-Semitic.

3. With respect to the letter, it is surprising, considering the date on which it was written, that the signatories were not aware of the press statements on this issue made by Argentine

Chancellor Rear Admiral Cesar A. Guzzetti and Israeli Chancellor

109-812-78

INITIALS BY: POL:YThayer:jr	DRAFTING DATE 11/4/76	TEL. EXT. 121	CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: APOLCOUNS:Algreen
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ADCM:WSmith
AMB:RCH111

R/O

Yigal Allon on the occasion of the meeting they had in New York during the XXXI UN General Assembly, during which the latter expressed his satisfaction with the measures taken by the Argentine government. UNQUOTE.

4. Complimentary close.

~~HL~~
HILL

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

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INDICATE
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FROM
AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION
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E.O. 11652:
TAGS: GDS
SUBJECT: PFOR, PINT, SHUM, UK, AR
Congressman Drinan's Visit to Argentina in Amnesty
International Delegation
ACTION: SecState WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO: AmEmbassy LONDON IMMEDIATE
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 7283
REF: State 272237

1. As of mid-morning November 5, UK Embassy has no rpt no instructions on handling of visit. UK Emboff expects, however, that he will shortly have instructions and that probably his Embassy will be told to give Lord Avebury support under same conditions outlined in reftel for Congressman Drinan. British understand that Lord Avebury also arriving morning November 6. As soon as UK Embassy receives its instructions we will consult. If instructions are compatible, we propose another joint approach to FonMinistry to convey our position and request assistance of Human Rights Office of Ministry in obtaining appointments with GOA officials. We will proceed with arranging appointments with non-GOA parties such as Dr. Resnizky of

DRAFTED BY:
JL:RSSSteven:mg
CLEARANCES:

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POL:WSSmith *[Signature]*

AM:RCHill
DCM:MChaplin

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DAIA, coordinating with British and Lord Avebury to extent desired by Congressman Drinan.

2. Miss Feeney told UK Embassy morning November 5 that she had recommended "deferment" of visit to AI London, but was told that delegation will come in any event. We have not fully considered problem of Miss Feeney herself. She has expected to accompany delegation on calls and to act as interpreter. This would present no problem with non-GOA contacts, but we will strongly recommend to UK Embassy and to Congressman Drinan that she not accompany on any calls which might be arranged with GOA officials, for obvious reasons. We can suggest that GOA provide interpreter where necessary, or Emboffs can interpret.

3. We do not rpt not believe that Congressman Drinan's clerical garb will cause any difficulties.

~~HILL~~

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SHUM, AR, UK
SUBJECT: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND DRINAN/AVEBURY TRIP
REFERENCE: STATE 272226

PER PARAGRAPH SIX (REFTEL), AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S
CAROL REED CALLED EMBASSY NOVEMBER 5 BUT ONLY TO INFORM
US OF THE DRINAN/AVEBURY TRIP TO ARGENTINA. REED AP-
ARENTLY ASSUMES THE EMBASSY MIGHT BE SERVING AS A
COMMUNICATIONS CHANNEL IF THE NEED ARISES.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ STATE 268860

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SHUM, AR, UK

SUBJECT: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL VISIT

REFS: B.A. 7140; STATE 266594

1. PATRICIA FEENEY CALLED DEPARTMENT FROM NEW YORK MORNING OF NOVEMBER 1. SHE FLIES TO BUENOS AIRES NOVEMBER 2. AVEBURY AND DRINAN ARRIVE NOVEMBER 5. ALL THREE WILL REMAIN UNTIL NOVEMBER 15. VISIT HAS BEEN CAREFULLY DISCUSSED WITH ARGENTINE LONDON EMBASSY. VISITORS WILL INVESTIGATE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION, SURVEY SITUATION OF REFUGEES, ATTEMPT TO SECURE LIST OF PRISONERS, AND URGE GOA TO ISSUE EXILE DECREES ON SOME. IN BUENOS AIRES, GROUP WILL STAY AT EL PRESIDENTE HOTEL. THEY HOPE TO VISIT CORDOBA BUT MAY NOT RECEIVE PERMISSION. FEENEY WILL SEEK ARRANGE APPOINTMENTS BETWEEN NOVEMBER 2 AND 5.

GWM AMNESTY NEW YORK SAID BRITISH EMBASSY HAD AGREED TO KEEP A WATCHFUL EYE FOR ALL THREE, DRINAN INCLUDED, AND ASKED THAT U.S. EMBASSY ALSO DO THE SAME. AMNESTY SEEMS TO BE PARTICULARLY WORRIED REGARDING SAFETY OF MISS FEENEY. DEPARTMENT SUGGESTED NAME OF WAYNE SMITH IN CASE SHE WISHED TO CALL EMBASSY.

3. DRINAN MAY NOT RETURN TO WASHINGTON BEFORE PROCEEDING BUENOS AIRES. IF HE IS AVAILABLE DEPARTMENT WILL DISCUSS ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION WITH HIM. ~~MARCHED KISSINGER~~

BT

#8860

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Human Rights file

TO	ACT	INF	TO	ACT	INF
AMB		✓	DAO		✓
DCM		✓	GAIT		✓
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POL	3		FAS		
ECOM		✓	AID		
POI/R		✓	MILGP		✓
CO S			PEI		
ADM			GSO		
USIS		✓	B & F		
SCI		✓	CZRON		✓
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TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES NIACT IMMEDIATE 4623

BT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ STATE 274185

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:P;NT, SHUM, UNK, AR

SUBJECT: CONGRESSMAN DRINAN'S VISIT TO ARGENTINA IN AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL DELEGATION

REFERENCE: BUENOS AIRES 7283

1. WE FULLY CONCUR WITH YOUR VIEW THAT MS. FEENEY SHOULD
NOT REPEAT NOT ACCOMPANY DRINAN ON ANY APPOINTMENTS WITH
GOA OFFICIALS AT WHICH EMBASSY IS PRESENT. WHILE WE ARE
CERTAIN CONGRESSMAN DRINAN WILL UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF
USG NOT ASSOCIATING ITSELF WITH AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SO
DIRECTLY, OUR POSITION IN THIS MATTER IS NOT NEGOTIABLE.

2. WE HAVE ASSUMED THAT THE BULK OF NON-OFFICIAL APPOINT-
MENTS WOULD BE MADE BY MS. FEENEY. WHERE EMBASSY INVOLVE-
MENT IN MAKING APPOINTMENTS UNAVOIDABLE, IT SHOULD NOT AC-
COMPANY WHERE MS. FEENEY WILL BE PRESENT.

3. WE WISH TO ASSIST CONGRESSMAN DRINAN IN HIS CAPACITY AS
MEMBER OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BUT CANNOT BE IN POSITION
OF SUGGESTING FORMAL OR INFORMAL SPONSORSHIP OF AI MISSION.

KISSINGER

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#4185

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TO	ACI	INF	T
AMB		✓	B
DCM		✓	C
FOI	3		D
ECOM		✓	E
FOI/R		✓	F
CONS		✓	G
ADM			H
USIS		✓	I
SEC		✓	J
CV			K

109-812-82

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TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES CLASSIFICATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, AR, UK
SUBJECT: Congressman Drinan's Visit to Argentina

ACTION: SecState WASHDC PRIORITY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 7326

REF: State 274185

1. Congressman Drinan arrived on schedule November 6 (along) with Lord Avebury. The two were met at airport by U.S. and British Emboffs and by Ms. Feeney (who rode out with British contingent).
2. After arrival, ground rules for appointments were discussed and agreed upon. Ms. Feeney will arrange and accompany on all repeat all nonofficial appointments. U.S. and British Embassies for their part will call Foreign Ministry's Human Rights Working Group this morning (November 8) to ask for appointment for Drinan and Avebury there--hopefully for this afternoon. Ministry will doubtless insist (if they give appointment at all) that officers of both Embassies accompany and we will do so. Ms. Feeney agrees that she will not repeat not accompany on any official calls if Emboffs must do so. If Ministry's Working

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DRAFTED BY: POL:WSSmith:mg 135 DRAFTING DATE: 11/8/76 TEL. EXT. 128 CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: 109-812-83 CHARGE: MChaplin

CLEARANCES:

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL FORM 10
(Formerly FD-311)
JANUARY 1975
Dep't. of State

Group grants appointment, we will present it, as central coordinating point indicated in Ministry's own note, with requests for other official calls--at Interior Ministry and so forth. We will continue to take position with GOA that we are ~~assist~~ assisting Congressman Drinan in his capacity as member of U.S. Congress and that our assistance can in no way be interpreted as sponsorship for or even association with Amnesty International investigation.

3. Congressman Drinan called on Ambassador evening of November 6 prior to latter's departure for U.S. We have offered to ~~assist~~ assist Congressman in any way we properly can do so. We expressed willingness to provide him with bodyguard if he so wished but he declined offer.

4. Congressman Drinan seems pleased with arrangements so far. Both he and Ms. Feeney are taking attitude that they wish to be as independent as possible but are grateful for our help when it is necessary--such as in arranging and accompanying on official appointments. Congressman has jokingly mentioned to us several times advantages that would accrue to his political career if GOA should expel him from ~~MEXICO~~ country.

CHAPLIN

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Classification

CONTROL: 2348
9 Nov 76
2215

TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
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E.O. 11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:

ODS
PIET, FIRM, UK, AR
Congressman Drinan's Visit to Argentina

ACTION:

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO:

AMEMBASSY LONDON

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 7348

REF: Buenos Aires 7326

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1. Foreign Ministry granted appointment (see ref tel) and U.S. and British Embassy Political Officers accompanied Congressman Drinan and Lord Avebury (without Ms. Feeney) to meeting at Ministry afternoon of Nov. 8. Foreign Ministry group was headed by Captain (Navy) Santolanne, who is deputy to Under Sec Allara, and included officials of Ministry's Human Rights Division as well as officer from Legal Division. Two other Argentines present were never introduced. (Friendly source in Ministry told Baboff subsequently that two strangers were unknowns from "other Ministries" -- he, and we, would guess Min of Interior or security forces.) Meeting lasted over one hour. GOA officials did not attempt to explain their view of human rights situation.

2. Santolanne assured visitors that they were most welcome as officials of USG and UN on visit to Argentina, and that

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POL:RESteven:jr

DRAFTING DATE

11/9/76

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CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

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CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL FORM 153
(Formerly FS-413)
January 1975
Dept. of State

Ministry would like to do all possible to assist them. He pointed out that many of high officials whom visitors wished to see are absent from city, traveling in connection with Presidential visit to Chile. Offer was made to assemble group of appropriate Ministers or their deputies for meeting with ~~visit~~ visitors in Pon Ministry, at which time questions could be put and appropriate officials could answer. Visitors accepted this format and meeting is tentatively set for 1600 hours Nov. 10 at PonMinistry. At that time visitors will have opportunity to request further appointments or to arrange private discussions with any of those present.

3. Santoianne clearly expected to leave specific questions for later meeting, but visitors insisted that they would wish some answers at Nov. 10 meeting, rather than being told at that time that answers would be forthcoming later. On general topics, Lord Avebury asked that someone at next meeting be prepared to discuss with them such topics as lengthy detentions without charges, lack of judicial intervention under State of Siege, detention conditions, option under Constitution (Art 23) to leave country, and maltreatment of prisoners.

4. In addition, visitors indicated they would like to have firm answers by next meeting concerning status of a "sample" of persons reported missing or in detention. Cong. Drinan selected names of Monica Mignone (disappeared in May, status unknown, Bahay has raised before with PonMin); Juan Mendez (RA 6619,

previously raised with FonMin, no reply); and Ernesto Benado Rajewatsky (BA 6338, not rpt not raised with GOA). At Nov. 10 meeting, full list of names in which visitors have interest will be presented to GOA officials. Cong. Drinan indicated that he and other members of U.S. Congress had been inquiring about these cases with Argentine Embassy in Washington and in direct letters to President Videla for months, without obtaining any response.

5. Santolanne asked if there were anything in particular visitors wished to see. Lord Avebury had name of specific prisoner in Villa Devoto prison in Buenos Aires whom he would like to visit. Ministry officials promptly invited visitors and Baboff to "have lunch with the prisoners at Villa Devoto tomorrow", and talk to anyone they wished. It was arranged that visitors and escorts will meet Ministry and other GOA officials at the prison about noon Nov. 9 for visit.

6. Finally, Santolanne informed visitors that local press has asked, through Ministry, about visit and about possibility of press conference. After consultation, Lord Avebury and Cong. Drinan said they would not wish to meet press "at this stage", and left open question of meeting near end of visit.

7. Cong. Drinan took very forceful stance before Ministry group. He warned them of seriousness of human rights problem, and demanded that he receive answers to his questions about specific individuals no later than Nov. 10 meeting, and full list of

names of all political prisoners held by GOA. He said that he and other U.S. Congressmen had gotten no response despite repeated inquiries to GOA over several months, and that he would not accept stonewalling tactic from GOA. He emphasized points several times by pounding fist on table. If satisfactory answers are not forthcoming by Nov. 10 meeting, he warned, he will indeed go to press and will tell them that GOA refused to cooperate. He will also, he said, report situation on floor of Congress and there will be real probability of quick cutoff of \$49 million dollars of economic assistance to Argentina, despite fact that Argentina is great country and U.S. wishes to preserve friendly relations.

8. COMMENT: It was abundantly clear that Ministry group had orders to listen and to attempt to cooperate. Smiles and words of welcome were literally through gritted teeth, however, and Embassy officers heard sotto voce "What arrogance!" in Spanish from one of Ministry officers during one of Cong. Drinan's spirited statements. Amnesty International was not mentioned by either side at any time, although both visitors referred openly to AI documents during discussion, and British Embaff just managed to prevent his visitor from handing Ministry group a list of prisoners and missing persons which he said was clearly labeled as coming from a local terrorist publication. After leaving Ministry, visitors asked Embaffs if they believed Ms. Feeney might accompany group on visit to Villa

Devotee risen. Embassies suggested that this might be counter-productive with COA, and that both Embassies would prefer that she not accompany on official visit. Matter appears to be closed.

9. In meantime, visitors are carrying on extensive schedule of private appointments arranged without U.S. or British Embassy assistance.

CHAPLIN

CONTROL: 7266
9 NOV 76 1743

TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
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FROM

AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

GDS

SHUM, PINT, UK, AR

Congressman Drinan's Visit to Argentina

ACTION:

SecState WASHDC IMMEDIATE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 7366

REF:

Buenos Aires 7348

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1. At about 2400 hours November 8 Miss Feeney telephoned both U. S. and UK Emboffs to report incident involving Congressman Drinan and Lord Avebury. Upon return to hotel about 2330 hours, ~~AM~~ AI group was met in lobby by several men in civilian clothes, leader of whom introduced them as "Federal Police sent to protect visitors." Some form of police identity card was briefly presented. While AI visitors were stating that they had not requested such protection, a photographer who may have been press representative or with police took flash photo of Congressman Drinan. According to consensus of stories, Congressman Drinan reacted strongly and demanded that picture (i.e., film) be given to him. Miss Feeney referred to a "scuffle." In end, film was given to Congressman Drinan, AI party retired to their rooms, and group which had claimed to be police apparently left

DRAFTED BY:

POL:RSSteven:mg

DRAFTING DATE

11/9/76

TEL. EXT.

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CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

POL:WSSmith *for*

CLEARANCES:

Chargé: MCHADLIN *for*

NOV 10 1976

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(Formerly for
Jan 1977
Dept. of State)

hotel and have not returned.

2. Emboff immediately called Congressman Drinan (while UK Emboff did same with Lord Avebury) and confirmed substance of story. Congressman Drinan expressed some concern that the supposed police might have been right-wing extralegal group. Emboff offered to send guard to hotel immediately if Congressman wished to have such protection. Reply was that Embassy should consider its own position if anything happened to U. S. Congressman. Guard was sent promptly, and will remain with Congressman full time until his departure unless specifically ordered away. Incident was reported November 9 to Foreign Ministry, which promised prompt investigation. ~~of interest~~

3. Just before scheduled departure for Villa Devoto prison at noon November 9, Congressman Drinan informed Emboff that he would not be accompanying Lord Avebury on that visit, which had been arranged by FonMinistry. He intends instead to visit prison in La Plata, ^{ON NOV 10} about one hour drive south of Buenos Aires, where a number of political prisoners are held. If arrangements can be completed with GOA, Emboff will accompany Congressman Drinan on La Plata visit.

4. On November 8, GOA released short press statement concerning visit of two legislators, who had been presented by their respective Embassies, and who were visiting country to consider human rights questions. No mention of AI.

5. Meeting with GOA officials from various Ministries is confirmed for 1600 hours November 10.

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6. FYI UK Emhoff has expressed concern which apparently is shared by Lord Avebury over emphasis being given to his position as U. S. legislator by Congressman Drinan. Drinan has spoken repeatedly of sanctions which might be imposed by Congress, etc., placing stress upon his official status, while Lord Avebury considers that he has no official mandate from HMG for visit and considers himself to be on fact-finding trip for AI. Two legislators have decided to undertake separate schedules for most appointments, "to cover more ground." END FYI.

7. As this cable being closed, FonMinistry source confirms that visitors to hotel were indeed group ~~XXXXXX~~ of Federal police sent to offer ~~protection~~ to visitors. When visitors indicated they did not need protection, police withdrew.

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TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT PINS SHUM AR
SUBJECT: Human Rights Round-up No. 5

ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC

FROM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 7386

REF: a) BA 6975; b) BA 6490

1. The wife and political colleagues of former UCR Senator Solari Irigoyen have publicly defended the detained lawyer against last month's news "leaks" connecting him with subversives. (See reftel A).

The statement of ten former senators--also signed by UCR President Ricardo Balbin and former Argentine President Arturo Illia--described Solari Irigoyen as a patriot and ardent defender of democracy and human rights, both of which are guaranteed in the Constitution. It also rejected the accusations made against him.

His wife Teresa Hansen released a letter she sent to President Videla Nov. 3 refuting the charges against her husband. She listed a number of factual errors in the accusations and pointed out her husband hasn't practiced law since 1972. Sunday's

BA Herald (Nov. 7) described Solari Irigoyen as a symbol of the struggle between justice and force. "If terrorism has really

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DRIFTED BY: POL:YThayer:jr	DRAFTING DATE 11/10/76	TEL. EXT. 121	CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: POLCOUNS:WSSmith
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CHARGE: MChaplin

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CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL FORM 104
(Form 104)
Rev. 11-76

been crushed, as armed forces leaders claim, and only the last stages of mopping up remain, then there can be no justification for the continuation of exceptional wartime measures...if, indeed, they were ever really justified," Columnist James Neilson said. He questioned, though, how much President Videla is able to do about the mysterious disappearances, saying it appears provincial military commanders use extraordinary powers. "One's rights appear to diminish the further he gets from Buenos Aires."

2. Two Catholic bookstores were sprayed with machine gun fire from passing cars on Thursday night (Nov. 4). Damage was slight and there were no injuries. There have been no reported attacks against Jewish establishments for more than one month.

3. Newspapers continue to publish names of persons missing and families' efforts on their behalf. Recent cases include lawyer Mario Gerardo Yacub, taken from his office by six armed men Nov. 1; lawyer Baldonero J. Valera, kidnapped Nov. 3; Claudio Augusto Levitan and Celso Pedro Cruces, taken from the Cruces home Oct. 27. In all cases writs of habeas corpus were filed. Parents of the last two have appealed to the local Catholic hierarchy, Interior Minister Harguindeguy and the Pope, press reports say.

4. The Navy head of the military area in Trelew has ordered a search for missing former Secretary-General of the local communist party Elbio Angel Bel and the former attorney of the Popular Socialist Party Sergio Armando Maida and his wife, it was reported

today (Nov. 8). There were no further details.

5. Venezuela has given provisional asylum to an Argentine citizen in its embassy in Buenos Aires, according to a press report from Caracas Nov. 5. Venezuelan Foreign Minister Ramon Escovar said he will receive permanent asylum, presumably in Caracas, as soon as the paperwork is completed.

6. The death toll of terrorists has climbed precipitously in recent weeks. Following the murder of two police guards at the home of the university rector in La Plata Oct. 27 and of a retired non-commissioned naval officer Oct. 29, at least twenty terrorists were reported killed in separate incidents in the La Plata area Oct. 29-31. As reported in Army communiques, ten were killed on Oct. 29 in a house raid and two separate shootouts during road checks. Two days later nine more were killed, allegedly while attacking a police station and another while resisting a police search. The incidents have raised speculation that security forces are in fact continuing to take reprisals against suspected terrorists, but are disguising the executions as deaths resulting from gunbattles with authorities. On Nov. 5, 17 extremists were killed in separate incidents in Buenos Aires and Rosario. Seven more were killed Nov. 6 in Corrientes, including regional Montonero head Eduardo Isidro Colombo.

Bodies are also turning up in various parts of the country.

Bodies of nine young persons were found floating on the Lujan River near San Fernando around Oct. 15. The bodies, which had

been tied to oil drums, had been in the water at least 45 days. Seven more bodies were found in a field near Cordoba. La Opinion reported the discovery of the seven on Nov. 5 after authorities had suppressed the story for a week. Another victim was discovered in a reservoir in Mendoza Province and three more in a garbage dump in Buenos Aires Nov. 6. All of the victims had been repeatedly shot. None of the bodies has been publicly identified.

7. The suspension of Article 23 of the Constitution giving citizens detained under state of siege the right to opt to leave the country was extended on Oct. 28 for another 180 days. Earlier the Interior Ministry announced that persons detained by the Executive could petition to leave the country within 90 days of their arrest order. The Ministry would have 90 more days in which to respond but would deny the petition if it considered the petitioner to be a threat to national security.

8. Isabel Perón will not stand trial again for drawing a personal check on a public charity fund. The court based its decision on the principle of double jeopardy (Mrs. Peron had been cleared of the charge last year), even though it said that the earlier trial was full of "irregularities." The local press praised the court verdict as an example of the independence and impartiality of the court system in upholding a principle of law, and noted that Mrs. Peron would still be tried on a number of other charges of misuse of public funds.

9. Rep. Don Fraser has invited La Opinion Editor Jacobo Timerman to testify in further Congressional hearings on the Argentine human rights situation early next year. La Opinion today (Nov. 9) published Fraser's reply to Timerman's letter of Sept. 30 offering to testify (reftel B). Fraser wrote that the subcommittee was interested in a wide spectrum of points of view and plans to call additional hearings once Congress reconvenes, probably in January or February.

10. The Interior Ministry's new policy on prisoners' petitions to leave the country was also blunted when the government the same day quickly extended its suspension of the Constitutional guarantee of the same right. While we have yet to see how many persons submit petitions--and how many the government accepts--the decree is so worded as to leave the detainees' fate entirely up to the Interior Ministry's discretion, just where it already resides.

11. Tractor company personnel manager Adolfo Valis was shot dead by terrorists outside his home yesterday (Nov. 9). Valis had retired from the air force in 1963. His was the eighth murder of company executives in Buenos Aires' western suburbs in the last three months. Grafa Executive Carlos Valentin Aguirre was killed Nov. 8 and Chrysler businessman Carlos Souto last week (Nov. 3),

12. COMMENT: One is tempted to believe there has been some improvement in the human rights situation in Argentina over the

TELEGRAM

CONTROL 7L
11 NOV 76
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INDICATE
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FROM

AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

GDS

SHUM, PINT, AR, UK

Congressman Drinan's Visit to Argentina - Meeting with GOA

ACTION:

SecState WASHDC IMMEDIATE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 7428

REF:

Buenos Aires 7366

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USIS
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1. Summary. Useful, noncontroversial meeting November 10 between Congressman Drinan and Lord Avebury and officials of GOA helped clear air of misunderstandings, on both sides, but revealed no significant change in GOA positions. Sizable police escort has been established around visitors. While Lord Avebury visited Villa Devoto prison, Congressman Drinan's proposed visit to La Plata prison was postponed to November 12. Official news agency TELAM has carried on hostile campaign against Amnesty International visitors, going so far as to fabricate quotes, while majority of press has treated visit with reasonable objectivity. Congressman Drinan has indicated no interest in Embassy briefing, but told Emboffs that GOA had presented its case well, that his thinking has perhaps "turned around" a bit, and that sanctions on Argentina might not

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FOL:RSSSteven:mg

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11/11/76

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necessarily be best course. So far, GOA and press appear to understand correctly role of Embassies in visit. End Summary.

2. AI visitors have continued heavy schedule of private interviews, avoiding press where possible, and calling upon Embassies only when necessary to obtain access to GOA officials, Papal Nuncio, and one editor. Avebury visited Villa Devoto prison in Buenos Aires for six hours November 10. Drinan's proposed visit November 11 to La Plata prison was not possible because of coordination failures on part of visitors. He has requested La Plata visit for November 12. Problem may arise in that police station was bombed and numbers of extremists killed there in last few days, and GOA may rpt may legitimately hesitate to expose Drinan to possible danger (BA 7385).

3. At specific request of Drinan, Embassy guard was withdrawn in early evening November 10. However, on morning of November 11 FonMin official informed Embassy that Min Interior Harguindeguy had ordered Federal Police protection instituted around visitors beginning evening November 10. Since that time both Drinan and Avebury have had plainclothes police escort at all times. Visitors have not objected.

4. On evening November 9 Avebury and Drinan met with local Jewish community leaders. Our sources who were present informed us that Jewish leaders worked hard to put anti-Semitism problem in perspective, and insisted to visitors that heavy-handed measures against GOA would be counter-productive.

5. Official news agency TELAM, which may be working without much coordination with FonMin, has produced stories hostile to AI and visitors, fabricating or distorting quotes and focusing on such irrelevancies as Avebury's manner of dress. TELAM reported that at end of Villa Devoto visit, on street, Avebury was confronted by "sister of army officer recently killed by subversives." British Emboff who was present told us that alleged sister was actually encountered inside prison in what appeared to be staged incident. Effort of TELAM and one or two papers which have used its stories appears aimed at discrediting AI. Rest of press has shown reasonable objectivity about visit, and several strictly accurate stories appeared November 11 reporting comments of AI visitors interviewed by press upon leaving FonMinistry meeting late

November 10. Drinan and Avebury have reserved decision on holding press conference at end of visit, and Ms. Feeney told Emboff that likely outcome is reading of formal statement at end of visit without questions or other comment.

6. Drinan has repeated ^{jocular} comment that he would not mind being expelled to CBS representative and other U. S. newsmen, who have relayed it to us.

7. Avebury has had long and thorough briefings by British Embassy, and British Emboff reports that during long session at Villa Devoto Avebury appears to have made very favorable impression on GOA officials who accompanied, making clear

role of AI and sincerity of concern over human rights. Avebury was given run of prison, talking to detainees at random. Of 2,800 prisoners there, 560 are "politicals;" all but 36 are women. Men are held normally at La Plata. Private interviews were permitted, and all prisoners interviewed told Avebury that treatment once in prison was quite correct. All stated, however, that in period in custody of Federal Police before reaching prison they had been tortured or treated brutally, some raped, etc. (Min Interior official later claimed that subversives are instructed if captured to routinely claim torture and abuse, and systematically coordinate their stories.)

8. At 1600 November 10, Drinan and Avebury attended meeting at FonMinistry, accompanied by U. S. and British Embassies.

Meeting lasted three and one-half hours. It was chaired by FonMin UnderSec Captain (Navy) Allara. Among 14 GOA officials present, only 9 were identified. UnderSec Laureano Alvarez Estrada represented MinJustice, full contingent of FonMin human rights group and legal advisors were present, and Min Interior had two identified officials. Chief spokesman for MinInterior, well-prepared with dossiers, etc., was introduced only as Ricardo Flouret, whom we have not met before. (Our subsequent research identified him as active-duty Colonel (Army) Ricardo Norberto Flouret, who was assigned as Assistant Military Attache in Washington in 1972. Flouret

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spoke with evident authority, and appears to be key figure in MinInterior on matters of anti-subversion campaign, prisoners, etc.)

9. Allara opened meeting by welcoming visitors in their capacities as legislators, but immediately recognized AI affiliation. He read AI's own definition of its interest only in prisoners of conscience, and announced that GOA held no one on such grounds. All detainees or prisoners are held on grounds of criminal subversion and violent acts, thus GOA has no political prisoners. From this start, meeting followed rambling course, with Avebury acting as principal spokesman for AI side. Avebury opened with condolences for tragic losses among security forces and assassinations of businessmen, etc., by guerrillas, and sympathy for victims. This defused meeting at its start. Drinan interjected from time to time, but without passion which had made first meeting (BA 7348) somewhat tense. There was no confrontation, although positions and arguments came out forcefully. Summary of key points of long session follows:

10. AI visitors said that most important things GOA could do to help reputation would be to (a) publish full list of prisoners; (b) investigate disappearances; (c) investigate allegations of brutality; (d) clear up question of involuntary returns of persons to their countries of origin.

11. List of prisoners: Alvarez of MinJustice claimed that

all decrees of detentions, including State of Siege cases, appear with names in Official Bulletin, published daily.

Anyone could compile list. Drinan asked for sample decrees, aide and ~~aside~~ was sent out to get them. On return, he handed dossier to Allara and consulted privately. GOA position was then changed to explanation that decrees appeared but not with names. Further discussion obscured fact that decrees also are not rpt not published. Despite heavy pressure on question from both Avebury and Drinan, GOA side skated around problem of list and finally left it understood that list has not been published and will not be published in all probability, for security reasons. Flouret said total prison capacity is only about 4,500 and "prisons are not full." GOA insisted that families of all rpt all prisoners, including those held under State of Siege, are informed of whereabouts of prisoners. Avebury indicated politely but firmly that evidence makes this assertion questionable. Lengthy discussion made it clear that GOA considers that terms "detainees" or "prisoners" refers to properly arrested and legally processed persons, setting aside matter of detentions of persons often for lengthy periods before it is officially admitted that they are in GOA custody. Flouret did admit that there can be periods of up to 10 days of sort of "preventive detention" while investigation carried on. He also cited overburdened courts and long delays of legal system.

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12. Disappearances: Flouret said that MinInterior has investigated all cases brought to its attention, some 100 to 150, and cases remain open where no solution reached. He insisted that many alleged disappearances are result of subversives "going underground" or leaving country clandestinely without even telling families, who then report missing person in good faith. Avebury cited frequent cases of persons kidnapped who then turn up later in GOA hands, but lengthy discussion yielded no progress. Visitors raised a number of individual cases and received some information from Flouret -- see septels. (It appears that GOA may permit departure from Argentina (i.e., expel) some of these detainees as gesture toward AI visitors.)

13. Brutality: Allara and Flouret stated flatly that torture and brutality are prohibited by law and practice, and that where some isolated, individual abuses have taken place; responsible officials have been charged, tried, and punished. They declined to identify such cases. Detailed charges and questions by AI visitors, identifying Federal Police as main source of abuse, met denial and depreciation by GOA.

14. Involuntary return of refugees: Allara noted that GOA had promised from beginning not to do this, and had not rpt not done so in any case. Avebury handed over list of several Uruguayans allegedly kidnapped in Argentina who have recently turned up in Uruguay in detention, and said evidence was very

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strong they were kidnapped by security forces here. Charge met flat denial; "MinInterior has investigated and found no evidence to sustain charge."

15. Other points of interest: Refugees: There are 500,000 illegal entrants from neighboring countries, of whom 14,000 are registered as refugees with UNHCR. Although Argentina reserved position on recognizing Latin Americans as refugees, it cooperates with UNHCR and is doing best to move refugees abroad. It would be happy to have more visas for refugees from interested countries. No one raised U. S. parole program, although Drinan has told Emboffs privately that 200 new authorizations are far too few in his view. Allara described new laws which permit legalization of status of illegal entrants.

16. GOA side repeatedly throughout meeting asked for understanding of situation in Argentina, background of violence, ~~understanding of situation~~ and need to give GOA time to bring situation under control.

17. AI side made its concerns politely but firmly known, and promised that its report would be objective. Report will be offered to GOA in confidence for comment before publication, according to Avebury.

18. Meeting broke up with cordial farewells, and visitors left to be confronted with press corps in Ministry plaza. By fast footwork U. S. Emboff managed to leave interpreting chore to British Emboff. Several provocative questions on AI financing and attitude toward Communist countries were

well handled by both Avebury and Drinan, and accurately reported in November 11 press.

19. Meeting did help both sides to understand position of other better, and cleared up some mutual suspicions. GOA tried to create impression of true concern over human rights and willingness to cooperate with visitors. However, officials evaded answers to key questions, and held to legalistic definitions to such a degree that AI visitors gave up some lines of questioning in face of obvious unwillingness of GOA side to discuss real issue. On balance, it appears to have been useful, but not to have produced any significant new development.

20. FYI. After meeting, Drinan told Emboffs that he thought GOA had presented its case well, that his thinking had turned around to some extent, and that perhaps sanctions on GOA such as those imposed on Chile and Uruguay might not necessarily be best course of action at this time. Argentine newspaper owner who saw Drinan told NY Times correspondent de Onis that Drinan had said more or less same thing to him.

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TELEGRAM

CONTROL: 74
11 NOV 73
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INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM

Amembassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 11652: ~~TOP SECRET~~ GDS.

TAGS: PINT SHUM UK

SUBJECT: GOA Responds to Congressman Drinan's Human Rights Queries

ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO: AMEMBASSY LONDON

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 7429

REF: BA 7348

1. SUMMARY. GOA responded on several specific human rights cases raised by Father Drinan and Lord Avebury Nov. 7 at second meeting with high level govt officials at the Foreign Ministry yesterday (Nov. 10) (See Septel.) Whereabouts of Menica Mignone remain unknown. Ernesto Benado, who is a naturalized Argentine citizen, and Argentine Juan Mendez are both presently in jail facing charges. However, GOA officials indicated that due to considerable US interest, the Interior Ministry hoped to have "good news" soon, i.e. probably expulsion orders for both to leave the country. Eleven priests are presently being detained, all but two of them Argentine and all with charges pending. An expulsion order is being prepared for Irish Father Rice. Foran Ministry official privately suggested to Emboff a working meeting following the Drinan visit

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POL:YThayer:jr

CLEARANCES:

CHARGE: MChaplin
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DATE: 11/11/76

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109-81V-88
POLCOUNS: WSSmith 135

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CLASSIFICATION

OFFICIAL FORM 153
(Rev. 10-18-72)
JAN 1973
Dept. of State

in which USG has expressed interest. END SUMMARY.

2. At a meeting in the Foreign Ministry yesterday (Nov. 10), Interior Ministry official Ricardo Flouret provided information on specific human rights cases raised earlier by Father Drinan and Lord Avebury (reftel). Despite considerable effort on the part of her "rather" and close friends in high positions, the whereabouts of Monica Maria Mignone is still unknown. Flouret made no allusions to her possible connections to subversion (which he did in all other cases mention); the govt simply had not been able to locate her. Remarking on her father's belief that she is (or was) being held by the Navy, Flouret did not deny the possibility, but intimated that the govt (i.e. the Interior Ministry) could not answer for acts committed by the Navy.

3. Ernesto Benado Rejovisky, who Flouret said was a naturalized Argentine citizen, was described as a leader of the JCR Revolutionary ~~(subversive)~~ /Coordinating Junta including ERP, MIR, Tupamaros and other Southern cone extremist groups). He had been ordered expelled from the country on July 27, 1976, but Civil Judge Carlos Manuel Greco ruled he could not be deported because he was a naturalized Argentine citizen. He is still in prison, but the Interior Ministry hopes to have "good news" on him within the month (i.e. probably expulsion from the country. Benado apparently has a visa to France.)

4. Juan Mendez still has three charges pending against him, including an armed attempt to occupy a university building and car theft (he was cleared of one charge in August). Due

to special US interest in his case, Flouret agreed to bring up the matter of Mendez's expulsion from the country with the Interior Minister.

5. Flouret presented a list of eleven priests who are currently in jail. All have charges pending against them and in every case their bishops have been fully informed. There are no foreign priests currently detained save one who has criminal charges against him. (Flouret left out Irish Father Rice who remains detained by the Executive. Foreign Ministry official told Embaff that despite serious charges against him, an expulsion order was being prepared for Father Rice.)

6. Flouret read the charges pending against six Argentine citizens who had been named by Amnesty International as persons detained without charge under state of siege. Most of the charges include possession of firearms and subversive literature, among others. There was no discussion concerning expulsion of these persons from the country.

7. Father Drinan appeared to be fully satisfied with the responses to his specific queries. He declined to raise the case of Dora Goldferb because he was not personally acquainted with the case. Lord Avebury did pass to govt officials a list compiled by AI of hundreds of persons--including police, executives, civilians, etc.--either killed or missing since January 1975. GOA officials said they could better handle queries about specific individuals. The name of lawyer Mario Gerardo Yacub was raised

during the meeting, but no new list was presented to Argentine officials for resolution, nor was a later meeting scheduled.

8. Foran Ministry official from human rights working group later privately suggested to Emboff a working meeting next week at which Embassy could present full list of all those persons in which USG has expressed interest. (To date, Embassy has presented individual cases as the inquiries came in.) He said he would provide full reports on each case known to the govt. This time he did not exclude Argentine citizens, which he had earlier claimed would not be considered by working group.

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E.O. 11652: N/U

TAGS: PINS, SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: JUAN MENDEZ
B.A. 01286

MENDEZ TRANSFER TO UNIT 9 IS VERY DISTURBING. DEPARTMENT CONCURS WITH EMBASSY'S EXPRESSION OF CONCERN TO EXECUTIVE AND MILITARY CHANNELS. OFFICES OF CONGRESSMEN DRINAN AND RAILSBACK, AS WELL AS JOHN HUTCHISON, GREATLY APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S EFFORTS ON BEHALF MENDEZ.

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LEGAL ATTACHE—BUENOS AIRES	
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TELEGRAM

INDICATE
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FROM:	AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES	CLASSIFICATION:	CONFIDENTIAL
TO:	GDS		
TAGS:	SHUM AR BR UR CI		
SUBJECT:	GOA reports on human rights cases		
ACTION:	SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY		
	CONFIDENTIAL BUENOS AIRES - 7458		
	REF: a) BA 7429; b) BA 6626		
	1. In response to Embassy list of human rights cases, Foreign Ministry human rights working group official today (Nov. 12) provided the following information: (see Ref A for report on Father Patrick Rice, Juan Mendez, Ernesto Benado and Monica Mignone.) a. Uruguayan Senator <u>Enrique Erro</u>---a decree expelling him from the country was signed Nov. 3 and he should be shortly leaving for France. b. <u>Federico Alvarez Rojas</u>---has not registered. c. <u>Dora Goldfarb</u>---detained by Executive (decree 1120 of June 19, 1976) in Villa Devoto on charges of subversion. (Father Israel Goldfarb came to Embassy today to plead for a visa for his daughter, an Argentine citizen. He visited her in prison yesterday and said she had been roughly treated 109-812-89		
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	LEGAL ATTACH		

after having apparently "disappeared" in Mendoza where she had been imprisoned since March. Father waffled on daughter's Communist party affiliation (see refel B). Consaff gave him the requested immigrant visa application forms. GOA official later ~~rem~~ remarked to Emboff that Dora Goldfarb's case was "serious." It seems unlikely GOA will free or expel her in the near future, whether or not she obtains visa for US or elsewhere.

d. Pedro Lucero Bagnati--Goldfarb's Argentine husband, detained by Executive (decree 1120 of June 9) for subversive activities, in prison in Mendoza.

e. Antonio Misetich--not registered.

f. Dr. Claudio Santiago Bertram--detained in Cordoba for Communist activities by Executive decree 1310 of July 7, 1976.

g. Ivo Maria Domarques--not registered.

h. Luis Iturriaga Casali--not registered.

i. Mario Gerardo Yacub--not registered.

j. Raymundo Gleyzer--not registered (GOA official volunteered that father is well-known lawyer exiled in France for last two or three years.)

k. Paulo Antonio Paranaagua (Brazilian)--detained by Executive in Sierra Chica prison, frequently visited by mother and lawyer, heavily implicated in subversion, but may well be expelled because of diplomat father. GOA official emphasized that Brazilian govt has made no representations on Paranaagua's behalf.

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1. Maria Regina Jacob Pilla (Brazilian)--detained either in La Plata or Villa Devoto, less likely she will get expulsion decree.

m. Maria Regina Marcondes Pinto (Brazilian)--detained by Executive decree.

n. Ricardo Alberto Hinrichsen--expulsion decree already signed, and he is already in custody of Federal Police awaiting departure for recipient country, apparently Great Britain.

o. Hipolito Solari Irigoyen--detained by Executive decree in Rawson Prison.

2. COMMENT: HR working group has recently made considerable effort to cooperate with Emboffs, producing rapid responses to human rights queries. Apparently their assiduity is not limited to US Embassy; Emboff saw neatly typed responses to lists submitted by the Spanish and British governments, as well. The working group's efforts, however, appear to be limited to those cases "registered" at the Interior Ministry. Anyone who does not figure on the list of those whose arrest (or expulsion) has been decreed by the Executive power is simply "not registered," though, as we have seen in past, subject might well be in secret custody of a provincial commander or some branch of the Armed Forces. GOA has not published arrest decrees in the Official Bulletin, nor has it revealed the total number or names of those "officially" arrested by Executive decree. GOA official emphasized to Emboff that information on specific individuals is provided by GOA to foreign govts as a special gesture in the name of good relations.

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TELEGRAM

CONTINUED
12 NOV
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INDICATE
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FROM

AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

11352: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, AR, UK
SUBJECT: Congressman Drinan's Visit to Argentina

ACTION: SecState WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO: AmEmbassy LONDON

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 74.59

REF: Buenos Aires 7428

1. Visit to La Plata prison requested by Congressman Drinan for November 12 was rejected by Buenos Aires Province ~~police~~ officials. FonMin informed us evening November 11 that while Federal Government had no objection in principle to visit to La Plata, Provincial authorities had not approved visit. FonMin official stated that decision was taken on basis general security situation in La Plata, where police headquarters has just been bombed and various confrontations with guerrillas have taken place in last few days, but more importantly on basis of "psychological atmosphere" of La Plata security forces. He said without ambiguity that La Plata police are furious over bombing and in no mood for visit from human rights advocates from abroad. Serious trouble could result from visit by Drinan,

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NOV 15 1976 Charge: MChaplin

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and Buenos Aires Province authorities will not accept responsibility for his safety. Federal Government is in no position to challenge evaluation of local commanders, and Fonkin source indicated that Ministry also believes there could be real danger. Any attack or demonstration against Drinan (or Lord Avebury), from whatever source, would be disaster for COA, in opinion FonMinistry. We have checked sources of our own who confirm that climate in La Plata is potentially dangerous. Drinan reacted with some anger when first informed of denial of permission for visit, but after consideration and discussion with Emboff he agreed that visit would not be advisable.

2. At Drinan's request, we located Cardinal Primatesta in Cordoba and asked if the Cardinal would receive Drinan there during weekend. Cardinal said he could not do so, as he will be "in the interior." We do not know what plans Drinan has otherwise, but plan to offer weekend hospitality if he will be staying in city.

3. Among various private activities Drinan and Avebury have interviewed Legal Association, editors, and numbers of human rights complainants under sponsorship of Assembly for Human Rights. Drinan has seen Jesuits, and plans interview with Papal Nuncio November 15.

4. On November 12 British Charge hosted working lunch for Avebury, Drinan, Ms. Feeney, Anglican Bishop Cutts, Editor Cox of Buenos Aires Herald, Deputy Chief of UNHCR, U. S.

Emboff, and several British Embassy officers. Full and frank discussion of all aspects of human rights problem was held. AI group indicated they will limit final press conference to reading ~~xxxx~~ of prepared statement which will not go into findings, and expect to have report ready to refer to GOA within about two weeks. They said that they have found visit very useful in gaining better and more objective understanding of situation. All present agreed that most local press after first couple of days of visit had made remarkable turnaround and begun to discuss visit and AI itself in quite objective light.

5. FYI. British Embassy appears to have abandoned any attempt to maintain fiction that visitors are legislators and not representatives of AI for official purposes. Luncheon itself is most obvious sign of this, but support being given by British to visit has gone well beyond what we would have considered appropriate. END FYI.

6. Drinan told Emboff privately that during evening of November 11 he was called upon at hotel by Colonel Flouret of MinInterior (see reftel para 8). Flouret told Drinan that GOA is still deeply concerned over fate of missing Colonel Pita, who as interventor of General Labor Confederation (CGT) was kidnapped by extremists in May 1976. He asked Drinan if he would use his "channels of information" to help locate and secure release of Pita. In return for this, Flouret hinted,

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GOA would "look favorably" upon cases of detainees which Drinan had raised with it. Drinan said he found suggestion ~~it~~ incredible, and did his best to assure Flouret that he was not in contact with terrorists and saw no way in which he could assist in matter of Colonel Pita. Drinan raised thought that Flouret might be personal friend and Army ~~it~~ colleague of Pita simply trying anything to help secure his safe return from terrorist hands. Drinan is not convinced that offer of "trade" had any official GOA backing at all.

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USIS		✓	B & F		
SCI		✓	CHRON		✓
SY			HF		✓

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BT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ LONDON 18429

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SHUM, AR, UK
SUBJECT: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND DRINAN/AVEBURY TRIP

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S CAROL REED CALLED EMBASSY
NOVEMBER 16 REQUESTING CONFIRMATION THAT DELEGATES HAVE,
IN FACT, DEPARTED BUENOS AIRES VIA AR 140 FOR RIO DE
JANEIRO. PLEASE RESPOND SOONEST.

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TELEGRAM

16 NOV 76

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INDICATE
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FROM

AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 11652:

GDS

TAGS:

SHUM, PINT, UK, AR

SUBJECT:

Congressman Drinan's Visit to Argentina

ACTION:

SecState WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO:

AmEmbassy LONDON IMMEDIATE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 7512

REF:

Buenos Aires 7459

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1. Drinan with rest of Amnesty International party left Argentina at 1700 local hours November 15, with brief rest stop planned in Rio. On way to airport November 15, party realized that it did not have hotel reservations in Rio, and Drinan asked Emboff to seek assistance of AmConsulate Rio. NIACT telegram was sent to Rio, with our apologies.
2. Late afternoon of November 12 about 50 young demonstrators appeared in front of hotel where visitors lodged and shouted anti AI slogans, waved banners, etc. Demonstrators dispersed after 10 minutes, and no violence or police confrontation was reported. Press identified demonstrators as members of organization called National Patriotic Movement.

(We have little specific information about this group, but

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11/16/76

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CLEARANCES:

Charles McChaplin
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NOV 16 1976

LEGAL ATTACHE
BUENOS AIRES

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(Formerly E-1)
JAN 1976
Page 6 of 6

understand it is ultraconservative organization formed by some retired military officers.) Press coverage of demonstration was very limited. AI group were not rpt not in hotel at time.

3. In early evening of November 12, Drinan asked our assistance in obtaining permission to visit prison in city of Cordoba, where he and Ms. Feeney planned to go next day. At same time Ms. Feeney made same request to British Embassy. British refused to relay ~~request~~ request to GOA, pointing out impropriety of asking on such short notice after week in Argentina, and near impossibility of GOA being able to arrange permission on weekend with authorities in Provincial Govt and another Army command. We did discuss request with FonMinistry human rights officer, who was indignant over timing and lack of planning, and refused to relay request.

4. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Drinan and Ms. Feeney visited Cordoba November 13, returning to Buenos Aires morning of November 14. During visit Ms. Feeney was "mobbed," in her words, by hostile press and other unidentified persons in hotel lobby, and was unable to conduct satisfactory press interview.

5. More seriously, Drinan and Ms. Feeney interviewed Argentine national Josefa Martinez, a young girl connected to family which had written to AI for help, in lobby of hotel. Ms. Feeney gave Miss Martinez ~~6000~~ 6000 Argentine pesos, about ~~\$24~~ \$24, in AI assistance funds. Mother of Miss Martinez informed

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Classification

Drinan next morning that her daughter had not returned home, and assumption was that she was detained for having met with AI. On return to Buenos Aires, Drinan requested our intervention to locate and protect Miss Martinez.

6. Emboff was able communicate with MinInterior official on November 14, and explain concern of Drinan. Official promptly understood delicacy of matter and promised immediate investigation. FonMinistry human rights officer was informed morning of November ~~XX~~ 15, but reported November 16 that he had no information yet on status of Miss Martinez. Both Drinan and Lord Avebury raised intention of making public protest over disappearance of Miss Martinez. After discussion with U. S. and British Emboffs they concluded that immediate publicity of that nature might prejudice safety of Miss Martinez. However, if she is not accounted ^{for} by end of this week, both Drinan and Avebury have stated intention of raising matter through Congressional and Parliamentary channels. We will of course report immediately any ^{information} ~~information~~ obtained concerning case, and it is clear that GOA is aware of ~~effect~~ effect that any unfortunate outcome of matter could have upon ~~objectivity of~~ visitors in preparation of their report and their comments upon returning home.

7. Among other private calls, Drinan saw Papal Nuncio and NY Times correspondent Juan de Onis on November 15. Drinan and Ms. Feeney ~~spent~~ spent Sunday afternoon November 14 at

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home of Emboff, with Charge, and had opportunity to exchange views of general situation in Argentina. We are not prepared to predict either findings of AI or individual reactions of Drinan and Avebury concerning visit to Argentina.

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TELEGRAM

CONTROL: 750
17 NOV 76
1840

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: OVIP AR
SUBJECT: Travel of Congressman Robert Drinan

ACTION: ~~SENSITIVE~~
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UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 7504

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1. Congressman (Father) Robert Drinan (D-Mass.), traveling as part of Amnesty International delegation which also includes British subjects Lord Avebury and Ms. Patricia Feeney, will arrive Rio on AA Flt 140 ETA Rio 2035 local time Nov. 15 from Buenos Aires. Drinan would appreciate being met and having reservations for three singles in moderate hotel for one night. Fully appreciate short notice and apologize. If you are not able meet, please stand by for call from party on arrival to your duty officer, and assist in making hotel reservations and arranging transportation.

2. As far as we know Drinan has no plans requiring support from you beyond assistance you may be able offer with transportation from and to airport, and reservations.

CHAPLIN

DRAFTED BY: POL:RSSSteven:jr	DRAFTING DATE 11/15/76	TEL. EXT. 121	CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: APOLCCONS:AGFreeman
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NOV 18 1976

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January 76
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TELEGRAM

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INDICATE
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FROM

Amenbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

NO. 11652:

N/A

TAGS:

SHUM, TECH, AR

SUBJECT:

Disappearance of Federico Alvarez Rojas

ACTION:

SECSTATE WASHDC

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 7503

REF:

(A) State 275334; (B) Buenos Aires 7458

CHARGE

CNEA official in charge of Constituyentes Center tells us they also have no rpt no information about reasons for disappearance of Mr. and Mrs. Rojas and that they are worried about them.

SCI

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CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

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CLASSIFICATION

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(Formerly FS-4)
January 1976
Printed at GPO

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TELEGRAM

INDICATE
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FROM

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

E.O. 11652:

NA

TAGS:

SHUM AR

SUBJECT:

Reported Disappearance of Argentine Victor Jacobo Noe

ACTION:

SECSTATE WASHDC

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 7590

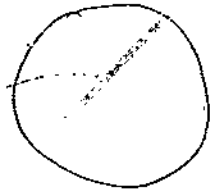
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Embassy contacted Neuberger who had no further information except to confirm that Noe has been missing since late October. Embassy has requested information from Foru Ministry human rights working group and will report new developments.

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TO RUESBA/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE 4770
RUOTC/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 9895
BT

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, AR, UK

SUBJECT: CONGRESSMAN DRINAN'S INTEREST IN DISAPPEARANCE OF
JOSEFA MARTINEZ

REFERENCE: BUENOS AIRES 7606

1. DURING COURSE OF NOVEMBER 19 COURTESY CALL BY NEW ARGENTINE CHARGE PRAT GUY ON ARA DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BRAY (TO BE REPORTED SEPARATELY), LATTER RAISBD DEPARTMENT'S AND CONGRESSMAN DRINAN'S CONCERN OVER DISAPPEARANCE OF JOSEFA MARTINEZ. BRAY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT GOA WAS LOOKING ACTIVELY INTO THIS MATTER BUT REITERATED IMPORTANCE OF FINDING MS. MARTINEZ OR HAVING AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S REPORT ON ARGENTINA HINGE UNDOUBLY ON THIS DISAPPEARANCE. PRAT GUY APPRECIATED DELICACY AND URGENCY OF PROBLEM AND SAID HE WOULD COMMUNICATE AT ONCE WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY.

2. AFTER COURTESY CALL, CONGRESSMAN DRINAN WAS APPRISED OF CONTENTS OF REFTEL AND OF BRAY-PRAT GUY CONVERSATION. DRINAN WAS APPRECIATIVE, NOTING THAT THERE WAS GREAT PRESSURE TO PUBLICIZE THIS CASE AT ONCE. THIS IS APPARENTLY THE RECOMMENDATION OF AMNESTY HEADQUARTERS IN LONDON.

3. DRINAN SAID THAT MS. MARTINEZ HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AT ALLGM RATHER, SHE WAS THE FRIEND OF AN ARGENTINE WOMAN IN LONDON. THIS WOMAN ASKED PATRICIA FEENEY TO GIVE SOME MONEY TO MS. MARTINEZ' MOTHER.

4. DEPARTMENT HAS PROMISED TO STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH DRINAN. HE IS SCHEDULED TO ADDRESS A GEORGETOWN HUMAN RIGHTS FORUM ON NOVEMBER 30. KISSINGER
BT

#5820

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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TELEGRAM

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FROM
Amembassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION
~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

N/A
SHUM, TECH, AR
Disappearance of Federico Alvarez Rojas

Secstate WASH DC

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 7675

Buenos Aires 7503

Further to reftel, CNEA official called to tell us Alvarez Rojas
definitely not rpt not being held by police and that there is no
rpt no official news as to his whereabouts.

CHAPLIN
me

109-812-97

DRAFTED BY:

SCI: RHWilcox/kc *RHW*

DRAFTING DATE
11/23/76

TEL. EXT.
377

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:
CHARGE: *Chaplin*

CLEARANCES:

POL: YHayer *YHayer*

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

CLASSIFICATION

CONTROL: 7606
76 1250

TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
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E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

GDS

SHUM, PINT, AR, UK

Congressman Drinan's Visit to Argentina: Josefa Martinez

ACTION:

SecState WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO:

AmEmbassy LONDON IMMEDIATE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 7606

REF:

(A) Chaplin-Rondon telcon November 18; (B) Buenos Aires 7512

FOR ARA/ECA - Rondon

1. Josefa Martinez, who disappeared after meeting with Congressman Drinan and Ms. Feeney in Cordoba November 13, has not rpt not been found.

2. Through indirect contacts a very high official of GOA was induced to inquire about Martinez's disappearance. We have report back that GOA does not rpt not know anything about her. Inquiry was made by our contact directly to HQ of General Menendez, Commander III Corps in Cordoba, which also denied any connection with disappearance. Source offered comment that at least three explanations of disappearance were possible: a) Martinez could have been taken by non-official rightist extremists; b) she could

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REPORTED BY:

POL:RSSteven:mg

CLEARANCES:

DRAFTING DATE

11/19/76

TEL. EXT.

121

109-812-98
CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

A/POLCOUNS:AGFreeman

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL FORM 100
(Formerly FS-413)
January 1975
Dept. of State

2 7106

1/2 have voluntarily disappeared after talking with Amnesty International group in fear that she would be detained in retaliation by official or non-official forces; c) she could be extremist herself who has gone underground. Fourth; explanation, of course, could be that GOA and/or III Corps simply do not know all that their forces may be doing, or they could be deliberately concealing detention.

3. Officer of ForMinistry Human Rights Working Group told us November 19 that he had been able to obtain no information concerning disappearance of Martinez, thus confirming report ~~/~~ which came to us through private channel.

4. Request you inform Congressman Drinan of substance of this report. British Embassy is sending same information to London for Lord Avebury.

CHAPLIN

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification

TELEGRAM

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☐ CHARGE TO

E.O. 11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:

ACTION:

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FROM	AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES	CLASSIFICATION	LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
BA SHUN AR Argentine Victor Jacobo Noe SECSTATE WASHDC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 7694 Ref: BA 7590 Forministry human rights working group told Raboff Nov. 18 that Victor Jacobo Noe was "no registrado". As we have noted previously, the working group's information comes largely from Interior Ministry lists of persons officially detained by specific Executive decree, which in some cases may come some time after a person is first picked up. We have asked the working group to keep this and other similar cases open and report to us new information as it comes available. CHAPLIN 109-812-99			

DRAFTED BY: POL:YHayer:jr	DRAFTING DATE 11/24/76	TEL. EXT. 121	CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: POLCOUNCIL Smith
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CLEARANCES:

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CLASSIFICATION

TELEGRAM

CONTROL: 7624

1 Dec 76

1750

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

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SHUM AR

GOA Responds to Human Rights Queries

ACTION:

SECSTATE WASHDC

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 7624

Ref: ~~11~~ a) State 290465 b) State 286308 ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

1. The FormMinistry human rights working group has given Emboffs the following information on American interest cases:

Emilio and Carmen de Ipola--detained under Executive decree 88/76 and charged with subversive activities.

Andres Cultelli--detained under Executive decree 1064/75.

Sources confirm Cultelli was found guilty and sentenced to 14 years for crimes against national security. His case is under appeal.

Roberto Pizarro and wife--expelled from Argentina.

Marcelo Gelman, wife Maria Claudia Garcia Gelman, Nora Gelman--no registrado.

Gerardo Gatti Azuna--no registrado.

Francisco Bellagamba, Manuela Elmina Santucho, Mario Schreier, Silvia Saez de Vuistaz, Maria Perez Bravo, Maria del Carmen Sabino, Namba Villagra, Raimundo Nachumow, Marcos Basilio Arocena--information

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DRAFTED BY:

POL:YThayer:jr

DRAFTING DATE

12/1/76

TEL. EXT.

121

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

POLCOONS:WSSmith

CLEARANCES:

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CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL FORM 153
 (Formerly FS-413)
 January 1975
 Dept. of State

pending review.

2. Embassy has no information concerning Argentine national Claudia Ines Peiro (reftel B).

CHAPLIN

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~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

CONTROL: 7850
DEC 76 1733

TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 11652:
TAGS: PINS PINT SHUM AR
SUBJECT: Human Rights Round-up No. 6

ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 7850

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1. Four Argentine priests were detained for questioning following a massive police raid on a private Catholic gradeschool in Buenos Aires' northern district on Nov. 29. The priests had apparently been denounced by disgruntled parents who opposed the "leftist content" of their sermons and religious instruction in the school. It remains unclear whether police found subversive material during their five-hour search of the school and adjoining church. Apparently conflict between parents and some of the priests over religious training had been growing since last April. Two months ago the school was investigated by police following a complaint that some of the teachers were "subversives." The accusations were not substantiated. ~~The~~ ^{The} BA Herald (Dec. 1) called the raid and subsequent newspaper accusations against the priests preposterous and dangerously similar to extremist-style witch hunts.

2. Argentine postulant priest Pablo Gazzarri reportedly disappeared

DRAFTED BY:
POL:YThayer:jr

DRAFTING DATE
12/2/76

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109-212-101
CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:
POL/COUN:WSSmit (in-draft)

CLEARANCES:
POL/R :JSeas

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CLASSIFICATION

Nov. 28. He was to have been ordained in to the French Order of Little Brothers of Charles Focould, the order of Working priests which includes Irish priest Patrick Rice. Rice is still under detention in La Plata prison but Irish Embassy sources Dec. 1 reported an expulsion order has been issued and he is expected to be deported soon.

3. A new law authorizing the establishment of special military ^{courts} ~~was~~ ~~martial~~ ~~courts~~ to try persons accused of subversive crimes went into effect Monday Nov. 29. The law also extends the jurisdiction of military courts martial to cover a number of lesser offenses formerly tried by civilian courts, including aiding and abetting, incitation to violence, intent to commit crimes against national security, etc. It replaces three other laws governing trials for crimes of subversion. Under the law, each regional commander is empowered to set up "special, permanent ^{courts martial} ~~tribunals~~" when and as he sees fit. The only detail stipulated in the law is that the rank of the presiding officer must correspond to the severity of the sentence faced by the accused. Suspects who face the death sentence will be judged by a court presided over by a general; in cases involving lesser penalties, lower ranking officers may preside. According to the Ministry of Justice, the military trial system will permit "more rapid and efficient repression of subversive crimes, and with the necessary severity." (COMMENT: Essentially the law expands the authority ^{given} ~~and extends the jurisdiction of~~ ~~legislation to~~ ^{to} of the military courts martial system which was

authorized to try civilians on subversive charges by the military govt shortly after the March coup. It also appears to be an effort to streamline and quicken the judicial process in subversive cases, which have frequently dragged on in civilian criminal courts for years.)

4. Two other laws concerning trial procedures for subversive crimes were also approved recently (Nov. 19). Law 21.459 amends the national security law 20.840 of September 1974, providing for stiffer sentences for a number of crimes against national security, including illegal labor activity and publishing houses that print subversive material. Law 21.460 authorizes the Armed Forces and security forces to investigate crimes of a subversive nature through a summary pretrial. The law gives security personnel express authority to arrest persons who appear to be implicated in subversive crimes and to collect evidence for presentation to a pretrial judge, who will be an officer assigned by the police or military branch investigating the specific crime. The judge is to make a preliminary finding on the case, order the release or detention of the accused, and refer the case to the area military commander who will forward it to the appropriate court. Significantly, the law holds that the testimony and other proof gathered during the summary pretrial will have "full probatory value without any need for confirmation and as long as there is no proof to the contrary."

(COMMENT: For the most part, the foregoing law simply

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~~Legislation~~ legitimizes what the security forces have been doing all along in investigation of subversive crimes, i.e. arresting suspects and conducting searches without warrants, etc. The summary pretrial ~~provides a loss of legality on the practice of~~ provides legal backing for the current holding suspected subversives without charge (and often without admitting it or informing the family) while the investigation goes on. The "preventative arrest" stage now becomes the more respectable "summary pretrial" stage. More disturbing is the final provision of the law ~~which~~ concerning evidence and testimony collected during the pretrial. How secret this information will be and how it may be used in subsequent trials remain to be seen.)

5. Army Colonel Leonard Roberto d'Amico was killed yesterday (Dec. 1) in a terrorist ambush in Buenos Aires as he was taking his two children to school. His driver was badly injured in the attack by eight armed gunmen, according to police reports. Two civilians were killed and several others wounded in a shootout in a crowded bus in Santa Fe yesterday as police chased after three terrorists who attempted to throw a hand grenade out of the bus.

6. A total of 130 suspected subversives were officially reported killed in confrontations with security forces during the month of November. About 100 were killed in the La Plata area alone. Seven persons, including four who were identified in an army communique as being the top leaders of a Montonero cell in La

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Classification

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
(Formerly FS-41)
January 1961
Dept. of State

Plata, were killed in that city on Nov. 22. According to the communique, the military operation uncovered considerable quantities of firearms, explosives and ammunition and effectively destroyed the terrorist group's operational capability.

7. A woman was injured Nov. 24 when a bomb she was carrying exploded prematurely in her hands in the Colon Opera House. She was apparently attempting to throw the bomb on stage during an opera performance. Police arrested the woman. The same day a man was injured when a bomb he was carrying blew up in his face in the downtown banking district.

8. An army communique released Nov. 26 in Mar del Plata listed 59 "fugitives" who were being sought for subversive crimes and asked the local population to assist the security forces in their arrest.

9. Foreign refugees continue to leave Argentina at the rate of 250 to 300 a month, according to the Inter-Governmental Committee on European Immigration (ICEM). UNHCR officials told Emboffs last week (Nov. 22) that it had approximately 1,200 visa offers including now those from the US, remaining, but that there are still about 10,000 refugees anxious to resettle outside Argentina. There have been no reported attacks against refugee groups in recent months.

10. GOA has extended the two month deadline for illegal aliens to register with immigration authorities. Foreign Ministry official told Emboff Nov. 30 that less than 1,000 have registered so far (out of an estimated 500,000--most of them migrant workers).

Although the penalty for non-registration was not specified, the official reiterated GOA policy not to forceably repatriate asylees who are in Argentina for political reasons.

11. The Argentine Supreme Court on Nov. 16 ruled that the Institutional Act suspending the constitutional right to opt to leave the country is valid. In rejecting an appeal by Maria Cristina Ercoli to exercise her right of option, the court stated that the "principles, guarantees and rights recognized by the Constitution are not absolute and, as long as they are not altered substantially, are subject to the laws that regulate their implementation." (COMMENT: The principle that decree-laws of de facto governments supersede previous legislation and even the Constitution is generally accepted and has been upheld by the courts in the past. However, this is the first occasion that the Supreme Court has formally reaffirmed the principle since the Armed Forces took over the govt in March.)

CHAPLIN *me*

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TELEGRAM

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FROM

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

XGDS-2

SHUM PINT UK AR

Congressman Drinan's Visit to Argentina: GOA Security Forces
Surveillance of Amnesty International Delegation

ACTION:

SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO:

AMEMBASSY LONDON

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES

7935

Ref: BA 7512

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1. Both Amnesty International (AI) group and British and American Embassy escort officers were aware of intensive GOA escort - surveillance effort during visit Nov 6-15 of AI delegation, of which Cong. Drinan was member. Aspects of this were reported to addressees during visit.

2. We have copy of a clandestine newsletter, which has been circulating in Buenos Aires for some weeks, which purports to draw upon sources within the Federal Police for its detailed report of the surveillance. Newsletter is poor quality flysheet attributed to "Agencia de Noticias Clandestina - ANCIA" (Clandestine News Agency), which is mailed to embassies, news agencies, newspapers, etc. While newsletter has not yet identified its publishers, it is widely assumed that it is issued by one of the leftist extremist guerrilla organizations.

DRAFTED BY:

DRAFTING DATE

TEL. EXT.

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

POL:RSS Steven:JR POL:AD Smith

12/3/76

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POLCOUN:RSS Smith

CLEARANCES:

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DCM: MChaplin

12/5

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL FORM 153
(Formerly FS-413)
January 1975
Dept. of State

probably the Montoneros. Its content varies from general political commentary to detailed descriptions of alleged security forces abuses. While we cannot yet judge its degree of accuracy and "honesty," the information contained in recent issue No. 126 dated Nov. 25 concerning AI visit could only have come from sources within the security forces or from very close surveillance of the visit by the extremists themselves, the latter unlikely in view of the swarms of police around the AI group.

3. ANCLIA claims that Federal Police mounted one of largest intelligence operations on record during AI visit, which police entitled "Operations Christmas". According to ANCLIA, the group's hotel rooms were monitored for sound, telephones tapped, and rooms entered by police in absence of visitors to search belongings and photograph documents. Each was followed on excursions from hotel, and all activities and contacts noted. Newsletter records report of surveillance of Ms. Feeney during her visit to restaurant where she met contact, etc. ANCLIA also records alleged police reports of addresses of houses visited by AI members, various of their movements, visits to press, etc. Sample of police radio dialogue is reported, which could have come from police documents or from monitoring. Accuracy is indicated by statement that Drinan and Feeney visited certain street address in suburbs; number given is that of garage entrance of Emboff's home where Drinan

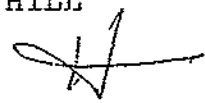
and Feeney were guests for Sunday afternoon lunch. Emboff was not rpt not named, however, nor was address otherwise identified. ANCIA noted presence in area of "Dodge 1500 with diplomatic plates...being used by Naval Intelligence for surveillance." Auto was present, but it was security vehicle of this Embassy occupied by contract guards. Very heavy and very obvious police protection/surveillance was observed at time by Emboffs, and pictures were taken by telephoto lens of Drinan and Feeney entering and leaving home.

4. COMMENT: AI visitors were well aware of police protection - surveillance at time, and at one point Ms. Feeney remarked with pride on evasion maneuver she had used to complicate job of police agents following her. However, they continued to meet both "open" contacts such as newspaper editors and diplomats, and "private" contacts such as human rights complainants, in circumstances which invited the most casual observation and possible police retaliation (i.e. interview and supplying of money to Josefa Martinez in hotel lobby in Cordoba).

5. While we cannot be certain that the charges of telephone tapping, sound monitoring and entering of rooms are true, we and British Embassy consider such actions on the part of the police to have been highly likely. Blatent surveillance activity as distinct from protection appears to contradict apparent intention of GOA to let AI visit and take away best possible impression, but it reflects contradictions

previously noted in other GOA treatment of visit. While Fon Ministry and some parts of Min Interior made what seemed to be sincere efforts to cooperate, provide information and leave good impression, official news agency TELAM led smear campaign against AI in general and visitors in particular. Police evidently took opportunity to monitor visitors both to establish with whom they talked and what about, and probably to intimidate some of those who might have wanted to approach the AI group, not caring whether or not such activity might prejudice AI visitors.

6. ANCLA newsletter is available to news agencies, etc., and this information may be reported to press abroad. We see no apparent objection to informally briefing Drinan on ANCLA report, but leave decision to discretion Dept. We understand British Embassy has sent similar report to London.


CHAZZIXX HILL


CONTROL: 7971
7 DEC 76 1625

TELEGRAM

INDICATE
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☐ CHARGE TO

E.O. 11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:

FROM

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ACTION:

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO:

AMEMBASSY GENEVA

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 7971

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Forn Ministry official told Emboff today (Dec. 7) that four man delegation of the International Red Cross had recently arrived in Argentina for three month observation trip. Group has already been received by President Videla and will visit entire country, including jails, official said. Visit is being kept strictly confidential at the wish of the delegation. Official added that OAS human rights group has not asked to make a visit but would be welcome to do so at any time.

HILL

109-812-103

DRAFTED BY:

POL:YThayer:jr

DRAFTING DATE

12/8/76

TEL. EXT.

121

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

POICOUNS:W3Smith

CLEARANCES:

DCM:MChaplin

(IN Draft 12/8)

DEC 8 1976

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CLASSIFICATION

CONTROLS 8035
10 DEC 76 XE 1708

TELEGRAM

INDICATE
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☐ CHARGE TO

FROM

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

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E.O. 11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:

NA
SHUM AR
Argentine Lawyer Angel Bustelo

ACTION:

SECSTATE WASHDC

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 8035

REF: STATE 293177

Embassy files have no information on status of Argentine national
Angel Bustelo.

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12/10/76

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CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:
POLCOUNS:WSSmith

CLEARANCES:

DCM:MChaplin

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CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL FORM 107
(FORM 107-100)

CONTROL: 8639
10 DEC 76 1815

TELEGRAM

INDICATE
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☐ CHARGE TO

FROM

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

E.O. 11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:

NA

SHUM PINS AR

Josefa Martinez Freed; Letelier Sotomayer, Others Expelled.

ACTION:

SECSTATE WASHDC

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 8639

REF: a) BA 7606; b) State 298736

1. Form Ministry human rights working group informed Emboff today (Dec. 10) that Josefa Martinez has been freed. He gave no further details. (reftel A).
2. British Embassy told Emboff today that Sergio Letelier Sotomayer left for London November 30 (reftel B). An expulsion order (apparently the second) was signed around Nov. 18. He has gone to England on a World University Organizations scholarship.
3. The Interior Ministry yesterday released the names of 198 detainees who as of October are no longer being held by the Executive under state of siege provisions. The list includes the names of 13 foreigners--6 Chileans, 2 Paraguayans, a Mexican, a Bulgarian, a Peruvian, an Uruguayan and a Spanish ex-priest--who were expelled from the country in October. The communique did not specify whether the others have been released or were still facing

102-812-105

DRAFTED BY:

POL:YHaver:jr

DRAFTING DATE

12/10/76

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CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

POLCOUNS:WSSmith

CLEARANCES:

DCM:MChaplin

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~
CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL FORM 10
(Form 10 FS-10)
January 1960
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

criminal charges. ~~Embassy, such as familiar with names of~~
~~detainees, but is pouching list to Department.~~ However,
call to Human Rights Working Group at FonMinistry by Emboff
brought assurance that at most only "one or two percent" of
those on the list could still be held for processing by
military or ~~xi~~ civil ~~ixg~~ courts: "the rest are on the
street," according to the Ministry. We were also informed
that another 300 detainees are to be released very soon, and
that a total of some 500 may be freed before end of year.
We do not recognize any names on list which are ~~are~~ familiar
to us as of American interest, but are pouching list to
ARA/EC.

HILL (CLEARED BY PHONE)

TELEGRAM

CONTIN: 0259

TO: 100-44

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INDICATE
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☐ CHARGE TO

FROM

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

E.O. 11652:
 TAGS:
 SUBJECT:

NA
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 Human Rights Roundup No. 7

ACTION:

SECSTATE WASHDC

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 8239

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1. The Executive will release 400 more persons detained on subver-
 sion charges before the end of the year, according to Interior
 Minister Harguindeguy in a magazine interview published this week.
 In his prepared answer to a questionnaire published in Discussion,
 Harguindeguy also said that a list of 200 detainees freed in
 November will be released soon. Together with the 200 freed in
 October, the total released in the last three months of 1976 will be
 800, he said. (Comment: The November list he referred to has not
 yet appeared.)

2. The Argentine Episcopal Conference has asked President Videla to
 give "favorable consideration" to persons imprisoned in Argentina
 during this Christmas season, it was announced Dec. 16. The note,
 together with his personal appeal, was delivered to Videla by
 Conference President Cardinal Primatesta at a meeting Dec. 8. On
 the subject of human rights, Videla told journalists on Dec. 16

DRAFTED BY:

POL:YTayer:jr

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12/20/76

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109-812-106
 CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

POLCOUNS:WSSmith

CLEARANCES:

POL/R:DSmock (in draft)
 LEGATT:RScherrer (in draft)

DECLASSIFIED
 BY: MChapman
 DATE: 12/21/76

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL FORM 107
 (Formerly FS-107)
 January 1976
 Dep. of State

that, although the anti-guerrilla war would continue until subversion was annihilated, it was necessary, in continuing the war, to take into consideration respect for human rights. If not, Videla said, "we lose sight of one of the ~~principles~~ principal reasons we are fighting the war, which is the defense and dignity of man." Videla has also sent a message congratulating Pope Paul for his Dec. 14 papal peace message, the press reported yesterday (Dec. 19). In his message, Videla described the arduous government effort to eliminate unjust aggression. "We are determined to win the peace and reorganize a community on the spiritual foundations upon which the nation was built. The decisive battle has been won but the fight continues to construct the peace." Videla assured the Pope his peace message "would not fall upon deaf ears."

3. Police released two of the four priests arrested in the Nov. 29 raid on San Miguel school, according to the Catholic news agency Dec. 15. The two were Ignacio Racedo Aragon, Father-Superior of the Lourdes order which runs the church and school, and Andres Baque. It was also reported Dec. 18 that the Foreign Ministry (which handles relations with the Church in Argentina) has replied to a formal request by Archbishop Aramburu for a report on the raid and the evidence against the priests. Contents of the Ministry's report were not revealed.

4. Two professors charged in an ideological infiltration plot in Bahia Blanca were cleared by a federal judge Dec. 16. The two had been indicted for indoctrinating students in leftist

ideology at the University of the South in Bahia Blanca. In his decision, the judge said the indictment should not affect the honor and good name of the men cleared.

5. A special court martial set up under the Fifth Army Corps in Bahia Blanca on Dec. 16 has tried three persons identified as members of the Peronist Armed Forces (FAP). Two were sentenced to 18 months for possession of firearms and inciting public disturbance; the other to 6 months as accessory. Apparently this is the first special military tribunal established to try civilians for subversive crimes since the Nov. 29 law authorizing their creation by military commanders was passed. (Comment: The sentences imposed were considerably lighter than those permitted by law, which provides for sentences of up to eight years for disturbing public order and possession.)

6. Police are seeking ~~sociologist~~ sociologist Jose Luis Dios, an advisor in the Defense Ministry's planning department, for the bombing there on Dec. 15 in which 11 persons were killed. Dios had worked in the office since 1969. According to press reports, Dios was known to be a Peronist and extremist since 1973 but had "inexplicably escaped successive purges" of his Defense office. Reportedly he left a briefcase containing the bomb in the cinema and then disappeared.

7. Permanent Assembly of Human Rights has asked President Videla to release a list of persons detained, their whereabouts and charges against them in a paper presented to Videla earlier this week, according to La Nacion Dec. 15. The paper notes that

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~
Classification

OPTIONAL FORM 1072
(Formerly FS 110)
January 1975
Dept. of C.

the restoration of peace is not only hampered by the war against subversion but also by persons who convoke ideological confrontations. It mentions thousands of letters received by the Assembly relating to cases of disappearances, torture, robbery during security raids, detention without charge and says that the lack of information from official sources is creating an atmosphere of terror and insecurity.

8. The Delegation of Argentine-Israeli Associations (DAIA), the Argentina-Israel Mutual Association, and the director of the National Immigration Service celebrated the contribution of Jewish immigrants in Argentina at a Dec. 15 program commemorating the 100-year anniversary of the Colonization and Immigration law. In his speech, DAIA president ~~Resnaisky~~ ^{Resnaisky} warned against distortions in the name of nationalism, saying it is "criminal to incite Argentines to civil war as do those who produce racist publications."

10. Argentina has agreed to accept a resident delegation of the International Red Cross and its program of humanitarian assistance for detainees, according to a report in La Razon Dec. 15.

President Videla told visiting IRC President Alexander Hay that the Red Cross could organize whatever assistance program it wanted, particularly on behalf of detainees. The report noted that Uruguay refused to accept the IRC program.

HILL

cleared by phone

CONTACT: 8297
23 DEC 76 1052

TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

ACTION:

NA

SHUM PINS AR

GO A Frees 541 from Executive Power, Expells Others

SECSTATE WASHDC

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 8297

REF: Buenos Aires 8039

1. The Executive yesterday (Dec. 22) published a list of 541 detainees who since Nov. 1 are no longer being held at the disposition of the Executive under state of siege provisions. According to press reports, this brings to 1,423 the number of detainees released from Executive power since March 24. It is not known, however, how many of these have actually been released or how many remain jailed facing criminal charges. The names listed are not familiar to Embassy as American ^{interest} cases, although several are labor leaders known to Labatt. A quick perusal of list shows several names have appeared on earlier list sent to Dept. under cover of Smith-Rondon O-I on Nov. 23 (see septel). Embassy is pouching list to ARA/EC.

2. The communique also listed 18 foreigners who have been expelled from Nov. 1 to Dec. 22. The names include seven Chileans, three Uruguayans, two Bolivians, two Paraguayans, two Spaniards (one an

109-812-107

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DRAFTED BY:

POL:YThayer:jr

DRAFTING DATE

12/23/76

TEL. EXT.

121

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

POLCOUNS:WSSmith

CLEARANCES:

DCM:MChaplin

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CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL FORM NO.
(GPO: 1964 O-344-1)
JAN 1977
Rev. 1-77

ex-priest), one Egyptian and one German. Uruguayan Senator Enrique Erro, who we reported was expelled on Nov. 3, and Chilean Sergio Edgardo Muñoz Martinez were the two familiar names on this list. (Sêrgio Muñoz was subject of John Russell letter of Feb. 6 and Judith Kahane letter of March 29.) Although the press gives the total of foreigners expelled as 114 since March 24, six of the names published in yesterday's list (which was to cover Nov. 1 to Dec. 22) also appeared on the list of 13 foreigners expelled in October, including Spanish ex-priest. (See reftel.) Whether GOA's publishing the same names twice to swell the number of expellees and of detainees was intentional or a misinterpretation of the press, we do not know.

3. COMMENT: A number of persons known to Embassy--including Emilio Mignone and wife of Physicist J. C. Gallardo--must be disappointed as they had informed Emboffs earlier they had hopes of seeing their relatives freed during the Christmas "amnesty." Mrs. Gallardo visited Embassy last week (Dec. 17) to inform us that her husband had received job offer from a New York State University and had initiated steps to petition Interior Ministry to leave the country. This is first petition case known to Embassy. We will report developments as they become known.

HILL

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CONTROL: 8103

30 DEC 76 1243

TELEGRAM

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FROM AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES	CLASSIFICATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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E.O. 11652: N/A
 TAGS: SHUM, AR
 SUBJECT: Human Rights Round-up No. 8

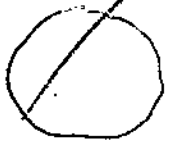
ACTION: SecState WASHDC

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 8403

REF: Buenos Aires 8239

1. The Catholic Information Service has announced that the last two priests of the four detained in the San Miguel raid earlier this month were released December 24 (see reftel); one of them, Father Bernardo Cano Feijoo, flew to Paris last night (Dec 29). According to Church sources, there are now no priests or members of religious organizations in detention in Argentina. (A group calling itself the Parent's Union of San Miguel School published a statement Dec 21 accusing the San Miguel priests of teaching leftist ideology in the school. On Dec 24 the Lourdes Order, which runs the school, denied the charges and accused the parents' group of slander and "attempting to provoke a crisis between the Church and State.")

2. According to La Opinion Dec 28, the three children, four nieces and sister-in-law of slain ERP leader Mario Santucho



PP 1+V

DRAFTED BY: FOL:YThayer:mg	DRAFTING DATE 12/30/76	TEL. EXT. 121	CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: FOL:WSSmith
CLEARANCES:		JAN 1 1977 AMB:RCHill DCM:MChaplin LEGAL ATTACHE - BUENOS AIRES	

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

left for Cuba on Dec 27. The Santucho family had sought asylum in the Cuban Embassy several months earlier. We are still trying to verify the names of the Santuchos who departed, as it is possible one of them is Manuela Santucho, who has been subject of U.S. interest.

3. A federal appeals court upheld the constitutional right of the government to hold people indefinitely under the State of Siege in a decision published Dec 21. In refusing a writ of habeas corpus for Santiago and Adolpho Chouhy, who were detained by decree on June 1, the judge ruled that their detention period was so far not excessive nor did it constitute a denial of constitutional guarantees. The judge also observed that although the Executive enjoyed extraordinary powers during State of Siege, the justice system also had the responsibility to analyze and rule on State of Siege measures adopted by the government. (It should be noted that both Santiago and Adolfo Chouhy were on the Dec 23 list of persons liberated from the disposition of the Executive which may or may not indicate that a habeas corpus attempt--even if refused--may do some good anyway.)

4. A new list of 123 detainees who are no longer being held at the disposition of the Executive was published today (Dec 30). With this list--the third this month--papers report that 1,660 persons have been released from Executive power since March 24. A number in the latest list had been detained under State of Siege since 1974, according to La Opinion. The paper did not

identify the names, however. The press also reported that the Interior Ministry has decided to release a weekly list of persons freed from Executive power and names of persons who are being detained under State of Siege provisions. (So far, the Ministry has never published lists of persons being held under State of Siege or the charges against them.)

5. The Embassy does not recognize names on the latest list, which is being pouched to ARA/ECA. However, sources report that three refugees named on the Dec 23 liberated (from Executive power) list have not yet reappeared. We are seeking to identify more of the names and the significance of the lists.. Whether the Interior Ministry's plan to release weekly lists of names will fully clear up the mystery of those disappeared and detained remains to be seen, although the decision is certainly a step in the right direction.


HILL

CONTROL: 0025
3 JAN 77 1710

TELEGRAM

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FROM: AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES
CLASSIFICATION: ~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, AR
SUBJECT: ~~XXXX~~ Human Rights: Press Release on Human Rights Report

ACTION: SecState WASHDC PRIORITY

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 0025

REF: State 314178

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SCIAT
RF
CHRON

Local reaction to congressional publication of human rights report on Argentina has been limited so far to printing of Since it too early for editorial reaction. wire service reports from the U. S. / Minor or inside page headlines in major papers are innocuous, however, effectively concealing substance of story: La Nacion headlined "Future Policy of U. S. Toward Various Countries," and la Prensa said "New Legislative Session in U.S." The liberal and human rights-oriented BA Herald headlined quote from story "Aid Should Continue." "La Opinion" gave fuller description of report, but ~~There is no editorial comment on this story.~~ also headlined fact that continuation of aid was recommended.

HILL

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JAN 4 1977

DRAFTED BY: DRAFTING DATE: TEL. EXT.: CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

POL:RSSteven:mg

1/3/77

121

A/POLCOUNS:AGFreeman

CLEARANCES:

USIS:KRay

DCM:MChaplin
Amb: RChill

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OPTIONAL FORM 153
(Formerly FS-412)
January 1976
Dept. of State

3 JAN 77 1755

TELEGRAM

INDICATE

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FROM

AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

E.O. 11652:

N/A

TAGS:

SHUM, PFOR, AR

SUBJECT:

Human Rights: Draft Unclassified Report to Congress in Connection
with Security Assistance Presentation

ACTION:

SecState WASHDC

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 0030

FOR ARA/ECA

REF:

Letter dated December 15, 1976 from Rondon to Ambassador Hill

1. Letter not received here until December 29.
2. We have following comments only on proposed statement:
 - a) Page 4, second line - Suggest change of first full sentence to "In August 1976, the Argentine Government reaffirmed the ban on the Witnesses which has legally existed since 1950, and moved to enforce it."
 - b) Page 4, last sentence of Part III - Strike "some labor unions" and replace with "the largest and most important labor unions."
 - c) Page 5, last sentence - Suggest change to "In December 1976, Freedom House listed Argentina as 'not free'." (This has been reported in press here. We have not yet seen Freedom House report and Dept should of course verify.)

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HILL *H*

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POL:RSSSteven:mg

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1/3/77

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A/POLCOUNS:AGF: [Signature]

CLEARANCES:

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AMB:RCHill *me*DCM:MChaplin *me*

LEGAL ATTACHE - BUENOS AIRES

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TELEGRAM

CONTROL: 0149

7 Jan 77

1635

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FROM

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

ACTION:

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PINT SHUM AR

Human Rights Working Group and US Interest Cases

SECSTATE WASHDC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 0149

REF: (a) Buenos Aires 7429, (b) Buenos Aires 8297

1. Counselor Edgardo Flores, a career diplomat, has recently come to the Foreign Ministry's human rights working group from his former post in Switzerland. Flores served a total of six years in the US in the early 1960s, four in the Argentine Embassy in Washington, and two in the consulate in New York. He has two children born in the US. Flores' English is excellent, although our discussions are held in Spanish. Captain Roberto Seisdedos has now proceeded to his new command in Trelew and, according to Flores, will not be replaced by a Navy (or other military) officer in the working group. The group is now headed by Counselor Juan Carlos Arlia, another career diplomat. The working group is located in office of Under Secretary Allara, and is probably to be overseen by Navy Captain Santoianmi of the Under Secretary's staff.

2. In two meetings with Emboffs, Flores has been friendly and

pp3+4

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POL:YThayer:jr

DRAFTING DATE

1/7/76

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CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

A/POLOWS:AGF

CLEARANCES:

CONS:GWhitman (in draft)

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JAN 10 1977

BUENOS AIRES

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CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL FORM 103
(Form 10-41C)
January 1975
Dept. of State

correct; also increasingly frank about the limitations on what information he is able to get from the Interior Ministry in answer to informal Embassy inquiries. On ~~Today~~ (Jan. 6) he informed Emboff that due to its heavy workload the Interior Ministry is no longer able to make checks on cases without more detailed information, i.e. the full name, birth date, address, identification card number, parents' names and address, if known, etc. Without refusing to take names lacking the additional information, Flores indicated that it is doubtful the Interior Ministry could or would ~~xxx~~ take the time to run checks.

3. In answer to general questions asked in a previous meeting, Flores said that the Interior Ministry does not intend to inform foreign embassies of the specific charges against Argentine citizens being held under the state of siege. Anyway, he remarked, in most cases the answer would only be that the person is being held on suspicion of committing acts against the national security (subversive acts or affiliation).

Flores also said that the Interior Ministry would not reveal the names of those on the "Christmas lists" who have actually been released or of those who have been turned over to the courts to answer civil or criminal charges. As the Ministry of Justice is responsible for civil and criminal proceedings, Flores said, relatives would have to query the Justice Ministry for information on specific cases. (Embassy continues to seek information on the significance of these lists, but we increasingly

hear allegations that a large number of those appearing on these lists have not returned to their homes and we are only aware of a few who have been remanded to the normal judicial process.)

4. Flores also advised that the Interior Ministry does not intend to "facilitate" access of foreign consular officials to detainees in the case of third-country nationals and Argentines. The issue arose during an earlier discussion about the parole program: whether consular officers would be able to interview detained refugees who might potentially be considered for parole into the US either in jail or some other location. The question is also pertinent to the new program of the Interior Ministry to allow detained Argentines to petition to leave the country if accepted by a foreign country. (We have several cases--Juan Carlos Gallardo, Juan Mendez, Dora Goldfarb--in which the family has asked whether the Embassy could provide a visa should their relative be authorized to leave the country. The Embassy was interested in knowing how the required visa interview might take place, since the detainee would probably not be released from jail to make a personal appearance to the consular officer. Although we have no test cases yet, it appears that the Interior Ministry does not intend to simplify the problem of access should such a case arise.)

5. On Antonio Missetich ~~(xxxx)~~, Flores said the Argentine Embassy's reply was in error, that Missetich was not in the

k

hands of the Executive and had, in fact, disappeared. The Argentine Ambassador has received instructions to correct any misunderstandings on this case, he said.

6. Flores said the status of Juan Mendez was unchanged (reftel yesterday)
A). (Embassy heard from Mendez' father ~~xxxx~~/morning that a decree authorizing him to leave the country lacked only the President's signature. See septel.)

On Jan. 6
7./Embassy ~~today~~ asked for information on Claudia Ines Peiro,
Mr. and Mrs. Americo Delia Sady, Angel Bustalo, Edmundo and
Susanna Szapiro, and Miguel Angel Poinsteau (Amcit mother).

From Flores' discussion, Embassy does not expect replies will be forthcoming unless more identification can be obtained.

on Jan. 6
8. Juan Mendez' father told Emboff ~~today~~/that he received letter from Cong. Koch in December saying Koch and group of congressmen intend to submit a bill when January session opens requesting expansion of parole program to include Argentine citizens.

Embassy would appreciate learning of further developments.

9. Embassy has learned from wife of Juan Carlos Gallardo, who we note is subject of considerable Department communication, that Professor Gallardo is currently being held in Sierra Chica prison in Buenos Aires province, that she has visited him and he wishes to go to US, and that he has submitted petition to leave the country (see reftel B).

10. COMMENT: In view of Flores' comments, Embassy would appreciate an effort to obtain identification information on each case submitted for inquiry.

~~HILL~~

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OPTIONAL FORM 100-10
(Formerly FS-410) 1-5
January 1973
Dept. of State

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 09-25-2017 BY: C32W33B91

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TO : See Distribution Below

DATE: Jan. 7, 1977

FROM : DCM:Maxwell Chaplin

SUBJECT: Human Rights Representations Report

Attached is the form the Embassy intends to use in preparing a chronological record of human rights representations. Please follow this form--date, reference, principals and topics--in submitting your own list. The reference will refer to the cable, memcon, letter, OI, briefing or other record of the conversation; if there is no written record mark down "no record". Where more than one Embassy officer is present at the same discussion, all the names can appear in the same entry. These lists are classified ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~. Submit written reports to POL by January 11. Thank you.

Distribution:

POL:WSSmith
ECOM:JCAmott
POL/R:DLSmock
CONS:GOHuey
ADMIN:CEEhmons
USIS:HMcIWoodward
SCI:RHWilcox
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DAO:Col.PACoughlin
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A/POICOUNS:AGFreeman

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5010-112

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Am. Hill

December 15, 1976

TO: Mr. Bray

FROM: ARA/ECA: Fernando Rondon

SUBJECT: ARGENTINA: Record of Human Rights Representations

Based on my files, I have developed the following chronology of human rights representations involving Department officials and Argentine officials. This is at best a partial record because human rights concerns are discussed almost daily between the Argentine Desk and the Argentine Embassy. We are of course endeavoring to record significant conversations more faithfully.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>REFERENCE</u>	<u>PRINCIPALS AND TOPICS</u>
5/27	State 131390 5/27	Deputy Assistant Secretary Ryan and Ambassador Vazquez discuss political violence, disappearances, and refugee murders.
6/17	State 161482 6/29	Assistant Secretary Shlaudeman raises human rights concerns with Argentine Minister of Economy Martinez de Hoz.
7/22	State 181977 7/23	Assistant Secretary Shlaudeman raises refugee kidnappings with Ambassador Musich.
8/5	No record.	Director of East Coast Affairs Zimmermann reviews human rights issues with Ambassador Musich.
8/12	State 200962 8/12	Deputy Assistant Secretary Ryan protests to Ambassador Musich failure of Argentine Government to grant consular access to Father James Weeks.
8/16	No record.	Director of East Coast Affairs Zimmermann discusses Weeks/Lopez cases with Argentine Ambassador Musich at Uruguayan reception.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>REFERENCE</u>	<u>PRINCIPALS AND TOPICS</u>
10/6	Memcon 10/6	Acting Secretary and Assistant Secretary Shlaudeman discuss human rights problems with Foreign Minister Guzzetti.
10/7	Memcon & State 251484 10/9 EXDIS	Secretary notes desirability of human rights improvements to Foreign Minister Guzzetti.
10/15	Off the re- cord briefing.	Argentine desk officer Rondon briefs Argentine Army War College on seriousness of human rights interest in U.S. and potential effect on bilateral relations.
10/27	State 265565 10/28	Deputy Assistant Secretary Bray hands protest note to Ambassador Musich over treatment of Gwenda Mae Loken Lopez.
11/19	Memcon 11/19	Deputy Assistant Secretary Bray discusses impact of human rights on bilateral relations with Argentine Charge Prat Guy.
12/8	Rondon-Hill OI of 12/13	Argentine desk officer Rondon raises human rights issues with Argentine Assistant Army Attache, Lt.Col. Rodriguez.

cc: Ambassador Hill
Mr. Lister
Mr. Zimmermann

CONTROL: 0102
5 JAN 77 1731

TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM

AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 11652:

GDS

TAGS:

SREF, PROR, AR, BR

SUBJECT:

Argentine Request for Political Asylum

ACTION:

SecState WASHDC

INFO:

AmEmbassy BRASILIA

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 0102

REF:

Brasilia 0069

AMB
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POL-3
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USIS
USDAO
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LEGAT
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CHRON

Although Embassy ventures no recommendation on Argentine national Foche's request for political asylum (which most likely would have been turned down here under U.S. policy pursuit of hot ~~policy~~ had the request been made), it is true that his association with the Peronist Youth Movement makes his situation here extremely precarious. Argentine authorities are cracking down increasingly hard in their attempt to wipe out all traces of subversive sentiment, and are known to have rearrested persons under state of siege provisions in the past. Embassy has had no legitimate requests for political asylum from Argentine nationals under this government and is not aware that such an appeal would be known to GOA authorities nor that it would jeopardize the person's safety. However,

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POL:YThayer:mg

DRAFTING DATE

1/5/76

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CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

A/POLCOUNS:AGFreeman

CLEARANCES:

CONS:GWhitman in draft)

AMB:RCHill

DCM:MChaplin

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P 2 of 2

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it is not inconceivable that such a request could have adverse implications should it become known to authorities.

HILL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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OPTIONAL FORM 102a-1
(Formerly, FD-413 Rev.
January, 1965)
Dept. of State

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

CONTROL: 0458

19 JAN 77

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FROM

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

ACTION:

NA
SHUM, PINS, AR
Human Rights Round-Up No. 9

SECSTATE WASHDC

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 0458

76
REF: Buenos Aires 8403

1. On January 14, the Interior Ministry for the first time released a list of 37 people who had been arrested and detained by the Executive under state of siege provisions from January 1-14. At the same time it released the names of 25 more persons who were released from Executive disposition as of January 7 and of two Chileans who have been ordered expelled from the country. (Names of 27 more persons released from the Executive from Dec 29 to Jan 6 were published Jan 8. The majority of them had been connected to the former provincial government of Entre Rios. * Dora Goldfarb's husband Pedro Transito Lucero was also on list.) Embassy is pouching both lists to ARA/EC. The publication of the lists was anticipated Dec 30 when the press reported that the Interior Ministry would begin releasing weekly lists of persons freed from Executive power as well as those being detained under

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DRAFTED BY:

POL:YThayer/jr

DRAFTING DATE

1/18/77

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FILED COMINS. WSSmith

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POL:RSSteven
USIS:MO'Brien

JAN 20 1977 Chaplin

LEGAL ATTACHE - BUENOS AIRES

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

RENEGAULT

CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL FORM 152(H)
(Formerly FC-413(H))
January 1975

state of siege. This first list included only those arrested and listed as formally detained under Executive power during the first two weeks of 1977; the status of others detained under state of siege from 1974 through 1976 ~~has not been published.~~ The list of Executive detainees did not, however, contain the names of other persons known to have been picked up by police or unidentified groups during the same two-week period. One case is that of journalist Ricardo Angel Gilabert who was held incommunicado by the Army from Jan 9 to 15. Two other persons reported to have disappeared during that period whose names were not on the Ministry list were Prof. Mauricio Lopez, who was taken by nine hooded men from his home in Mendoza Jan 1, and Jorge Pablo Svartzman, who was picked up by three armed men in civilian dress on Jan 14. The Interior Ministry's decision to publish lists of new Executive detainees appears to be a positive development which should help alleviate doubts about the fate of some persons picked up by authorities. However, the lists will not account for those who are held incommunicado by police or other independently acting authorities or for those who are mysteriously kidnapped by unidentified groups.

2. Prensa Libre Editor Ricardo Bach Cano was released after eight days in Federal Police headquarters on order from Interior Minister Harguindeguy Dec 31. Bach Cano had been taken from his office on Dec 22 by four men dressed in civilian clothes who identified themselves as police officers. Although his

family reported him "missing," Bach Cano later described his detention as an authentic arrest and said he was treated well. He said no explanation was given for his arrest except for a warning that "nothing which foments division within the Armed Forces would be allowed." The warning apparently referred to a story published in Prensa Libre (a pro-Fascist newspaper) on rumored divisions within the Armed Forces (similar stories appeared in La Opinion and the BA Herald.) (Another unsubstantiated version of Bach Cano's detention holds that it was planned and performed in order to restore Bach Cano's independent "credentials" within journalistic circles. Bach Cano and his paper are reportedly in the pay of right-wing elements in the military.)

3. A powerful bomb exploded in an unoccupied cinema in Cordoba Friday (Jan 12) heavily damaging the cinema and some 80 adjacent stores in a shopping arcade. There were no casualties. The cinema had been running the film "Victory at Entebbe" for three weeks, prompting some newspapers to report the bombing as an anti-Semitic attack and link it to a robbery the night before in the Israeli Bank in Cordoba. Government authorities are investigating the bombing, but have reported no information as of yet. Today's La Opinion (Jan 18) attributed the attack to anti-Semitic right-wing extremists and, after calling for a complete investigation and clarification of the bombing incident, made the observation that until now authorities have never revealed the

results of earlier investigations or arrests of extremists responsible for right-wing violence in 1976.

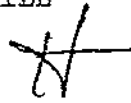
5. A bomb exploded in a Jewish school in downtown Buenos Aires Jan 7, causing no injuries and only minor damages. It was the first reported anti-Semitic attack in Buenos Aires in more than three months. La Opinion (Jan 16) reported that a rash of anti-Semitic literature had moved from Buenos Aires and was now appearing on news stands in La Plata.

6. Directors of the Delegation of Argentine-Israeli Associations called on the French Ambassador to Argentina Jan 15 to protest the release of Palestinian terrorist Abu Daud. The group released a statement expressing the profound dismay of the Argentine Jewish community and warned that France was putting itself in future danger from terrorist groups.

7. Four members of the ERP received sentences of 17 and 20 years for illegal possession of arms and ammunition and possession of illegal documents by a Federal judge in Tucuman Jan 11. The four were arrested in May 1974 while transporting military equipment to a terrorist training camp in Tucuman. In another case, a Federal criminal court overturned a lower court's verdict and acquitted Juan Alfredo Palmerio of illegal possession of weapons. Palmerio had been arrested and convicted of the charge in 1974. The court said there was no proof that Palmerio had been connected to subversive groups.

8. A petition of habeas corpus was filed on behalf of Maria

Esther Lorusso Lammle, a student of Russian origin who disappeared May 14. According to a press report Jan 6, the Peruvian Embassy had intervened on the Lammle case at the Foreign Ministry.

HILL


DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

CONTROL: 0457

19 JAN 77

1721

INDICATE

☐ COLLECT

☐ CHARGE TO

FROM

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

NA

SHUM, AR

GOA Replies on Human Rights Cases

ACTION:

SECSTATE WASHDC

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 0457

REF: Buenos Aires 0149

1. Counselor Flores of the Foreign Ministry's human rights working group provided the following information to Embaff today (Jan 19):

a) Angel Bustello---detained under Executive decree 3196, dated 7.12.76.

b) Claudia Ines Peiro, Juan Mendez, Mr. and Mrs. America Delia Sady, Alba Garofolo, Julio Yañez, Edmundo and Susana Szapiro, Mario Yacub, Julia Klenk, Miguel Poinsteau---none ~~are~~ ^{is} listed as being detained by the Executive.

2. At Embaff's request, Flores explained that a check was first made at the Interior Ministry to ascertain whether the person was listed as being detained under Executive power (PEN). ~~Then~~ Then, he said, the Interior Ministry requests information on the case from police, prison and military officials throughout the country. A reply from these sources may take months, or may never come at all, he said.

109-812-115

DRAFTED BY:

POL:YThayer:jr

DRAFTING DATE

1/19/77

TEL. EXT.

121

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

DCM:MChaplin

JAN 20 1977

LEGAL ATTACHE--BUENOS AIRES

CLEARANCES:

POL:RESteven

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CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL FORM 152(H)

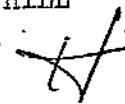
(Formerly FS-413(H))

January 1975

Dept. of State

That a name is not listed under PEN, therefore, does not mean that the person could not be in custody of police or military somewhere in the country. A case that is "not registered" simply means the working group has no information on the person's whereabouts. In order not to confuse interested US citizens, we suggest dropping "not registered" category when replying to inquiries, and simply report that the working group has no new information.

3. In accordance with Flores request (reftel), we resubmitted the names of Miguel Poinsteau, Edmundo and Susana Szapiro and a new case of Gustavo Pasik for whom we had identification numbers. Flores emphasized that each new inquiry should include this information.

HILL


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20 JAN 77 1304

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

INDICATE
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☐ CHARGE TO

FROM

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:

~~XXX~~ XGDS-4

SHUM PFOR AR

Argentine Reaction to Human Rights Report to U.S. Congress

ACTION:

SECSTATE WASHDC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 0485

REF: (a) Buenos Aires 0294, (b) Buenos Aires 0025

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1. On Jan 19 newspaper La Opinion printed the "conclusions" section, parts C and D, of Department's human rights report to Congress on Argentina. In short editorial comment, the paper emphasized importance of actions of Fraser Subcommittee for Argentina; need to avoid "diplomatic isolation," and said Argentines should be aware of "reality" of external image. There was no explanation of failure to publish full text.

2. La Opinion editor Jacobo Timerman, who with Robert Cox of English language Buenos Aires Herald is about only Argentine journalist willing to risk GOA displeasure by focusing on human rights problem, told USIS press officer that he could not safely publish preliminary parts of report which flatly stated findings on official GOA responsibility for counter-terror units and torture of prisoners. He had exercised self-censorship on that part of

109-812-116

DRAFTED BY:

POL:RSSteven:jr

DRAFTING DATE

1/20/77

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CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

A/POLCOUNS:AGFreeman

CLEARANCES:

USIS:MO/Allen

DCM:MChaplin

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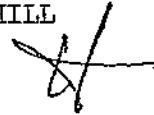
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report, but did not expect difficulties over rest of report, which of course recommended continued military assistance for Argentina.

3. As of morning Jan 20, no other paper had commented upon matter or made any other reference to report.

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TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 5273
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POI/R		✓	MILGP		✓
COAS		✓	PE-1		
ADM			GSO		
USIS		✓	B.C.F.		
SCI		✓	CHRON		✓
SY			RF		✓

E.O. 11652: N/A

AGS: SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: DISAPPEARANCE OF PROFESSOR MAURICIO LOPEZ

REF: BUENOS AIRES 00458

1. CONGRESSWOMAN SCHROEDER'S OFFICE HAS INQUIRED ABOUT DISAPPEARANCE OF PROFESSOR MAURICIO LOPEZ. CHURCH GROUPS ARE ALSO BEGINNING TO SHOW INTEREST IN THIS CASE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE WHATEVER FURTHER INFORMATION EMBASSY CAN PROVIDE ON PROFESSOR LOPEZ.

2. PROFESSOR LOPEZ HAS BEEN DESCRIBED TO US AS AN ECUMENICAL LEADER. HE WAS LATIN AMERICAN SECRETARY OF THE WORLD STUDENT CHRISTIAN FEDERATION FROM 1956-63. HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES STAFF IN GENEVA FROM 1963-67 AND RECTOR OF SAN LUIS UNIVERSITY FROM 1967 UNTIL RECENTLY. HIS ADDRESS IS OLIGARIO V. ANDRADE 345, MENDOZA. DUTCH AMBASSADOR IN BUENOS AIRES IS APPARENTLY ACTIVELY INTERESTED IN CASE.

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109-812-117

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

CONTROL: 0294
12 JAN 77
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FROM
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: SHUM PFOR AR
SUBJECT: Reaction to Release on Human Rights Report

ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 0294

REF: Buenos Aires 0025

1. There has been no rpt no editorial comment in local press, with one minor exception, on human rights report presented to Congress by Dept and published Jan 2. The GOA has made no official statement about the report, and has not raised subject with Embassy. Individual Argentines in government and private life have for the most part shown little interest.
2. Emboff visiting FonMin North American Affairs office on Jan 5 on routine matters found that officers there did not even hint at subject of report.
3. After initial wire service reports (reftel), press dropped subjectx entirely. Only one weekly magazine, "Somos," a notably pro-GOA periodical, in its Jan 7 edition referred briefly to the human rights report. It foresaw a "hot summer" for Argentine-US relations with advent of Carter administration. "Somos" said that ~~State~~ State Dept

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DRAFTED BY:

POL:RSS Steven:DCM:MChaplin:jr

DRAFTING DATE

121/180

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1/12/77

1095-118
CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

SEARCHED
SERIALS: RCH

CLEARANCES:

A/POLCOUNS:AGFreeman
USIS:MO'Brian

JAN 13 1977

LEA & ATTACHE - BUENOS AIRES

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CLASSIFICATION

report to Congress had caused "serious disquiet" in top GOA circles, so much so that a high Armed Services officer had been assigned the mission of "clarifying" the inaccurate information reaching Washington about what is occurring in Argentina, and alerting future American officials to the injustice of the incomprehensible campaign loosed against our country." (We have no confirmation of this story).

4. Discreet efforts to learn whether or not GOA influenced editors to avoid subject of human rights report brought generally negative reaction. Check with leading newspaper "La Nacion" brought response that GOA had not rpt not issued any guidance on subject; editors let it alone in form of self-censorship. Jacobo Timmerman, the owner/editor of the liberal and outspoken "La Opinion", told us that no guidance had been received but that self-censorship had obviously been called for. A wire-service source told Emboff that he knew of no formal guidance from GOA on subject, but that editors knew what attitude should be adopted.

5. COMMENT: We are puzzled over absence of GOA, press or private reaction to report on human rights in Argentina. Even the most pro-GOA papers, which might have editorialized that relative moderation of findings and recommendation against sanctions are evidence that Argentina's bad image on human rights is undeserved, have said nothing. GOA critics who might be expected to welcome the report have said virtually nothing. In explanation, we first cite the timing of the

report. It was released at the beginning of Argentina's summer holidays, when the capital is all but closed down. Both government and media decision-makers were out of the city or intent on vacation plans. The GOA had evidently determined it would not react to the report if it could be avoided. The media were admittedly exercising self-censorship. The lack of private reaction can be attributed to lack of press and GOA emphasis on the report in addition to preoccupation with vacation.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
HILL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TELEGRAM

CONTROL: 0578

25 JAN 77

1117

INDICATE
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FROM

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

E.O. 11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:

NA
PINT SHUM AR
Human Rights Cases Juan Mendez, Luis Iturriaga Casali, Claudia Peiro

ACTION:

SECSTATE WASHDC

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 0578

REF: (a) State 014741, (b) State 014030

1. Juan Mendez: Six Argentines, including Juan Ernesto Mendez, have been authorized to leave the country, according to Interior Ministry report published Jan 21 (reftel A): Mendez will be permitted to leave for France. His father wants to facilitate a visa for Mendez on to go ~~to~~ to the US, which Embassy has explained can take up to 20 months for a regular immigrant visa. Mendez has not yet made formal application for US immigrant visa. The decree states that the six had all been charged before March 24 when the right of option to leave Argentina was still legal under Article 23 of the Constitution. The option was suspended by the military govt March 24.

2. Luis Iturriaga Casali: According to Consoff, who interviewed Iturriaga Casali last week for parole program, Iturriaga Casali was picked up in September by police because he had no residence

PP1+2

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DRAFTED BY:

POL:YThayer

DRAFTING DATE

1/24/77

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CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

POLCOUNS:WSSmith WSS

CLEARANCES:

CONS:Whitchcock (in substance)
POL:RSSSteven

DCM:MChaplin
AMB:RCHill

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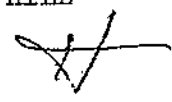
CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL FORM 152 (H)
(Formerly FS-413 (H))
January 1975
Dept. of State

papers, then turned over to border police as an illegal alien. He was ordered to leave Argentina and then released. He immediately went to the UNHCR and was brought with his family to Buenos Aires to seek resettlement abroad. He said he was not mistreated by Argentine authorities. His appearance as parole candidate in January was first indication ^{to Embassy} that he had been freed after September arrest.

3. Claudia Ines Peiro: Embassy pleased to hear Miss Peiro has been located and visited by family (reftel B). The information underscores our own doubts about the efficacy of FornMinistry's human rights working group in obtaining information on US interest cases. Discrepancy in Argentine Embassy and FornMinistry's information is not new; same occurred in Misetich case. Embassy will also make point to working group here. The time lag and regulations for US immigrant visas practically exclude US as potential destination for Argentine citizens seeking authorization to leave Argentina, as in Mendez case above.

HILL



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TELEGRAM

CONTROL: 0698

28 JAN 77

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AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

ACTION:

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SHUM AR

Status of Argentine Nationals Mauricio Lopez, Julio Yañez,
Zulma Zingaretti, Alba Garofalo

SECSTATE WASHDC

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 0698

Refs: (a) State 014740, (b) State 017421, (c) State 014742,

(d) State ~~XXXXXX~~ 309246

1. Embassy has no new information on Argentine nationals Mauricio Lopez, Julio Yañez or Zulma Zingaretti. Methodist church source told Emboff Jan 27 that nothing new has been learned about whereabouts of Prof. Lopez despite church efforts and the considerable concern expressed by international ~~ecumenical~~ ecumenical groups.
2. Pastor Manuel Garofalo appealed to Embassy Jan. 27 to help locate his daughter Alba Garofalo. He provided full identification which Embassy passed on to human rights working group today (Jan 28).

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JAN 31 1977

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POLCOUNS:WSSmith

CLEARANCES:

POL:RSSteven

DCM:MChaplin

AMB:RCHill

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OPTIONAL FORM 152(H)
 (Formerly FS 413(H))
 January 1975

CONTROL: 0613

26 JAN 77 1202

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AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

ACTION:

XGDS-2

PINS PINT SHUM AR

Argentines Question GOA Accounts of Terrorist Confrontations and Release Lists

SECSTATE WASHDC

0613

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES ~~0613~~

REF: Buenos Aires 0162

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1. A number of independent sources have separately told Emboffs that deaths of Peronist leader Dardo Cabo and Roberto Perliz in terrorist ambush on Jan 6 were engineered by security forces. Embassy press officer received letter signed "families of political prisoners" refuting the military communique on the ambush, pointing out that the two prisoners who were allegedly being transferred were taken out at 1 a.m. and were not allowed to take their clothes and belongings as is customary with normal transfers; that the prison they were reportedly headed for was a detention center for women and that the alleged ambush took place on a road 30 kilometers off the route connecting the two prisons. Father of another prisoner who was housed with Dardo Cabo in La Plata prison told Labatt that he learned from his son that all of the State of Siege detainees in La Plata have been beaten and

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POLCOUNS:WSSmith

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CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL FORM 152(4)

(Formerly FS 413, Rev)

January 1975

threatened with death and that when Dardo Cabo left he was taken suddenly in the night and not allowed to bring his belongings with him. A member of the Permanent Assembly for Human Rights told Poloff that Dardo Cabo was suddenly transferred to a solitary cell some days before the alleged transfer at which time he confided to other prisoners that he expected to be killed. These reports coincide with information provided by SRF sources, that Dardo Cabo's death was planned by security forces. Particularly significant is the fact that Argentines are questioning the veracity of military communiques on terrorist confrontations and bringing their information to the attention of Embossos. Similar impressions are also circulating with Embassy contacts in the local press, diplomatic community, political and labor circles, etc.

2. Embassy sources have also consistently reported that persons named on lists as being released from Executive disposition are not reappearing, either as transferred to the regular criminal court system or freed from detention altogether. Permanent Assembly for Human Rights official told Emboss Jan 21 that Assembly has file of nearly 2,000 names of detained or disappeared persons and that few of them figured in the several lists published by the Interior Ministry since December. Some of the names listed were of persons who were abducted from their homes by unidentified armed persons, he said, and the appearance of the name on the list was the first

It should be noted that the press, including the Bay
News, which has been particularly insistent that the government
 publish lists of detainees, has made no comment on the publication
 of the lists.

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persons released by the Executive in December, then reappeared on another list of persons detained by the Executive in early January. The ~~am~~ paper questioned whether in the interim the woman had been turned over to the criminal courts, freed or left in jail and asked why the Executive would release her one week and rearrest her the next.⁴ The questions posed by "La Opinion" are circulating widely here. At next opportunity Embassy will ask senior govt officials for clarification on precise meaning ~~and significance~~ of lists.

~~HILL~~

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

CONTROL: 0865

02 FEB 77

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AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

ACTION:

INFO

GDS

PINS PFOR SHUM AR CI UN

UNHCR Buenos Aires denies Chilean Communists traveled to Argentina

~~SECRET~~ WASHDC

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

SECSTATE WASHDC

USMISSION GENEVA

~~SECRET~~ BUENOS AIRES 0865

REF: (a) Santiago 10879, (b) Santiago 834

UNHCR rep in Buenos Aires told Emboff: Jan 31 that none of the Communist leaders listed in para 5 of reftel A has traveled to Argentina. He was aware of the Chilean version of the departure of three of them on the dates mentioned in reftel B, but denied that any of them ever arrived in Argentina. Rep added that Bernardo Araya, age 65, and his wife Maria Olga Flores, age 63, were kidnapped with their grandchildren, ages 15 and 9, and that the grandchildren who were later released were so traumatized by the treatment of their grandparents that they are seeking asylum outside Chile. He added that the grandparents never reappeared. Embassy has no other independent information with which to evaluate or confirm that provided by UNHCR rep.

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POLCOUNS:WSSmith

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FEB 3 1977
AMB:RCHILL

DCM:MCARDLE
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

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02 FEB 77

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FROM
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CLASSIFICATION
~~SECRET~~

E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

GDS

SHUM AR UY

Margarita Michelini reportedly in Uruguayan police custody

ACTION:

SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO:

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

~~SECRET~~ BUENOS AIRES 0867

Ref: Montevideo 4161

UNHCR rep confirmed that Margarita Michelini, daughter of slain Uruguayan senator Michelini, is in police custody in Montevideo and that her mother has visited her in jail. Rep told Emboff that intense family and UN pressure forced GOU to acknowledge having her in detention. SRF sources (reftel) reported that Miss Michelini was among 22 Uruguayans clandestinely arrested in Buenos Aires in July and returned to Uruguay. The report said eventually GOU would admit to having her in detention and that she would be released. Can Montevideo confirm Rep's information and status of Michelini case?

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POL:YThayer,jr.

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2/2/77

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POLICOUNS WSSmith

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FEB 3 1977
DCM:McChaplin
Amb:RCHill
LEGAL ATTACHE - BUENOS AIRES

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

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AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

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E.O. 11652:

GDS

TAGS:

SHUM, SREF, PORC, AR

SUBJECT:

Refugee Situation in Argentina

ACTION:

SecState WASHDC

INFO:

USMission GENEVA

AmEmbassy OTTAWA

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 0828

REF:

State 019307, Geneva 0501

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1. Embassy understands from local UNHCR representative that refugee situation has improved somewhat since the problems of last June-September. There have been no reported incidents of serious mistreatment of refugees under UNHCR mandate for at least three months now, although a number have been picked up for up to 24 hours for identification checks, some homes have been searched, etc. GOA-UNHCR relations have improved in recent months, with GOA now at least tacitly acknowledging the UNHCR role to protect and resettle refugees. (Argentina does not officially recognize as refugees persons from the South American hemisphere, having signed the UNHCR convention with a geographical reservation to that effect.) UNHCR has encouraged refugees to register with Argentine immigration

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CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

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CLEARANCES:

CONS:DCasteel (in draft)

AMB:RCHill

DCM:MChaplin

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CLASSIFICATION

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(Formerly PS 413(H))
January 1975
Dept. of State

authorities, as required by a September decree. Since Argentina does not recognize Latin Americans as refugees, they are registered as being "in transit" awaiting resettlement in a third country. (Of the small number who were previously registered as asylees, many have had their permanent asylee status revoked and have been reclassified as "transit asylees," also awaiting resettlement abroad.) These classifications do not permit the exile to work legally in Argentina.

2. UNHCR rep reported January 31 that of the original 14,000 or so refugees wanting resettlement outside Argentina, approximately 9,000 remain. 1,000 of them are still considered urgent cases, but 80 per cent of these have already initiated applications with foreign Embassies for resettlement abroad. (Embassy's experience with U. S. parole program shows that few of the "priority" cases referred to us actually believe themselves to be in immediate danger here in Argentina; most are seeking resettlement out of fear or uncertainty of returning to Chile and/or the difficulty of establishing themselves in Argentina. Most are very humble and poorly educated and a significant number have been rejected by other recipient countries, including Canada. The UNHCR has told us that many of the most serious cases, particularly Uruguayans, are not referred to us because they are believed to be ineligible for the U. S. program.)

3. The minorities subcommittee resolution of August 30 came

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ON 01-10-2001 BY 4001
JANUARY 1992
DEPT OF STATE

1535

right at the height of international concern over the refugee situation in Argentina, following the deaths of prominent exiles in June, the unresolved theft of refugee documents and kidnapping and beating of refugees in July and August. At this time the immediate threat to the refugee community appears to have abated and resettlement effort is progressing steadily. Nevertheless, the political situation in Argentina remains tense and severe internal security measures plus recurring extremist violence continue to cause disquiet within the refugee community. UNHCR rep told Emboff very confidentially on January 31 that GOA has put tremendous pressure on UN-Geneva and foreign delegations to the UN Human Rights Commission not to lean on Argentina on the refugee issue. He said there is some concern that GOA "has decided not to take any more criticism on the refugee question" and that its attitude toward UNHCR and the refugee community may harden considerably if it feels attacked on the issue at the UN meeting.


HILL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Classification

3 Feb 77
1230

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~SECRET~~

E.O. 1652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

GDS

PTOR SHUM MASS AR US

US-ARGENTINE RELATIONS

ACTION:

SECSTATE WASHDC

~~SECRET~~ BUENOS AIRES 0261

REF: STATE 023271

AMB
DCM
POL3
POL/REW
ECON
USIS
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1. Ambassador Aja Espil did indeed return to Buenos Aires over weekend--apparently arriving here Jan 31. After conferring with President and FonMinister he departed for Rio this morning (Feb 3), planning to return to Buenos Aires Feb 13 and then fly back to Washington Feb 15-16. I invited him to lunch and to breakfast but he pleaded extremely heavy schedule and suggested we get together on Feb 13 or 14 after his return from Rio.
2. Long-time Embassy contact was called into meeting between Fon Minister and Aja Espil on question of human rights and impact on US-Argentine relations. Aja Espil urged source to come to Washington to appear before Fraser's subcommittee. Source said there no point in doing so unless GOA had meanwhile given evidence of improvement in human rights situation. It was, he said, of utmost importance that GOA issue list of those detained and bring

DRAFTED BY:

POLCOUNS:WSSmith

DRAFTING DATE

2/3/77

TEL. EXT.

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109-812-125
CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

AMB:RCHill

CLEARANCES:

DCM:MChaplin

to trial at least some of those responsible for excesses.

Source tells us Ambassador Aja Espil supported him in this, emphasizing to FonMinister Guzzetti seriousness with which USG viewed the situation and possibility of confrontation unless at least the two steps suggested by source were taken.

3. Source reported to Emboff however that Guzzetti had stated flatly that both measures were out of the question. Full list of those detained could not be issued, he said, because "that would give aid and comfort to the terrorists." Some of those guilty ^{of} ~~for~~ excesses are being brought to trial, Guzzetti contended, but public trials could not be considered since that would contribute to demoralization of the security forces and divisions within the government.

4. Source said he left meeting with impression that (1) Ambassador Aja Espil had conveyed to Guzzetti strong probability of confrontation with USG unless meaningful rectification on part of GOA were forthcoming on human rights situation, and (2) that Guzzetti's reaction was that GOA could not rpt not do what USG desired even if result was confrontation between two governments.

5. I have asked for audience with FonMinister Guzzetti early next week to again ~~emphasize~~ emphasize seriousness of situation to him. XX

~~HILL~~

IMMEDIATE ACTION

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DE RUEHC 6390 0360207
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O 050134Z FEB 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE 5397
BT

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TO	CONF	TO
AFB		AFB
ADM		ADM
POL		POL
ROOM		ROOM
FOUR		FOUR
CCAS		CCAS
ADM		ADM
ISIS		ISIS
ISI		ISI
BY		BY

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ STATE 026390

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: JACK ANDERSON STORY ON ARGENTINA

FOLLOWING ARE Q'S AND A'S TO BE USED ON "IF ASKED" BASIS FOR POSSIBLE INQUIRES OVER WEEKEND.

Q. DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY REACTION TO THE ANDERSON STORY ON ARGENTINA?

A. MR. ANDERSON'S OFFICE QUERIED US EARLIER ON THIS. WE INFORMED HIS ASSOCIATE, LES WHITTEN, THAT WHILE THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF EXECUTION OF PRISONERS IN ARGENTINA, WE DO NOT HAVE THE KIND OF FIRST-HAND INFORMATION WHICH WOULD ALLOW US TO CONFIRM THESE REPORTS. WE ALSO INDICATED THAT NO SUBJECT HAS BEEN RAISED MORE FREQUENTLY IN OUR DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS WITH THE ARGENTINES DURING THE LAST SIX MONTHS THAN HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE TREATMENT OF AMERICAN AND ARGENTINE PRISONERS. THIS SUBJECT HAS BEEN RAISED AT VERY HIGH LEVELS IN WASHINGTON AND BUENOS AIRES.

Q. WELL, HAVE WE DONE ANYTHING SPECIFIC WITH THE ARGENTINES REGARDING THIS STORY?

109-812

A. MR. ANDERSON'S OFFICE HAS PROVIDED US WITH A LIST OF ALLEGED PRISONERS IN DANGER. WE HAVE BROUGHT THIS MATTER TO THE ATTENTION OF THE ARGENTINE EMBASSY, AT THE SAME TIME EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT THE WELFARE OF THOSE LISTED. THE ARGENTINE EMBASSY IS LOOKING INTO THIS MATTER.

VANCE

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6390

109-812-126

7 FEB 77 1708

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM

AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

E.O. 11652:

N/A

TAGS:

PFOR, SHUM, AR

SUBJECT:

Jack Anderson Story on Argentina

ACTION:

SecState WASHDC IMMEDIATE

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 0991

REF:

State 026390

A/B
DCM
POL-3
POL/R
ECOM
USIS
USDAO
MILGP-2
LEGAT
SCIAT
RF
CHRON

Embassy understands Anderson story stated information provided by "high-ranking intelligence sources and a source in the U. S. Embassy." Embassy would much appreciate receiving telegraphically text of Anderson story as soon as possible. Based on my judgment of staff B. A. we assure you that no one in Embassy B. A. has cooperated in this serious charge.

HILL

109-812-127

1311

Russ

DRAFTED BY:

POL:WSSmith:mg

DRAFTING DATE

2/7/77

TEL. EXT.

128

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

AMBASSADOR ROBERT C. HILL

CLEARANCES:

A/DCM:JCamott

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CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL FORM 100-11
(Formerly FS-410-11)
January 1975

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

CONTROL: 1125

10 FEB 77

1834

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION
~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

E.O. 11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:

NA
EFOR SHUM AR
GOA protests Dutch, Austrian charge of human rights violations

ACTION:
INFO:

SECSTATE WASHDC
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 1125

Ref: Buenos Aires 1094

1. According to press reports here, the Argentine govt has instructed its ambassadors in Holland and Austria to formally protest the action taken by the heads of state of the two countries in asking the UN to examine alleged human rights violations in Argentina. Dutch Prime Minister Anquer Jop den Wil and Austrian Prime Minister Bruno Kreisky were among 14 prominent European and Canadian political leaders who made the request in a telegram to UN Secretary General Waldheim on Feb 7 (reftel). The GOA reportedly expressed its displeasure with the action taken by the "heads of friendly states who are aware of the situation and of the Argentine government's efforts at national reorganization as well as its firm observance of human rights" and noted that such action could "harm the cordial relations and other issues of

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TELETYPE BY: POL:YThayer:jr DRAFTING DATE: 2/10/77 TEL. EXT. 121 CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: POLCOUNS:W3Smith

RANGES:

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FILED

AMB:RCH

A/COM:JCAmott

FEB 12 1977

national interest existing between the two countries."

2. The only local paper so far to comment on the telegram to the UN SecGen or the Argentine protest was La Opinion which today (Feb 10) reiterated the importance of a firm and swift reply by GOA to charges of human rights violations. Argentina cannot allow its national sovereignty to be violated, editorialized La Opinion, but it can and must counter international campaigns with "counter-diplomacy," by showing that there are two sides to the problem of extremist violence in Argentina and by making it clear that the country's actions are aimed only at peace and national recuperation. More to the point, an accompanying article pointed out that human rights has become an international issue that transcends national borders and one that is not likely to go away. "The only solution is strict respect for human rights and individual guarantees, which furthermore are inscribed in all the constitutions of the Americas."

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~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

CLASSIFICATION

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM
 AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION
~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

E.O. 11652:
 TAGS:
 SUBJECT:

NA
 SHUM P INS AR
 Human Rights Round-Up No. 10

ACTION:

SECSTATE WASHDC

~~NA~~ ~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 1C94

1. A telegram from 12 foreign political leaders to UN Secretary General requesting a UN human rights commission study into alleged human rights violations in Argentina was cautiously reported in the local press Feb 8. La Opinion, while firmly rejecting the right of foreign governments and international groups to pressure Argentina on its internal affairs, nevertheless remarked that the repetition of such accusations makes it imperative that GOA redouble its efforts to ascertain that none of its actions contribute to the international campaigns to defame the country's image. The paper called on the Argentine govt to demand, through its embassies abroad, an explanation of the charges from those who signed the telegram and to take firm action in defending the country's position when attacked in international fora. GOA has made no statement regarding the telegram or the accusations so far.

2. The Supreme Court has ordered the Executive Branch to answer

DRAFTED BY:

POL:YThay jr

DRAFTING DATE

2/9/77

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CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY

POLCOUNS WISSMITH INDEXED

CLEARANCES:

POL/R:DSmock

AMB:RCHill

A/DCM:JCAmott

LEGAL ATTACHE - BUENOS AIRES

OFFICIAL FORM 100-10
 (Rev. 10-10-76)
 GPO: 1977-100-100

state of siege detainee Mirta Christina Atencia's request to leave the country or ^{be} set free within 20 days. In the ruling, the Supreme Court declared that laws passed by the present military government in November temporarily suspending the constitutional right of option to leave the country could not be applied retroactively, nor could the Executive Branch assume judicial powers or intervene to change the outcome of cases under judicial review as stipulated in Article 95 of the Constitution. Atencia was arrested in November 1975 and appealed for her right to leave the country in January 1976. (The military Junta originally suspended the constitutional right in March and later extended it formally for 180 days in two decree laws published on November 2, 1976. The Supreme Court now holds that petitions pending before the law went into effect are not subject to the suspension decree-law.) The decision once again throws into confusion the whole question of the constitutional right of option. On November 16, 1976 the Supreme Court rejected an appeal by Maria Cristina Ercoli to exercise her option to leave, ruling that the suspension law was valid and upholding the govt's right to prevent persons from opting to leave the country who might eventually return clandestinely. Since Ercoli's original petition was approved by a lower court before the Nov 2 law went into effect, it would appear that the latest decision countermands the first and would make her eligible to opt to leave the country.

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Classification

OPTIONAL FORM 10
(Formerly FS-41)

3. La Opinion (Jan 8) pointed out the discrepancy and recommended that the Supreme Court fully review the whole matter once again in light of its "new perspective" and its latest decision to review cases pending before the November suspension law.

4. GOA banned all activities and publications of the Divine Light Mission and Hare Krishna sect in mid-January. The decree stated that freedom of religion as guaranteed by the national constitution is limited in that religious ideas must not go against national security, moral standards and public and social order. The BA Herald (Jan 27) called the ban "unfortunate and disturbing" and noted that the decree did not show how either group had acted contrary to Argentine law, morals or national security. Authorities subsequently arrested five Hare Krishna followers in Buenos Aires and 29 persons of the Divine Light Mission in Mendoza. It is not known whether they were subsequently released.

5. A special court martial in Parana sentenced 42 Montoneros to prison terms ranging from three to 24 years and acquitted seven other persons. In its first subversive case since 1973, a Santa Fe federal court sentenced three persons to 3 years for possession of arms and subversive materials and one to 3 years for painting subversive slogans on walls. The first three were arrested in April 1975. The court also acquitted and released three persons for lack of evidence.

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~~Classification~~

OPTIONAL FORM 1
(Formerly FS 4)

~~Classification~~

6. 116 extremists were reported killed by security forces in the month of January, most of them allegedly in "raids" and in "confrontations at roadblocks," identification checks or "while painting subversive slogans on walls" (the last being the most unlikely of all). Among the terrorists killed since January 1, two have been identified as having participated in the murder of US consular agent John Egan in 1974. They were Montoneros Jorge Luis Piotti killed in Santa Fe Jan 22 and Jorge Victor Biel on Feb 6. During the same period seven policemen and five civilian bystanders were killed, and 15 persons were injured by ~~extremist~~ extremist actions in a number of separate incidents. The most serious attack was the bombing of a police station in Ciudadela, BA Province on Jan 28 in which three policemen died and ten persons were injured. The suspect, a sociology student, is still at large. In the days immediately after the bombing, bodies turned up all over Ciudadela (a total of 14) allegedly having been killed in confrontations with police. Many observers are convinced, however, that the bodies were those of prisoners killed in retaliation for the bombing.

7. On Jan 24 a terrorist threw a grenade in the Constitution train station in downtown Buenos Aires while attempting to flee police, killing a woman and injuring three persons. The extremist was later arrested. Elsewhere a number of private homes and factories were bombed, including that of the mayor of San Isidro (whose daughter was injured in the blast) on

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~~Classification~~

OPTIONAL FORM 15

Jan 21, and of a Kaiser Corp. Nj department chief in La Plata on Feb 7. The light and power company SEGBA, which is having labor conflicts with the govt, has had several bombings in its offices and plants in recent weeks.

8. The Argentine Actors Association sent telegrams on Feb 1 to a number of government officials requesting an investigation into the continuing disappearance of four of its members:

Polo Cortez, Silvia Shelby, Ruben Bravo and Gregorio Nachman.

9. The Interior Ministry continues releasing weekly lists of persons who have been released by the Executive and others who were detained under Executive decree. The Jan 21 list included the names of six Argentines whose requests to leave the country (submitted before the March 24 takeover) were approved by GOA.

It is not known whether any of the six has since departed Argentina nor how many others have actually been released from govt custody. Other foreign diplomats in Argentina have told Embassies that they are aware of some but not many persons who have actually been freed once their names appeared on the lists. None of the US interest cases have appeared on the recent lists which Embassy has pouched to ARA/ECA.


HILL

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Classification

OPTIONAL FORM 1

SECRET

TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:
ACTION:

GDS
PFOR, PINS, SHUM, AR
LA PLATA PRISONERS ON ANDERSON "DEATH LIST";
2 DIE IN ALLEGED TRANSFER ALTERCATION
SECSTATE WASHDC

AMB
DCM
POL 3
POL/R
ICOM
USIS
USDAO
MILGP 2
SCIAT
LEGAT
IE
CHRON

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES: 1328

REF: A. STATE 027041 B. BUENOS AIRES 0613 C. BUENOS AIRES 7290

1. SUMMARY: CONCERNING LIST OF 41 PERSONS NAMED IN JACK

ANDERSON'S COLUMN AS PRISONERS IN DANGER OF DEATH (REF. A),

EMBASSY SOURCES REPORT THAT TWO WERE KILLED FEBRUARY 4, ^{ALLEGEDLY} AN AN

ALTERCATION WHILE BEING TRANSFERRED FROM LA PLATA PRISON.

SOURCES ALSO IDENTIFIED AT LEAST NINE PERSONS NAMED ON

ANDERSON LIST AS INMATES IN UNIT 9 OF LA PLATA PRISON,

INCLUDING TWO KILLED FEBRUARY 4.

2. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT TWO OF THE 41 PERSONS LISTED BY

JACK ANDERSON AS BEING IN DANGER OF DEATH (REF. A) HAVE DIED,

ALLEGEDLY IN ALTERCATIONS WITH SECURITY OFFICIALS WHILE BEING

TRANSFERRED FROM LA PLATA PRISON. THE TWO--HORACIO (JOSE)

RAPPAPORT AND ANGEL GEORGIADIS (BELIEVED TO BE MISSPELLED IN

LIST AS ANGEL GERCULEZ)--WERE, LIKE DARDO CABO AND PERLIS

DRAFTED BY:

POL:YThayer:eg

DRAFTING DATE

2/16/77

TEL. EXT.

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CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY

POLCOUNS:WSSmith

CLEARANCES:

POL/R:DSmock

CHARGE:MChaplin

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL FORM 10-74
(Formerly FS-410-1)
January 1975
Dept. of State

BEFORE THEM, PRISONERS IN UNIT 9 OF LA PLATA PRISON. EMBASSY
WERE
LEARNED THAT THE FAMILIES OF THE TWO MEN ~~WERE~~ SEPARATELY
INFORMED BY TELEGRAM ON FEBRUARY 9 THAT THEIR SONS HAD DIED IN
AN ACT OF "AUTOAGGRESSION" (UNDERSTOOD BY US AS EITHER SUICIDE
OR UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT UPON SECURITY AUTHORITIES) WHILE BEING
TRANSFERRED FROM UNIT 9 OF LA PLATA ON FEBRUARY 4. THE
FAMILY OF ANGEL GEORGIADIS RECEIVED JUDICIAL ORDER FOR AN
AUTOPSY BUT THE BODY HAS NOT BEEN RELEASED BY PRISON AUTHORITIES,
ACCORDING TO EMBASSY SOURCE.

3. IN MID JANUARY FATHER OF HORACIO CREA, ANOTHER PERSON ON
ANDERSON LIST WHO IS IN UNIT 9, TOLD EMBOFFS THAT HIS SON AND
TWO OTHER PRISONERS THERE--JULIO CESAR URIEN AND GEORGIADIS--
HAD BEEN TAKEN BY PRISON GUARDS, HOODED, BEATEN AND THREATENED
WITH DEATH IF THEY CAUSED DISTURBANCES WITHIN THE PRISON WING.
ON FEBRUARY 3 THE PRESS REPORTED THAT JUAN CARLOS URIEN HAD
BEEN SENTENCED TO 9 YEARS FOR SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES AND
POSSESSION OF WEAPONS AND SUBVERSIVE LITERATURE, AND HAD BEEN
TRANSFERRED TO SIERRA CHICA PRISON. URIEN HAD BEEN A NAVAL
MIDSHIPMAN AND HIS FATHER WAS A JUDGE. SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF
THAT URIEN WAS ALSO DIRECTLY RELATED TO GEN. HARGUINDEGUY WHO
INTERVENED TO HAVE URIEN TRIED AND TRANSFERRED TO SIERRA CHICA
INSTEAD OF BEING ELIMINATED. NOTHING WAS LEARNED OF GEORGIADIS
UNTIL
XX. /~~XXXX~~ THE REPORT OF HIS DEATH FEBRUARY 9.

4. EMBASSY SOURCES HAVE TOLD EMBOFFS THAT MANY, IF NOT MOST, OF THE 41 PERSONS LISTED IN ANDERSON'S COLUMN AS "MARKED FOR DEATH" ARE PRISONERS IN WINGS ONE AND TWO OF UNIT 9 OF LA PLATA PRISON. SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF THAT A LIST OF NAMES OF PRISONERS IN THE FIRST WING HAD BEEN SMUGGLED OUT AND CIRCULATED TO CONCERNED GROUPS IN THE U.S. AND EUROPE FOLLOWING THE JANUARY 6 STAGED AMBUSH IN WHICH DARDO CABO AND PERLIS WERE KILLED (REF.B). SEPARATE SOURCES HAVE INDIVIDUALLY IDENTIFIED NINE OF THE PERSONS ON THE LIST AS BEING INMATES OF UNIT 9 AND SAY IT IS POSSIBLE THAT OTHERS ARE THERE AS WELL. THE NINE ARE: ERNESTO VILLANUEVA, JORGE TAIANA, EDUARDO JOZAMI, RODOLFO GUTIERREZ, EDUARDO ARANOVICH (WHOSE NAME APPEARS TWICE ON THE LIST, ONCE AS EDGARDO ARANOVICH), JUAN VILLANUEVA, HORACIO CREA, ANGEL GEORGIADIS (GERGULEZ), AND HORACIO (JOSE) RAPPAPORT. RAPPAPORT AND GEORGIADIS ARE DEAD. THE WIFE OF EDUARDO JOZAMI WROTE EMBASSY JANUARY 15 REFUTING THE OFFICIAL VERSION OF DARDO CABO'S JANUARY 6 DEATH IN AN AMBUSH AND ASKING FOR EMBASSY ASSISTANCE ON BEHALF OF HER HUSBAND, WHO IS ALSO IN UNIT 9. THE MOTHER OF ERNESTO VILLANUEVA WROTE THE EMBASSY RECENTLY DESCRIBING THE MISTREATMENT AND FEAR IN UNIT 9 WHERE HER SON IS BEING HELD. AND EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS LETTERS FROM FAMILIES OF OTHER PRISONERS IN UNIT 9 EXPRESSING FEAR FOR SAFETY OF THOSE HELD THERE.

5. THE FAMILY OF JUAN MENDEZ WHO VISITED HIM IN WING ONE OF
IDENTITY
UNIT 9 ON FEBRUARY 10 CONFIRMED THE ~~IDENTITY~~ OF A NUMBER OF
HIS PRISON MATES AND THE TERROR THAT REIGNS IN THE WING (SEE
SEPTTEL). THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND OTHER
EMBASSY SOURCES HAVE ALSO CONFIRMED THE SITUATION IN WINGS
ONE AND TWO WHICH ARE NOW KNOWN AS THE "WAITING ROOMS OF
DEATH". ONE SOURCE SAID THAT WING ONE IS RESERVED FOR
ALLEGED MONTONEROS AND WING TWO FOR ALLEGED ERP MILITANTS
MARKED FOR ELIMINATION.

6. THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS HAS APPARENTLY VISITED LA
PLATA TWICE. AFTER AN UNSUCCESSFUL FIRST VISIT, IT WAS
GRANTED GREATER ACCESS TO PRISONERS IN WING ONE ON A SECOND
VISIT IN EARLY FEBRUARY, ACCORDING TO THE MENDEZ FAMILY.
EMBASSY DOES NOT KNOW WHETHER ANY PRISONERS HAVE BEEN REMOVED
FROM WINGS ONE AND TWO FOLLOWING THE IRC VISIT.

7. DOMINGO MENA WAS A TOP ERP LEADER FIRST REPORTEDLY
KILLED ALONG WITH ERP LEADER MARIO SANTUCHO IN JULY. IT WAS
LATER LEARNED (BUT NEVER ACKNOWLEDGED BY OFFICIAL SOURCES)
THAT MENA HAD ACTUALLY BEEN TAKEN PRISONER ~~REDACTED~~ AND
WAS BEING HELD IN CAMPO DE MAYO (REF. C). EMBASSY HAS NO
NEW INFORMATION ON HIS PRESENT WHEREABOUTS.

8. PER PARAGRAPH 3 IN REF. A; AS EMBASSY HAS REPORTED IN
THE PAST, THE FACT THAT NAMES APPEAR ON LISTS OF PERSONS

REMOVED BY THE EXECUTIVE FROM DETENTION UNDER STATE OF ~~STIEGE~~
PROVISIONS DOES NOT ~~NECESSARILY~~ MEAN THE PERSON HAS ACTUALLY
BEEN RELEASED FROM CUSTODY. JUAN VILLANUEVA'S NAME WAS ON
DECEMBER 23 LIST OF RELEASEES AND YET SOURCES SAY THAT HE IS
BEING HELD IN UNIT 9 OF LA PLATA. EMBASSY IS NOT AWARE OF
WHEREABOUTS OF TWO OTHERS MENTIONED IN PARAGRAPH 3.

9. IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT THE ANDERSON LIST WAS DEVELOPED
FROM THE LIST OF UNIT 9 INMATES WHICH IS APPARENTLY CIRCULATING
ELSEWHERE IN THE U.S. AND EUROPE. THE ~~AMBASSADOR~~ AND ~~OTHER~~ OTHER
EMBOFFS HAVE DIRECTLY CONFRONTED TOP GOA OFFICIALS ON THE
QUESTION OF ELIMINATION OF PRISONERS BUT HAVE RECEIVED
NONCOMMITTAL REPLIES. WHERE POSSIBLE, EMBASSY HAS REITERATED
U.S. INTEREST IN SPECIFIC CASES--JUAN MENDEZ AND HORACIO CREA--
AND IS MAKING ITS CONCERN KNOWN THROUGH MILITARY AS WELL AS
EXECUTIVE BRANCH CHANNELS.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TELEGRAM

CONTINUED 1361

18 FEB 77

1335

INDICATE

☐ COLLECT☐ CHARGE TO

FROM

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

NA

ASEC,

SHUM, PINS, AR

Human Rights Round-up No. 11

ACTION:

SECSTATE WASHDC

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 1361

REF: (a) Buenos Aires 1094, (b) Buenos Aires 7458, (c) Buenos Aires 1296

1. Constitutional Option to Leave Argentina: The Executive has decreed the formation of a commission to consider whether internal security conditions permit the reinstatement of the constitutional right for persons detained under state of siege provisions to opt to leave the country. The right was suspended by the military first in March 1976 and again on Nov 2, 1976 for another 180 days. The commission will be chaired by the Minister of the Interior and will include as members a high ranking representative from each of the three Armed Forces, the Justice Ministry and the State Intelligence Service. The commission is to report its findings before March 15. (Embassy comment: The creation of the commission is seen as GOA's response to last week's court decision that the suspension of the constitutional right of option cannot be applied retroactively, i.e. before published as law

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DRAFTED BY:

POL:YThayer:jr

DRAFTING DATE

2/18/77

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CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

POLCOUNS:WSSmith

CLEARANCES:

RSO:RKelley (in substance)
USIS:MO'Brien (in substance)

SEARCHED

INDEXED

CHANGED:MChester

FEB 18 1977

LEGAL ATTACHE - BUENOS AIRES

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL FORM 100 (Rev. 10-67)
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27
5010-106

on Nov 2, 1976--Ref A. In its ruling, the court ordered the govt to allow state of siege detainee Mirta Christina Atencia to exercise her option to leave the country or set her free within 20 days.)

2. Brazilians Expelled: UNHRC rep told Emboff that Brazilian nationals Paulo Paranagua and Maria Regina Pilla left Argentina, presumably for Europe, in mid-January after being expelled from the country by presidential decree (Ref B).

3. Lawyer Gets Warning: An Argentine lawyer told Emboff Jan 14 that he was given a friendly warning by a Federal Court judge acquaintance not to allow his name to appear on too many writs of habeas corpus. The judge said confidentially that the Interior Ministry had requested a background information and reports on lawyers who were filing writs on behalf of missing or detained Argentine citizens. Lawyer told Emboff that although he was not afraid for himself, he considered it possible that lawyers known to be active in filing writs or assisting in detention or disappearance cases could find themselves harrassed or their offices damaged. A separate source told Labatt essentially same story on different occasion.

4. GOA Bans Books: In four recent decrees, GOA has prohibited the distribution of a number of books, including "Black Power" by Stokeley Carmichael; several anti-Semitic publications published by Ediciones Oda! and Argentine Nationalist Confederation Editions; and books on Peronism, Communism and other

socio-historical tracts published by Editorial Century XXI.

5. Detainee Lists: According to the latest weekly lists released by the Interior Ministry, 68 persons were removed from Executive detention under state of siege charges and 69 persons were arrested from Feb 4-11. Seven persons were removed from Executive detention and 32 arrested under state of siege from Feb 11-16. The names listed are not known to Embassy. Lists are being pouched to ECA/ARA.

6. Church Lists: Argentine churchmen have compiled a list of 340 persons who have allegedly been arrested, abducted or disappeared in Argentina in the last 12 months, according to an announcement of the World Council of Churches (WCC) in Geneva which was reported here Feb 12. The WCC statement said that "substantial evidence reflects a growing degree of repression and deprivation of human rights in Argentina." It noted that a Canadian parliamentary group had stated that at least 1,000 persons had "totally disappeared" in Argentina and that its compilation of 340 names constituted only an initial list.

7. Permanent Assembly List: Argentina Permanent Assembly for Human Rights rep gave Emboff a 33-page booklet listing names and short histories of approximately 340 persons who have allegedly been arrested, abducted or disappeared in Argentina from January 1 to December 31, 1976. Rep told Emboff that the Permanent Assembly sent the book to President Videla with a request for his assistance on behalf of those listed in January

but that it has not yet received a reply. Assembly is also providing copies for interested foreign journalists and international organizations. Rep said he was unaware of WCC statement and list, although he said he understood that Argentine church groups were preparing their own lists. The Permanent Assembly list includes several names known to Embassy, including that of Monica Mignone, Victor Noe, Gustavo Pasik and Maria Mirta Vazquez de Lugones, all of who reportedly disappeared in 1976. Patricia Ann Erb's name was also on list. Emboff informed Assembly rep that Erb had been expelled in October and was in US.

8. Extremist Actions: Extremists reportedly killed three police, one business executive and two railway workers from Feb 1-18. Two police were killed Feb 10 in Rosario when a bomb exploded as they were inspecting an abandoned car. The car had apparently been booby-trapped by extremists. Tamet steel plant industrial relations manager Pedro Alberto Lombardero was shot to death while driving to work in Buenos Aires province on Feb 10. One policeman died and six were injured in a five-hour car chase and gunbattle with extremists in a Buenos Aires residential suburb on Feb 15 (reftel C). During the same 18-day period, about 46 extremists were reportedly killed by security forces in separate incidents throughout the country.

9. Buckley Quoted: William Buckley was quoted in Feb 13 BA Herald as saying that although the "conclusion that human

rights violations have taken place was indisputable, it is premature and mistaken to impose international sanctions less than a year after the ouster of Mrs. Peron's govt. Peace and order must be restored (by President Videla) and the government must repress excesses by its own supporters." The quotes were reportedly taken from a Buckley article published in the New York Post..

10. Newspaper Closed: Small provincial newspaper El Independiente was closed for five days by the La Rioja provincial govt for publishing an editorial Feb 14 which said that "many who complained of subversion were responsible for causing it." The paper was closed twice in April 1976 on similar charges of violating national legislation on subversion. Argentine Association of Newspaper Owners (ADEPA) protested the closure to national authorities on Feb 17, saying that "such actions do not match government declarations of pluralism and open dialogue." The statement noted that the provincial govt had circumvented the courts and due process and ordered the closure by administrative decision, an action which, ADEPA concluded, "subverted the intentions of the national govt."

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

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E.O. 11652:

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SHUM SREF PORG AR UR

Refugee Situation in Argentina

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY

UNMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 1543

REF: (a) Geneva 1295, (b) Buenos Aires 828

1. UNHCR rep reiterated to Emboff today (Feb 25) that GOA's record on treatment of refugees and cooperation with UNHCR and other agencies on resettlement of refugees have improved in recent months (ref B). He said that of 45 mandated refugees jailed in Argentina several months ago, all but eight have been released and expelled from Argentina to resettlement locations arranged by UNHCR. He repeated that there have been no incidents of harassment or mistreatment of refugees under UNHCR mandate now for several months. UNHCR is preparing a report on Argentine refugee situation but official said it will not be strongly critical of GOA.

2. One new problem, however, faced by UNHCR is that some 15

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POLCOUNS:WSSmith

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DCM:MChaplin

FEB 28 1977

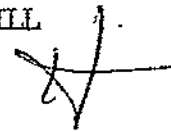
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CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL FORM 152(H)

(Formerly FS-412(M))
January, 1973

Uruguayans resident in Argentina for as many as 20 years have been arrested and it appears GOA authorities intend to apply same formula of expelling them from the country. These persons do not have records of political persecution in Uruguay and would not normally be classified as refugees ^{under} with UNHCR criteria. However, Uruguayan authorities are not willing to furnish ^{passports for} these persons jailed by Argentine authorities on suspicion of subversive activities ~~with passports~~ or to permit them to return to Uruguay. UNHCR has been forced to accept them as refugees in order to arrange an alternative destination and resettlement outside of Argentina.

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28 Feb 77
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Argentine National Juan Mendez Departs Argentina for France

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 1570

REF: Buenos Aires 1425 and 578

Susana Mendez today (Feb 28) confirmed that Juan Mendez left for France on Feb 27. His wife and children will join him there shortly. Mendez thanked Embassy for its efforts on his behalf.

Susana also reported that of six Argentines authorized to leave, Juan was first to depart and three others known to her are expected to leave soon. Julio Cesar Genoud has his passport and is expected to leave soon for England; Juan Carlos Carbajal and apparently Luis Alberto Nudel Sandiano have been brought to Villa Devoto for final processing prior to departure for Spain and Peru.

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OPTIONAL FORM 152 (4)
(Formerly FD-410 (4))
January 1976

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MAR 77 1137

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

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CLASSIFICATION

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E.O. 11652:

GDS

TAGS:

SREF, SHUM, AR, BR, CZ

SUBJECT:

UNHCR Informed of Jaroslav Beck Case

ACTION:

AmEmbassy BRASILIA

INFO:

AmConsul SAO PAULO

AmConsul RIO DE JANEIRO

USMission GENEVA

REF:

~~SECRET~~ BUENOS AIRES 1645

(A) Brasilia 1534, (B) State 43629

As requested in Para 10 reftel A, Embassy informed UNHCR

rep of Jaroslav Beck matter February 28. Rep said Beck has
had long history of maladaptation and instability problems.

UNHCR referred Beck to Tolstoy Foundation, a refugee service
for Russian and Eastern Europeans, for assistance last year,
and rep said he had no other alternative suggestion to
recommend to help Beck this time.

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OPTIONAL FORM 152(H)
(Formerly FS 413(H))
January 1975
Dept. of State



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Department of State
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: FORNMINISTRY GROUP REPORTS ON US INTEREST CASES

ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 1682

FornMinistry human rights working group on March 1 provided the following information on US human rights interest cases presented since Jan. 1:

1. Claudia Ines Peiro -- detained in Unit 2, Villa Devoto prison under Executive decree 1207, dated 5-7-76.
2. Dora Golfarb de Lucero -- detained in Villa Devoto under Executive decree 1120 of 29-6-76.
3. Horacio Hector Crea -- detained under Executive decree 192 dated 28-1-75. His case is being processed under Federal Judge Ojeda Fabre.
4. ~~NXX~~ Alba Noemi Garofalo de Palacci -- whereabouts unknown.
5. Eduardo Maria Korin -- whereabouts unknown.
6. Miguel Alfredo Poinsteau -- whereabouts unknown.
7. Gustavo José Pasik -- whereabouts unknown.
8. Susana Mascia and Edmundo Daniel Szapiro -- investigation

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POL: A/Counsellor; AG Freeman

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DCM: MChaplin

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initiated January 21. No information to date.

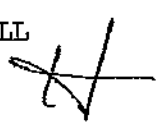
9. Federico and Hilda Alvarez Rojas -- ~~kw~~ whereabouts unknown. Federico reportedly had connections with several marxist educational organizations.

10. Jorge Fernando di Pasquale -- whereabouts unknown.

11. David Kraiselburd -- investigation initiated Feb. 2.

No information to date.

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9 MAR 77 17:3

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SHUM PINS AR

Human Rights Round-up No. 12

SECSTATE WASHDC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 1852

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1. Press Commentary. Editorials on US reduction of FMS credits and GOA response have now tapered off, although there is still considerable feature story spinoff material, much of it datelined from US, some from Brazil. The editorials this past week fairly uniformly played on theme of anomalies in US policy and defended GOA's defense of its national sovereignty. However, after a week of ~~xxx~~ pulling in their horns ~~xxx~~ ~~creating on the subject~~ in the wake of the government's diplomatic backlash, we are now pleased to note, the two local journals which heretofore have been in the forefront advocating respect for human rights, "La Opinion" and "BA Herald", are once again urging remedial government action. As one "Herald" columnist put it, the GOA should do something about the problem for Argentina's own sake "without prodding from outsiders who are playing an entirely different game." The same writer, incidentally, nevertheless took Argentine Ambassador Aja Espil to task for thinking he could persuade

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL FORM 100-10
(Formerly FS-112-10)
January 1976
Dept. of State

Americans with his statement that "the underlying morality in the need to observe human rights is the very essence of the Argentine nation." There is an unusually strongly worded editorial in this morning's (Mar 9) "Herald" expressing the opinion that the way to defeat subversion is to "tell the truth, act to end injustice and stop excesses. If this is not done, the danger is that, as in Algiers and Viet Nam, military victory could end political defeat." While we cannot say that this line of commentary reflects a trend, in view of the "Herald's" limited readership and the ^{suspicious} ~~subterranean~~ ~~expressions~~ cast on "La Opinion's" loyalty by the official establishment, ~~xx~~ the two journals' ^{forthright} ~~return to a~~ ~~cowardly~~ position on human rights is a positive development.

2. Videla's call for political dialogue. The press is hailing General Videla's comments aboard his presidential jet on return from Peru as heralding a new phase in government policy of consulting with representative sectors of public opinion concerning the country's political future. Videla spoke of "the time of silence coming to an end," although he made clear, as has Admiral Massera, that he was not talking about an accelerated return to the normal electoral process. The President's call for a political dialogue is a much broader topic than the human rights questions we have normally discussed in these roundups and we shall be reporting further on this initiative (which has been on drawing boards for some time) as its significance becomes clearer, but

of course it is a matter related to human rights and we merely wish to alert Department to this development.

3. Army communique. On March 6 a weekly radio program on army affairs broadcast an official army statement on human rights, which was also reported following day in the major news media. Timing of communique leaves little doubt that statement released in reaction to controversy with US on the human rights question. Text follows familiar GOA formulations on the substantive issues. It explicitly condemns "all human rights violations, no matter which ideological sector is violating them." The Government's and the Army's very tradition, it continues, is one of respect for human rights (~~the drafter evidently does not read the Argentine column~~), but a distinction must be drawn between the natural rights of man in the abstract and the need of government in the real world occasionally to restrict liberties in defense of society. Argentina is in a war it didn't ask for with terrorists who methodically have violated human rights and created a criminal situation beyond police control, requiring the intervention of the Armed Forces. How would Argentines have reacted, it asks rhetorically, if the state had failed to suppress crime with means commensurate with the gravity of the threat? On heels of military credits issue, communique is defensive in intent, but there is no suggestion of any "give" in the Army's position regarding the substantive issues involved.

"Clarín" editorial picked up on this theme March 8 to suggest

that the government intends to repress human rights violations "from the right," but it can safely do so only when "the massive" subversion of the left has been defeated definitively.

4. Catholic priests in detention. Embassy has reported, with confirmation of local Catholic News Services, that no Catholic clergy currently imprisoned. However, we have now been informed by Nunciatura source that twelve priests are in jail, two of them since 1975. According to this source, and we have no reason to doubt the accuracy of this information, Nunciatura and Catholic Episcopate have tried repeatedly but unsuccessfully to gain release of the twelve. We are seeking further information, but in our judgment church-state relations have suffered seriously in recent months as a result of GOA pressures on Church to control what is said in Sunday sermons and what is taught in Catholic schools, the Church's inability to obtain prompt, satisfactory replies from the government with respect to inquiries concerning missing individuals and other similar issues which have arisen. The incident reported in the next paragraph further adds to the increased atmosphere of mutual suspicion between church and state.

5. Religious center bombed. On March 7 two early morning explosions damaged premises of Instituto de Cultura Religiosa Superior in downtown Buenos Aires. No casualties resulted. Less than six months ago, same location along with Instituto's nearby bookshop was sprayed with machinegun fire. Priests

running the Instituto refused to speculate on attacks, but previous machinegun incident coincided with furor over Latin American Bible and Institute at that time was labelled in press as third world-oriented.

6. Writs of habeas corpus. Writs have been requested on behalf of kidnap victims in the past, but in small numbers relative to the total amount of disappearance cases because of fear of reprisals and the futility of such legal actions. However, numbers jumped significantly on March 2-3 when at least 69 were submitted in various federal courts. Local press has commented that this is a significant development demonstrating that kidnappings are a frequent occurrence and a serious problem. We are checking further as to the genesis of this development.

7. Lists continue to be published. The government is continuing to publish lists of those arrested and at disposition of the executive, those released from under state of siege terms (though not necessarily freed from jail) and those foreigners expelled. Latest figures covering February 27-March 5 show approximately 50 arrests, 50 releases and six expulsions.

8. Journalists kidnapped. On March 1, two journalists, Mario Mactas and Oscar Blotta, were taken from the downtown offices of their publishing company by unidentified, armed civilians. Writs of habeas corpus were filed on their behalf. "La Razon" of March 7 reported that they, along with a third employee not previously cited as missing, had reappeared, apparently

unharmful. Identity of kidnappers undisclosed. All three worked for publisher of "Emmanuelle", a magazine recently banned by Buenos Aires provincial authorities because of its "insidious campaign to destroy the traditional family."

9. Clandestine press. Embassy received this week issue number 4 (Feb 1977) of "Cadena Informativa," a mimeographed broadside that, according to source at Nunciatura, is compiled and distributed clandestinely by families and friends of victims of human rights abuses by security forces. Issue 4 details killings by security personnel and attacks "shoot outs" allegedly staged to cover murder of prisoners.

10. New penalties for Jehovah's Witnesses. Law 21,528 published in Official Gazette of February 23 amends Code of Military Justice (Art 668) to add permanent and absolute deprivations of civil rights (voting, holding public office, etc.) to jail terms already prescribed for refusal to fulfill military service obligations. Law applies new sanction specifically to those holding "an inherent position of rebellion against fulfillment of duties of citizenship...who invoke reasons of conscience or belonging to pseudo-religious sects such as Jehovah's Witness, Bible Readers (Lectores de la Biblia), etc." Press has not commented on law, and we have been unable to reach Witnesses' representative for reaction.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

CONTROL: 2002
15 MAR 77
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FROM
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION
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E.O. 11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:
ACTION:

NA
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Refugee offices ransacked; UNHCR reports 4 refugees disappeared

SECSTATE WASHDC

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 2002

REF: Buenos Aires 1543

1. Ten or more men in civilian clothes broke into Refugee Coordinating Agency offices late last night (Mar 14), ransacking files and stealing some office equipment, according to UNHCR rep. Rep told Emboff that files on urgent resettlement cases were in particular disarray and may have been copied on the office copying machine. Agency and UNHCR officials are investigating to see whether any documents were stolen. UNHCR rep said he had no idea why the offices were raided nor by whom, although he said it could have been meant as a warning following critical statements made by former Uruguayan senator Enrique Erro in Geneva last week. Erro spent 22 months in Argentine jails before being expelled by GOA in January this year.
2. UNHCR rep also reported that it has in recent weeks accepted under its mandate an additional 42 persons--11 Paraguayan, 17 Chilean, 10 Uruguayan and 4 Bolivian--who are being held in Argentine

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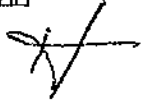
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DCM:MChaplin
MAR 16 1977

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ATTACHE--BUENOS AIR

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

jails, making a total of 50 mandated refugees currently detained in Argentina (see reftel). To date GOA has cooperated with UNHCR by expelling jailed refugees to resettlement locations outside Argentina. Rep said increased activity of Paraguayan intelligence and security forces in Argentina has led to high number of Paraguayan arrests^{here}/and considerable preoccupation among Paraguayan refugees. Rep also noted that four refugees have reportedly disappeared since Feb 1, including Paraguayan doctor Augustin Goiburu who was kidnapped by unidentified armed men in Parana, Argentina on Feb 9. Goiburu had been summoned to Federal police headquarters in Parana for questioning and immediately released two days before his disappearance. (His case was specifically mentioned by US delegate to UN Human Rights Commission Tyson last week.)

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16 MAR 77

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

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 CVIS AR (MENDEZ, Juan Ernesto)
 Juan Ernesto Mendez

 ACTION:
 INFO:

 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 SECSTATE WASHDC
~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 2017

REF: (a) Paris 7393, (b) Paris 6864

1. VISAS DELTA Juan Ernesto MENDEZ

2. Juan Mendez is an attorney and assistant law professor. As a student he was active in student and Peronist politics and later as a lawyer he defended political prisoners and labor and student activists. In August of 1975 Mendez was apparently picked up and held incommunicado by police for four days during which he claims he was tortured. Following the presentation of a writ of habeas corpus filed by his family, Mendez was formally arrested and charged with car theft. On November 24, 1975 he was found innocent of the charge, a ruling that was later upheld by a federal appeals court. Mendez was kept in jail, however, under Argentina's state of siege provisions which permit the Executive to detain persons without charge. Mendez then requested authorization to exercise the right granted to state of siege prisoners by the Argentine

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ADCM:CHuey

XO:KRECHT

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MAR 16 1977

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ATTACHE BUENOS AIRES

 NATIONAL PERSONNEL
 (Formerly FD-15-M)
 January 1976
 Dept. of State

constitution, Article 23 to opt to leave the country in lieu of remaining in detention. Those who exercise the option may return to Argentina once state of siege is lifted. Mendez' request to go to Peru was denied when the govt ruled that prisoners could not opt to go to countries in the American hemisphere and he had formulated a new request to leave for France when the Peronist govt fell to the military in March 1976. The military govt suspended the constitutional right of option to leave the country and later extended the suspension by law for another 180 days on November 2. In response to a new writ of habeas corpus filed by the family, Federal Court Judge Marquardt, however, ordered Mendez be allowed to exercise his option and leave for France. On Jan 14, 1977 a presidential decree was signed authorizing Mendez to leave Argentina and on Feb 27 he departed for France.

#x3

2. Mendez lived with John Hutchinson and family in Iowa as an exchange student in 1961-62. Hutchinson, who presently resides in Illinois, was extremely active in seeking US and international assistance in securing Mendez release and has offered to support Mendez and his family of wife and two young children in the US. A number of US congressmen have expressed interest in Mendez case, particularly Representatives Railsback and Drinan. Rep Drinan brought up case with Argentine officials during his visit to Argentina as member of Amnesty International delegation in November 1976. Other congressmen expressing concern include

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Senators Percy, Hruska, Culver and Stevenson and Representatives Fraser, Grassley, John B. Anderson and Virginia Smith. Mendez family here indicated Mendez hopes to go to US to personally thank Hutchinson and Congressmen Drinan and Railback for their efforts on his behalf. Embassy preparing separate reply to ~~reftelex B or Visa Alpha~~

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

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FROM
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E.O. 11652:
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Representative Fraser Inquiry on Human Rights and Security
Assistance

SECSTATE WASHDC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 5305

REF: STATE 159593

1. Our principal military monitoring technique consists ~~of~~ of periodic Milgroup visits to Argentine Armed Forces installations throughout the country. Milgroup estimates that its members visit each installation containing US defense articles supplied through FMS (MAP materiel and excess defense material programs were terminated in FY 1967) on the average of three times per year. Argentine Armed Forces are also acutely aware of prohibitions contained in MASM referred to in para 3, reftel.
2. In and of themselves, our monitoring techniques and, of course, GSA understanding of US groundrules are insufficient to guarantee that Argentines are complying with prohibitions against ~~XXXXXX~~ diversion contained in MASM. Our principal basis for confidence that Argentines have not been diverting such

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POL:WHHallman

CLEARANCES: MILGRP:COLRussell

POL/R:Mr. Smock

SY:Mr. Kelly

DAO:COL Coughlin

DEA:Mr. Boldin

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JUL 18 1977

FBI-BUENOS AIRES

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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equipment to prohibited purposes is that ~~with the principal~~ most
~~exception,~~ defense articles provided GOA in recent ~~years~~ years
military assistance programs do not lend themselves to internal
security operations, let alone to law enforcement or for
repression of human rights. The principal human rights
violations in Argentina which concern us are kidnapping, torture,
prolonged detention without charges and assassination of
prisoners. None of the defense articles provided under the
Security Assistance Program in recent years remotely can be
connected to such activities. The ~~one possible~~ principal
contention is that of helicopters. Helicopters are used for
surveillance and tracking purposes in urban guerrilla situations.
It is conceivable, although we have no specific information that
(and our monitoring is inadequate to determine whether)
helicopters provided under FMS may have been used for such
✓ purposes. ~~However, via our Helicopter monitoring we have determined~~
✓ ~~that no helicopters provided under FMS have gun mounts installed~~
Although we have provided ammunition i.e. 155 mm. shells, such
terrorist
✓ ammo is not used in ~~guerrilla~~ operations.

3. Our knowledge and observation of military and police
procedures are sufficient to convince us that no defense
articles provided the military via FMS have been diverted to
the police force. Most police equipment including weapons,
transportation and ammunition is manufactured in Argentina. For
further details see Buenos Aires 829.

CHAPLIN *me*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Memorandum

TO : LEGATT, POL/R, ECOM, SY, DAO, CONGEN

DATE: August 3, 1977

FROM : F. A. Tex Harris *JA*

SUBJECT: Human Rights Evaluation Report: Argentina - Embassy Comments

Attached is Fred Rondon's report to D/HA on the human rights situation in Argentina. This report is serving as a basic information paper for Assistant Secretary Derian's visit. The Department has also requested the Embassy's comments on it.

I would appreciate receiving by Noon Thursday, August 4 your preliminary reactions and comments on the human rights paper.

Many thanks.

POL:FAHarris:eg



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AUG 4 1977

FBI-BUENOS AIRES

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Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

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1) DATA
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HUMAN RIGHTS EVALUATION REPORT: ARGENTINA

Political violence has wracked Argentina since the late sixties. Such violence was partially responsible for the economic and political breakdown precipitating the March 1976 coup, and was subsequently used by the junta as a rationale for its no holds barred approach to counter-terrorism. This approach has resulted in egregious violations of human rights. The United States has responded by cutting back military credits, denying internal security munitions and tailoring votes in the international financial institutions to reflect its concern with human rights. While Argentine authorities have become increasingly sensitive to human rights criticism and have responded with several conciliatory gestures, there has been very little improvement to date. Human rights violations continue despite public admissions by the government that the terrorists have been largely defeated.

A. Condition of Human Rights in Argentina.

1. Respect for the integrity of the person, including freedom from

a. Torture

? Although torture is prohibited by law, and publically condemned by government officials, there is no question that security personnel and prison officials engage in its use. The victims are usually suspected terrorists, but other leftists including priests and foreign political exiles have been maltreated as well. The government is aware of such activities but generally lets them go unchecked and unpunished.

Accounts of torture within prison facilities and known detention centers on military bases are common. Prisoners are subjected to both physical and psychological torture. They are beaten, given electric shocks, suffocated and subjected to mock executions. These cruelties occur most often during interrogation sessions.

The Department has interviewed Americans (who have been held in Argentine prisons) and has no reason to doubt the accounts of torture as told by Gwenda Mae Loken Lopez and Patricia Erb. The first woman was under detention from April until September 1976. Ms. Lopez authorized the Department to protest her treatment and this was done in a stiff note. As of mid-1977, the Department was continuing to hear accounts of torture, particularly in connection with the Graiver scandal which broke in April 1977 and led to many arrests for alleged subversive involvements and economic crimes.

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b. Cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment.

The Argentine armed forces have committed themselves to the elimination of terrorist "combatants." This policy has led to the summary execution of prisoners who reportedly had "blood on their hands". These executions are sometimes disguised as shootouts with the security forces or prison escapes. It should be noted that leftist terrorists rarely allow themselves to be taken alive in order to avoid interrogation and what they fear will be almost certain death.

Conditions in Argentine prisons are probably among the best in Latin America. A major exception has applied, however, to individuals being held at the pleasure of the executive power under the state of siege provisions of the Argentine constitution. These are the so-called political prisoners, some being charged with terrorist activities, others being held on unspecified charges of subversion, and others being held without any charges at all. Many of these political prisoners claim that they are detained in very cramped quarters, held incommunicado for long periods, forced to take ice cold baths, fed very sparsely and, in general, treated very roughly. Conditions for these political prisoners appear to have improved since the arrival of the International Committee of the Red Cross which began its program of inspections in January 1977.

c. Arbitrary arrest and imprisonment.

Arrest cases in Argentina fall under two categories: those concerning common crimes which are processed in the normal judicial manner, and state of siege arrests authorized by the Argentine Constitution during periods of internal disorder. The President of Argentina may detain and move people around under the state of siege provisions but, according to law, he may not convict or apply punishment upon his own authority. The state of siege powers, which were invoked in 1974, have been used to hold a wide variety of persons, many of whom have been held for long periods without formal charges.

Many of the arrests under the state of siege have taken place in the middle of the night, sometimes in the form of mysterious abductions. Some people are freed after short periods of interrogation. Others are held incommunicado without charges, and without formal acknowledgement of their detention.

In late 1976, the Argentine government began to publish lists of individuals released from executive custody. Many of those "released" have been literally freed, while others have

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been turned over to the judicial authorities. It has never been possible to know exactly how many of the reportedly "released" prisoners are actually freed. In early 1977, the government also began to publish the names of individuals detained by the executive. Unfortunately, the names of many persons who have been abducted fail to appear on these lists, even though it is suspected that they have been detained by the official security forces.

Reliable Embassy sources placed the number of persons under executive custody at about 5,000 in April 1977. The Department does not know whether this figure has since increased or not. The Argentine government has never announced an overall figure. Many of the 5,000 under arrest are terrorist suspects, but there is no way to determine how many are actually involved with subversive activities, and how many others are simply held for their political beliefs.

The problem of disappearances alluded to earlier in this evaluation is a very serious one. There is no question that there have been thousands of unexplained disappearances. In some cases, they represent guerrillas going underground. In a majority of cases, however, the disappearances appear attributable directly to the security forces. Relatives seeking to determine the whereabouts of disappeared individuals have filed hundreds of writs of habeas corpus. Up until recently the executive had made little effort to comply with judicial orders to provide information on disappearance and detention cases, show just cause for persons' arrests, or release prisoners as ordered by the courts.

On June 9, an Argentine government spokesman acknowledged that the government has received about 2,000 reports of disappearances and said they would be investigated. In May, during a state visit to Venezuela, President Videla admitted that at least some of the disappearances are due to an "excess of repression by the forces of order."

d. Denial of fair public trial.

While the Argentine courts function normally in civil and criminal cases, intimidation of the legal system led to a breakdown of the court system prior to the March coup. Judges and lawyers were subject to both left and right-wing terrorism. A system of military justice has now evolved for most cases involving accusations of political and economic subversion. The Argentine government looks upon the court system as a way to treat suspects with a degree of due process. It is true that military courts

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have found some people innocent, reduced sentences, and applied a variety of jail sentences. The major drawbacks though, are obvious: the military acts as both judge and jury, and there is no opportunity for legal defense. Trials are closed to the public.

e. Invasion of the home.

When attempting to arrest suspected political subversives, the security police have not hesitated to break into homes. A considerable amount of looting accompanied such break-ins during 1976 but it appears that orders have been issued to arrest suspects without engaging in theft.

2. Respect for civil and political liberties

a. Freedom of thought, religion, assembly.

The Argentine Consitution guarantees freedom of religion although this has been challenged by the Argentine government in the case of the Jehovah's Witnesses. On August 31, 1976, the government decided to enforce a 1950 decree banning their activities, principally for failure to salute the flag and perform military service. The Witnesses appealed to the Argentine courts. On June 16 an appeals court ruled that the ban on Witness activities, publications, broadcasts and proselytizing was unconstitutional. The court stated that religious liberty cannot be denied, even though it can be subject to regulation. The government appealed the case to the Supreme Court in July 1977.

Anti-Semitism has been a recurrent problem in Argentina, manifesting itself in a number of bombings of synagogues during 1976-77. There were no casualties in these incidents. In April 1977, there were fears that Army hardliners, encouraged by the publication Cabildo, were trying to fan anti-semitism in connection with the Graiver scandal, that led to the arrest of several prominent Jews. The Argentine government responded, however, by banning two issues of Cabildo. This may have been a cause of death threats against the representative of the American Jewish Committee in Buenos Aires, who fled to the United States in July. In a written statement, he viewed his persecution as an effort in part to embarrass President Videla. In a statement to the press on July 8, the Department's spokesman noted the Department's belief that anti-Semitism is not the policy of President Videla or his government, but that the threats against the life of the Jewish representative "may have required the complicity of irresponsible elements within the security forces." Concern about anti-Semitism is heightened by the fact that the Argentine government has not

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condemned it flatly nor punished individuals guilty of terrorist incidents against Jewish establishments. It is not so serious, however, that it has led to any appreciable Jewish emigration from Argentina.

Relations between the Catholic Church and the Argentine government were exacerbated by the publication of a Church document on May 7 criticizing the government's human rights record. One senior Church official who has worked diligently on behalf of human rights commented that the Church fears that rightist elements within the military are trying to provide a confrontation between the Church and the Videla Government, in order to bring about Videla's fall. The Argentine Church is reportedly trying to avoid lending itself to rightist manipulation.

Freedom of expression and opinion in Argentina has been somewhat restricted by the banning of various right-wing and left-wing publications. The Argentine press is required to exercise self-censorship, and is generally prohibited from mentioning terrorist and counter-terrorist operations unless officially authorized by the government. The clauses defining inadmissible topics for press coverage in the anti-subversive law passed in 1974 have been criticized for their vagueness by journalist associations in the past.

The international wire services with offices in Argentina report freely.

The Argentine press generally supports the government; criticism tends to be rare. The English language Buenos Aires Herald has stood out in support of human rights; its editor was jailed briefly in April for making reference to a meeting of Argentine terrorists in Rome. The other liberal daily, La Opinion, has become the government's newspaper as a result of the arrest of its editor, Jacobo Timerman, who is being held on economic charges. The free press has suffered as a result of this arrest. Numerous other journalists have suffered intimidation and arrest in Argentina.

Lawyers, politicians, labor leaders, psychologists, psychiatrists and scientists have all suffered varying degrees of repression, leading organizations such as Amnesty International and the U.S. National Academy of Science to voice their concern. Fair legal proceedings have been particularly damaged by right-wing intimidation of lawyers showing any willingness to defend political prisoners.

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b. Freedom of movement within a country, foreign travel and emigration policies.

Freedom of movement within Argentina is the general rule, although under the State of Siege provisions as stipulated in Article 23 of the constitution, the President has the power to "arrest or move people from one part of Argentina to another, if they do not leave the country." There are no restrictions placed on foreign travel. The freedom to emigrate may be withheld for men who are about to fulfill the compulsory military service, but in most cases the Argentine citizen is free to settle abroad.

According to a special provision in the Argentine constitution, prisoners being held under the state of siege have the "right of option" to leave the country in lieu of detention. This right was suspended in March 1976 but its reinstatement is currently under review as a result of orders from President Videla. A decision should come by October 1, 1977.

c. Democratic processes assuring the freedom to participate in the political process.

Upon taking power in March 1976, the military junta dissolved the parliament and banned political and labor activity. Since then all political offices have been filled administratively rather than by means of the electoral process. Political parties have had to suspend their activities. Basic union liberties have also been suspended, including the constitutional right to bargain collectively for wage increases and improvements in working conditions, and the right to strike. Under the Videla government there is little freedom to participate politically. The political parties are showing a little more courage, however, as the Radicales did in June when they criticized the government's human rights record. The Interior Ministry charged the party with engaging in political activities but a lower court dismissed the charges. The government has appealed the case.

3. Recent trends in governmental policies relating to the fulfillment of basic needs for food, shelter, health care and education

a. Policies designed to respond to the needs of the poor and policies which tend to ignore the needs of the poor.

A main objective of the present government of Argentina is sound economic recovery and growth. The economic policies designed to achieve these goals have adversely affected lower income groups, but never to such an extent that they could be

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termed violations of "human rights". The most important policies in this regard are: increased investment in productive capital projects, and the wage/price policy.

Increased government spending on capital investment has forced a decrease in funds set aside for social welfare spending. The current government has budgeted less in public housing, public health and education than the predecessor Peronist regime. By emphasizing wage control with limited price controls, real wages have been forced downward. Our Embassy reports that real wages have decreased on the order of 25 to 30 percent; the government's statistics show a 50 percent decline. The policy of wage restraint has been highly controversial. Wage-earners as a group have been disadvantaged in relation to the self-employed and to those who have income from non-wage sources. At the same time, unemployment has been kept relatively low (around four percent) despite the recession.

Trade union representatives and politicians who generally oppose the government's economic policies claim that many low income groups have been reduced to "starvation levels." This is difficult to prove empirically, and seems to be an exaggerated assertion. Nutritional levels are still substantially higher than those in almost all the rest of Latin America. Health care is available and is heavily subsidized. With increased economic growth and a winding down of the war against subversion there probably will be an increased investment in public education.

The Argentine government seeks to improve the lot of the poor primarily through economic growth and productivity and to this end relies largely on the revival of the private sector. Little emphasis has been placed on policies which could directly benefit the poor; their needs have been temporarily ignored. In fact, the economic policies presently implemented have adversely affected lower income groups.

b. Corruption of such a nature that significant resources are diverted toward the nation's elite and away from the majority of the population.

The Videla government is intent on routing out corruption and its efforts to date have been effective. Corruption in Argentina is held to a low level, it certainly is not of such a nature that significant resources are being diverted to the nation's elite and away from the majority of the population. The government's motives for suppressing corruption are often political. In a narrow sense, the anti-corruption campaign can be seen as an attempt to "get back at" and discredit previous regimes, especially the Peronist administration. A prime example of politi-

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cally motivated anti-corruption activity is the Aluar case, in which high-ranking officials of the previous military government are being processed for alleged corruption.

The Military itself, particularly in the higher echelons, continues to enjoy a clear reputation vis-a-vis corruption. Military officers are noted for their excessive zeal in purging society of corruption rather than in collecting their share of the spoils. Some of the means by which authorities seek to punish and reduce corruption are: stricter enforcement of tax laws; intervention of suspect businesses and unions; the stripping of allegedly excessive special privileges from union workers; the sanctioning of former government and union leaders for corruption under the "act of institutional responsibility;" and the arrest and trial of public officials charged with corruption, fraud, embezzlement and maladministration.

4. Describe the level of the government's responsibility for the foregoing human rights record, including the extent to which positive human rights measures are articulated as public policy or violations condoned as public policy because of security or other justifications. Evaluate the genuineness of those justifications.

The Argentine government is committed to the eradication of terrorism. This generally means that any leftist terrorist caught "with blood on his hands" will be executed. There is a new program, however, to rehabilitate marginally involved terrorists. With respect to right wing terrorism, our Embassy believes that there are no para-police or para-military bands operating out of control of the authorities. This is discussed below.

Torture is used regularly to interrogate suspected subversives. Individuals found to be innocent are released with apologies and admonished to remain silent.

The Argentine armed forces and undoubtedly a good portion of the Argentine public condone the use of harsh measures to fight the leftist extremist groups which initiated the cycle of violence in the late sixties. The most prominent of these groups are the Montoneros and the People's Revolutionary Army, who had thousands of combatants. They were able to operate freely during the mid-seventies as a result of their intimidation of political and judicial institutions. By 1974 rightist counter-terrorist organizations began to operate with government sanction. The most notorious rightist group was the AAA (Argentine Anti-Communist Alliance) which persecuted the political enemies of Presidents Juan and Isabel Peron (1973-76). Today, the ranks of

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the leftist terrorists have been decimated and the members of the AAA dispersed or jailed for common crimes. Even so, leftist terrorists have made four attempts on President Videla's life - the latest in June 1977, almost succeeded in assassinating Foreign Minister Guzzetti in May, and continue to kill businessmen, policemen and military officers. Retired officers are easy, preferred targets.

While President Videla makes no secret of his support of harsh counter-terrorism, he has tried to limit ideological and political repression. Such diverse groups as the Catholic Church, Argentine Jewry, the Peronist, Radical and Communist Parties, as well as many center-left figures are convinced that President Videla is a moderating force. Non-violent leftists such as Senator Solari Yrigoyen or Mrs. Alicia Moreau de Justo, President of the Permanent Assembly for Human Rights, counter that repression could not get worse than it is under the Videla administration.

Videla seems unable to control the powerful military commander of the Buenos Aires Military region, General Suarez Mason, in whose district the worst atrocities are being committed today. During the third week in July eight lawyers were abducted in Mar de Plata, leading to immediate speculation that Suarez Mason authorized these actions to embarrass the Videla Government. Suarez Mason is seconded by the governor of Buenos Aires, retired General Saint Jean, and both men seem dedicated to making political compromise an impossibility for Videla. Suarez Mason and his cohorts are held responsible for the political and anti-Semitic overtones of the Graiver Scandal, that led to mass arrests in April 1977, for the jailing of former President Lanusse (subsequently released), and for the intimidation of the Argentine representative of the American Jewish Committee. Suarez Mason typifies the Argentine Army hardliners.

President Videla has admitted publicly that the security forces have committed excesses. He seems to be trying to restrain such excesses and a key test will come this fall when an effort may be made to retire Suarez Mason. This would be in connection with the annual promotion-reassignment cycle in the Argentine army. Videla cannot retire Suarez Mason unilaterally and must have the support of a majority of generals. He must therefore build a consensus for action against Suarez Mason, who not only has a following in the Army but seems to enjoy support in the hardline Argentine Navy.

The Argentine government appears to be trying to use the courts and the legal system as a means for restoring institutional

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order. The government's willingness to accept court rulings on the Radical Party - which criticized the GOA despite a ban on political activity, and Jehovah's Witnesses will be another important human rights indicator.

The restoration of the "right of option", whereby prisoners under executive custody may opt for voluntary exile, is under active study. Its restoration might contribute to the release of many prisoners and be further evidence of human rights change.

Accounting for prisoners and disappearance cases will be the most difficult area for decision. A beginning was made in late 1976 as the names of those released from executive custody became public; in early 1977 the government began to list those detained by the executive. These lists are incomplete, however, because most of the kidnap victims of the security forces are never acknowledged.

The accounting problem is far more difficult than most outsiders think. Various units of the three armed forces and the police are known to keep their own prisoners whose identities, status and final disposition are not always reported or subject to the President's immediate control. The Navy is apparently the worst offender. Navy hardliners were responsible, for example, for the arrest and torture of Senator Solari Yrigoyen, a left of center democrat who was expelled to Venezuela in May despite the probable opposition of the Foreign Ministry, which is in the hands of the Navy. One of Solari's companions, Representative Abdel Amaya, died as the direct result of torture, according to Solari. The Navy is also believed responsible for the detention of a number of priests and labor leaders. The objective of these secret arrests appears to be to use civilians as pawns for bargaining with the Church, labor and the political parties as well as to prevent efforts by the Army to reach accommodations with such groups.

In sum, human rights violations as they apply to the elimination of terrorists are government policy; the end justifies the means to the GOA. The overall level of repression in Argentina is another matter given the internecine struggle within the security forces. Human rights violations in this latter category reflect Argentine political instability.

5. Describe the willingness and past record of the government regarding independent, outside investigation of alleged human rights violations.

Amnesty International visited Argentina in November 1976. During the visit several plainclothes policemen, ostensibly

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assigned to protect the delegates, followed them wherever they went, and questioned and even detained a number of people whom they met. The Amnesty report, published in March, was highly critical of the Argentine government's human rights practices. The Department and our Embassy in Buenos Aires believe that the Amnesty report was a generally accurate one.

The International Committee of the Red Cross established an office in Buenos Aires in January 1977. It has visited most prisons but does not have access to military bases. Conditions in prisons such as the one at La Plata, where summary executions have been reported, appear to have improved as a result of the ICRC's program.

American Officials have suggested to the Argentine government that the Inter-American Human Rights Commission be invited but no action has been forthcoming. The Commission itself does not appear to have pressed for a visit. ,

(1) In August, the House Inter-American Subcommittee is expected to visit Argentina and will presumably report on conditions in Argentina.

The Argentine government has shown itself very willing to discuss human rights with American officials, including the Coordinator for Humanitarian Affairs, Patricia Derian, who visited Buenos Aires in April.

In late 1976, the Foreign Ministry established a Human Rights Working Group through which foreign embassies could channel requests for information on Argentine and third country nationals.

B. Analysis and Recommendations

1. Identify legitimate objectives over the next three, six, twelve months in relation to improving conditions in Argentina, with respect to categories A 1, 2 and 3 above.

a. Publication of a list of all persons under executive custody.

This step has been urged repeatedly by U.S. diplomats as well as human rights organizations so that families may learn whether next of kin are in prison or not. This would help to clear up the question of disappearances. Its publication will depend almost entirely on the political situation in Argentina,

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since the acknowledgement of prisoners will raise many questions about what happened to those who are not listed as under detention. We should continue to press diplomatically for such a list while recognizing that other steps outlined below are probably a necessary prelude to this step. This is possibly a twelve month objective.

b. Regularized detention procedures.

If the security forces would acknowledge the arrest of prisoners, this would likely contribute greatly to the end of summary executions, disappearances, and help to reduce torture. With the Argentine government holding the upper hand over terrorism, it should be able to acknowledge openly whom it is arresting. Such an acknowledgement in no way threatens the government's political power. Nor does it force the government to look back and punish its own security forces. Argentina's military hardliners have of course resisted any form of accounting. This would appear to be an appropriate goal which could be tied to our ability to sell commercial arms related to internal security. While we should be forthcoming if all arrests are acknowledged as they take place, we should modulate any internal security arms sales carefully to reflect whether families and lawyers have access to prisoners and whether detainees who are not charged promptly are released. This is an immediate objective although realization probably depends upon the consolidation of President Videla's power.

c. Re-establish jurisdiction of the civilian courts.

This is a long term step which will not be accepted readily by the Argentine military in cases they define as subversive ones. Even if we sell arms commercially to Argentina, we might consider refusing FMS credits pending the realization of this step.

d. Investigate and try persons guilty of abusing prisoners.

Exemplary action by the Argentine government in this field would help bring an end to torture. While the situation should improve sharply as detention procedures are regularized, interim action in this area would reflect GOA seriousness to end abuses. The GOA need not look back but simply declare that no more abuse will be allowed. Action would be an indicator that the human rights picture is on the mend and should influence our votes in the international financial institutions.

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e. Permit detainees to seek asylum abroad.

This is possibly the most realizable of our priority human rights goals and represents a uniquely Argentine solution to the problem of political prisoners, i.e. the "right of option" is a constitutional right in Argentina. The Argentine Economy Minister has already told us that the government is considering restoration of this right. If accompanied by the release/exile of uncharged prisoners, it would help significantly to alleviate the problem of political prisoners. The GOA probably expects that we will respond to reinstatement of the right by voting for Argentine loans in the international banks. Failure to do so would suggest to the GOA that we did not recognize a significant human rights improvement. At the same time, GOA failure to accompany reinstatement of the right with permission to emigrate, might require us to return to the status quo ante in the IFIs.

f. Political, ideological and religious repression.

While it is true that there is ideological persecution in Argentina, it is generally related to counter-terrorist excesses rather than any government plan to purge the country's non-violent opponents. There is, nevertheless, a very real possibility that the government might become far more repressive. If this turns out to be the case, there would probably be no choice but to restrict completely military transfers and vote against Argentina in the international financial institutions. With respect to political or labor rights, it is probable that these groups will challenge the government more openly as the terrorist threat recedes. Such a challenge could either lead to political liberties or repression. This is a longer term issue in Argentina.

2. Identify principal reaction in Argentina, pro and con, to the new U.S. human rights policies and Embassy actions and proposed actions in support of those policies, including reactions of the government, opposition leaders, Church and the most influential private and intellectual groups and the general public.

Our Embassy in Buenos Aires understands fully the importance attached to human rights by the new Administration. Human Rights Coordinator Derian made her first visit as Coordinator to Argentina and communicated the Administration sense of priority. The Embassy was already actively engaged on behalf of human rights. The Argentine government learned in September 1976 that we would probably be unable to support their loan projects in the Inter-American Development Bank if the Harkin Amendment were found to apply. The Argentine government has not chosen to test us in the Bank. Both before and since then, our Embassy has discussed the question of human rights at literally every level of the Argentine government.

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The Argentine government has received very confused signals, however. It feels that Secretary Kissinger was understanding of the Argentine problem and therefore disinclined to sanction Argentina. Former Ambassador Hill, who has faithfully carried out his instructions while en poste, left Argentina in May, and publicly criticized the new Administration's approach to human rights in a July interview with a major Argentine magazine. Our choice of a new Ambassador to Argentina is therefore a very important one in terms of our human rights impact within Argentina.

Unlike the previous Administration, senior Administration officials have made the United States' commitment to human rights unmistakably clear to the Argentines. These officials include the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury and the President's Assistant for National Security Affairs.

Government reaction in Argentina, at least within the armed forces, appears to be hostile to the Carter Administration. The Argentine military resents deeply our military sanctions, coming at a time when many of them believe they are engaged in a fight against Marxism. They also resent the double standard we have applied. They see us ignoring human rights abuses in the case of South Korea, for example, where U.S. security is at stake, but not when Argentina's security (from terrorism) is involved.

Civilian opposition leaders, notably those in the Peronist and Radical parties, seem ambivalent about the new Administration's approach. They want us to pressure the Argentine government to respect human rights and move towards civilian rule. This is particularly important to them as the terrorist problems get under control. They fear, however, that we might go too far and possibly cause President Videla's downfall and greater political repression.

The Catholic Church in Argentina shares the Administration's concern for human rights and has criticized the GOA. It is fearful, however, of playing into the hands of extremists on either side of the political spectrum.

Conservative intellectuals probably distrust our motives, concluding that the Administration has chosen human rights as a banner to fight communism and for domestic political gain. The conservative Argentine media reflects this opinion. Beseiged liberals in Argentina, particularly those who care about human rights, endorse and take heart by the Administration's approach.

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3. Evaluate reactions in 2 above in terms of the implications for positive and negative changes in the human rights conditions.

At least for the next few years, the question of human rights will be clearly in the hands of the Argentine military, either as rulers or overseers of a civilian regime. It would therefore appear that we have sought deliberately to antagonize the group most able to affect the situation in Argentina. Argentine military officers have certainly told us this. On the other hand, the Videla administration seems to care seriously about its image in the Western world and it wants to do all it can to preserve whatever relationships it can with the United States as it goes through what it hopes is a transitional period. For example, the Videla government courts Argentine labor every time the International Labor Organization meets. The GOA also went out of its way to come up with human rights "improvements" prior to June votes in the World Bank. A negative vote by the United States would not have denied credits to Argentina, yet the GOA sought our vote actively. The military is also well aware that we have welcomed into our hospitals Argentine soldiers victimized by terrorism. In addition, senior Administration officials have made it clear to the Videla Administration that we very much want to involve ourselves constructively in Argentina, if they will only do their part to moderate their human rights practices.

Civilian democratic leaders in Argentina probably view the Administration's policies as a brake for greater repression in Argentina and a source of support for a return to constitutional rule. Their main fear is that we might push too hard.

4. Evaluate the impact of U.S. actions on other U.S. interests in Argentina, most notably in the field of nuclear non-proliferation.

Argentina has the most advanced nuclear technology in Latin America and is moving to acquire an indigenous possibly unsafe-guarded, reprocessing capability. It is therefore crucial to our non-proliferation policy that we preserve an ability to dissuade Argentina from proceeding with reprocessing. The Administration is presently considering major nuclear initiatives toward Argentina, which might be foreclosed if the United States government decided to treat Argentina as a pariah.

Up to now, however, U.S. interests have not suffered appreciably as a result of our policies. If publically we decide to deny all arms transfers, it seems likely that Argentina will refuse access to its airports and shores of U.S. military aircraft and

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vessels, e.g. the UNITAS navy exercise would probably be scrapped. Arms denials are also orienting the Argentine military toward Europe and self-sufficiency. In the economic field, it can be assumed that the Argentines will seek to deal with Europe whenever possible. Argentina is not an important supplier to our markets.

If we opt to seek actively to block economic credits to Argentina, particularly commercial credits, Argentina will probably do its best to turn Latin America against the United States. In desperation, Argentina might develop a more active relationship with the communist world, with which it enjoys a trade surplus of about \$350 million.

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MR. F. A. TEX HARRIS, POLITICAL
SECTION

8/4/77

MR. ROBERT W. SCHERRER, LEGAL ATTACHE

HUMAN RIGHTS EVALUATION REPORT:
ARGENTINA - EMBASSY COMMENTS

Reference your memo of 8/3/77, which attached FRED RONDON's report to D/HA on the human rights situation in Argentina.

I have reviewed the above described report and have no information to add to that contained in the report.

I feel there are several minor inaccuracies in the report; however, these inaccuracies do not affect the overall conclusions arrived at in the report. For the record, the inaccuracies conceived by me in the enclosed report are as follows:

Page 7 contains a paragraph, which reads "Increased government spending on capital investment has forced a decrease in funds set aside for social welfare spending. The current government has budgeted less in public housing, public health and education than the predecessor Peronist regime." The foregoing statement is undoubtedly true; however, I believe it conveys an incorrect impression, i.e. the current military government is less attentive to the needs in public housing, public health and education, since they have budgeted less money for these projects than the predecessor Peronist government. I believe that when the unbelievable level of graft and corruption spent by the Peronist Social Welfare Ministry is eliminated from the publicly proclaimed Peronist government budgeted funds in the areas of social welfare, the conclusion would be reached that the current military regime has budgeted more in the areas of social welfare, than its corrupt predecessor.

Page 8 contains a statement indicating "our Embassy believes that there are no para-police or para-military bands operating out of control of the authorities." I would like to register my dissent with this statement since there are groups within the Federal Police of Argentina, the Buenos Aires Provincial Police, and the Argentine Army Intelligence Service,

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which operate on occasion without the knowledge or authority of their superior officers. In the case of the Buenos Aires Provincial Police, numerous activities are carried out without the authority or knowledge of the Minister of the Interior, who is ultimately responsible for activities of the Buenos Aires Provincial Police. Likewise, the same can be said for the Federal Police of Argentina in some of their "non-official operations."

Page 8 contains information concerning a group identified as the AAA. Information is contained in this section, which indicates that members of the AAA have been dispersed or jailed for common crimes. I believe the impression is created that the AAA was a single entity. This is not so. The AAA was never any one single entity, but was a pseudonym utilized by various individuals, groups or organizations to claim credit for rightwing terrorist activities. Some of these individuals, groups or organizations originated with the Federal Police of Argentina, the Social Welfare Ministry, the CGT, the Ministry of Labor and the Argentine Army Intelligence Service. Additionally, the various labor unions carried out many activities under the AAA banner. There is no doubt that individuals taking part in so-called AAA activities from the Social Welfare Ministry, the Ministry of Labor and the various labor unions, probably have been jailed; however, many AAA participants are still walking the streets and in some instances are connected with Argentine security forces.

Page 14 contains information concerning Argentine Government resentment of the double standard the U. S. Government appears to have applied in ignoring human rights abuses in South Korea, where U. S. security is at stake. For the record, I would like to register comments made by various ranking Argentine military contacts with regard to the case of South Korea and Israel, as concerns human rights abuses in those countries. With regard to South Korea, many Argentine military contacts have expressed their sincere conviction that the U. S. Government has not taken sanctions against South Korea for well documented human rights violations because of the fact that "numerous" U. S. Government officials, including Senators and Congressmen, have been bribed and corrupted by the Korean Intelligence Agency (KIA) and therefore were not disposed to act against their benefactor out of fear of retaliation. These Argentine military contacts note large U. S. military presence in South Korea and frankly are confused that the U. S. would tolerate human rights violations in South Korea using the excuse that U. S. security is involved. Argentine military contacts view South Korea as a U. S. militarily occupied and dominated country. Admittedly, the views of these Argentine military contacts concerning South Korea are erroneous and

simplistic; however, I am convinced that they sincerely believe their views to be valid. Numerous ranking military contacts have also indicated their dismay with the U. S. Embassy, Tel Aviv's report to Congress on human rights violations in Israel, which was publicly disclosed.

These contacts generally state that they are convinced that the Israeli Intelligence Service and Israeli Security Forces have no hesitation in carrying out the most vicious human rights violations against Arab terrorists operating against Israel. These military contacts believe that the U. S. Embassy, Tel Aviv's report was a "white wash" since they are certain that daily so-called human rights violations by Israeli Security Forces take place against Arab terrorists and innocent Arabs in the Middle East.

Information in the latter paragraphs has been included since I believe it is pertinent in an evaluation of reaction in Argentina to U. S. Government's human rights policies.

~~Classified by 5931 GDS.~~

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

CONTROL: 5681

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INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

6

FROM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES	CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
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E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

N/A
CVIS, SREF, AR (VOGLER, GUILLERMO CLAUDIO) (VOGLER, LILIANA)
NAME CHECK

ACTION:

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

RUEABND/DEA HQS WASHDC IMMEDIATE

DIRECTOR FBI IMMEDIATE

UNCLASSIFIED BUENOS AIRES: 5681

CONS
POL-2
POL/R*
LEGATT*
SY*
DEA*
RF
CHRON

1. VISAS EAGLE.

2. VOGLER, GUILLERMO CLAUDIO ARGENTINE

13 MAY 1925 Per GENERAL CABRERA, CORDOBA, ARGENTINA

OCCUPATION NOT IMMEDIATELY KNOWN

UNIT 9, LA PLATA PRISON

3. BEING DETAINED BY ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT, FOR ALLEGED

ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF A WEAPON, ACCORDING TO FAMILY.

4. VOGLER, LILIANA ARGENTINE

17 JUNE 1958 RIO CUARTO, CORDOBA, ARGENTINA

OCCUPATION NOT IMMEDIATELY KNOWN

VILLA DAVOTO PRISON

5. DAUGHTER OF ABOVE. BEING DETAINED BY ARGENTINE

GOVERNMENT CHARGED WITH SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES, ACCORDING

109-812-142

DRAFTED BY:

CONS:Whitchcock:eg

CLEARANCES:

POL:WHallman

DRAFTING DATE

8/3/77

TEL. EXT.

229

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

CONS:GOHuey (subs)

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AUG 20 1977

UNCLASSIFIED

CLASSIFICATION

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OPTIONAL FORM 153
(Formerly FS-413)
January 1975
Dept. of State

109-812-142

TO FAMILY.

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UNCLASSIFIED

Classification

CONTROL: 7848
201546Z OCT 77

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

GDS \

SHUM, AR

PARALLEL DETENTION-THE CASE OF LILIANA VOGLER

ACTION:

SECSTATE WASHDC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES: 7848

REF:A) STATE 236793 B) STATE 244239

1. LILIANA VOGLER AND MORE THAN 1,300 OTHER PERSONS

ARE HELD IN ARGENTINA BOTH UNDER STATE OF SIEGE (PEN)

EXECUTIVE DETENTION AND JUDICIALLY ORDERED PREVENTIVE

DETENTION. REFTEL/IS CORRECT THAT EITHER PEN DECREE

OR/PREVENTIVE DETENTION/IS SUFFICIENT LEGAL BASIS FOR

DETENTION. IT IS IMPORTANT TO POINT OUT THAT IN THESE

CASES OF PARALLEL DETENTION THE RECENTLY RESTORED

RIGHT OF OPTION PROCEDURES ARE NOT AVAILABLE. THE GOA,

TO DATE, WILL NOT PROCESS RIGHT OF OPTION PETITIONS IN

THOSE CASES WHERE PRISONERS ARE ALSO HELD UNDER

JUDICIALLY ORDERED PREVENTIVE DETENTION.

2. ARGENTINE OPERATING PROCEDURES IN PROCESSING

TERRORIST AND SUBVERSIVE CASES LEAD TO THIS DOUBLE

SYSTEM OF DETENTION. A SUSPECTED INDIVIDUAL IS PICKED

DRAFTED BY:

POL:FAHarris:eg

DRAFTING DATE

10/7/77

TEL. EXT.

277

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

POLCOUNS:WHallman

CLEARANCES:

LEGATT:RWScherrer

SY:RKelly

OCT 20 1977

FBI-BUENOS AIRES

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL FORM 152 (Rev. 1-76)
(Formerly FD-412) (Rev. 1-76)
January 1976
Dept. of State

UP AND "INTERROGATED". A DECISION IS THEN MADE EITHER TO RELEASE,
PUBLICLY DETAIN UNDER PEN, OR SECRETLY HOLD THE INDIVIDUAL.

SUBSEQUENTLY, AFTER ADDITIONAL REVIEW A DECISION MAY BE MADE TO
IRREDEEMABLE
ELIMINATE ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ TERRORISTS. IN POLICE JARGON THIS SORTING
OUT PROCESS IS KNOWN AS THE "RIFF".

3. IN CASES WHERE THE PERSON IS PUBLICLY HELD UNDER
(PEN)
PRESIDENTIALLY DECREED EXECUTIVE DETENTION/ THE FACTS OF THE CASE
ARE REVIEWED AT A LATER TIME AND A JUDGEMENT MADE WHETHER THE
GOVERNMENT HAS ENOUGHT CLEAR AND INTRODUCIBLE EVIDENCE OF A
CRIME TO BRING THE PERSON TO TRIAL. IF THIS IS FELT TO BE THE
CASE, A DECISION IS THEN MADE WHETHER THE PERSON SHOULD BE
TRIED BEFORE A CIVILIAN CRIMINAL COURT OR BEFORE A MILITARY
COUNCIL.

4. THE PERSON IS THEN TURNED OVER TO THE SELECTED JUDICIAL
SYSTEM FOR CRIMINAL PROCEEDING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CIVIL
CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURES OR THE CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE.
UNDER EITHER OF THESE PROCEDURES PREVENTIVE DETENTION IS
NORMALLY ORDERED BY THE INVESTIGATING JUDGE TO HOLD THE
DEFENDANT WHILE THE INVESTIGATORY PROCEDURES TAKE PLACE. THIS
INVESTIGATION MAY LAST FOR ONE OR TWO YEARS IN CIVILIAN COURTS
OR MAY BE VERY SWIFT AT TIMES IN MILITARY COURTS.

5. IN THE MAJORITY OF SUCH CASES, THE EXECUTIVE DETENTION
DECREE IS NOT RESCINDED. PERSONS ARE HELD UNDER PARALLEL
LEGAL AUTHORITIES. ARGENTINE OFFICIALS STATE THAT THERE IS NO

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Classification

BA-17
OPTIONAL FORM 1
(Formerly FS-7)
January 1971
Edw. G. L. 1

INCONSISTENCY

~~INCONSISTENCY~~ IN THIS, AS EXECUTIVE DETENTION IS DECREED DUE TO THE PERSON'S POSING A THREAT TO THE PEACE AND GOOD ORDER OF THE NATION UNDER STATE OF SIEGE CONDITIONS. ON THE OTHER HAND, PREVENTIVE DETENTION IS PART OF A CRIMINAL PROCEEDING AGAINST THE INDIVIDUAL FOR SPECIFIC ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES.

6. ANOTHER PURPOSE OF THE DUAL DETENTION AUTHORITY IS TO INSURE THAT PERSONS AGAINST WHOM THERE ARE OUTSTANDING UNRESOLVED CRIMINAL CHARGES ARE NOT RELEASED AFTER THE CRIMINAL CHARGES ARE ADJUDICATED. PEN INSURES THEIR CONTINUED DETENTION. THE PROBLEM DERIVES FROM PAST EXPERIENCES WITH A BADLY ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ INTIMIDATED JUDICIARY WHO SUMMARILY FREED SOME SUBVERSIVES AFTER BEING THREATENED.

7. IN SUMMARY, LILIANA VOGLER AND PERHAPS UP TO A QUARTER OF THE PERSONS PRESENTLY HELD UNDER EXECUTIVE DETENTION ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO PETITION FOR THE RIGHT OF OPTION UNTIL THE CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST THEM HAVE BEEN ADJUDICATED -- A ~~UN~~ PROCEDURE, WHICH AT PRESENT/TAKES UP TO TWO YEARS IN ARGENTINA.

CHAPLIN 112

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Classification

BA-17
OPTIONAL FORM 10-65
(Form 10-65)
January 1965
Dept. of Justice

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

SUBJECT: Disappeared Person - ALTAMIRANDA, Ruben Omar

Ruben Omar ALTAMIRANDA (CI 5-856-427) a 24 year old Argentine, bachelor and commercial pilot was taken from his home at 5:30 AM on January 14, 1977 by approximately 10 armed civilians.

His father who lives at Juan B. Justo 1320, Florida, Province of Buenos Aires - (Phone 797-5965) called at the Embassy on August 24, 1977 to seek U.S. assistance. He indicated that family friends in Miami are interested in pushing for the son's release. They will be in contact with Congressman Fascell.

The father has received 3 informal reports through "good contacts" that his son was alive. One report indicated that his son had been tortured. ALTAMIRANDA's father has filed 7 habeas corpus petitions, all with negative results.

The father said that he was sure that his son was not involved in any subversive activities. His son had attended a military high school prior to enrolling in the military aviation school. After completing a year there his son decided to continue his aviation studies and become a private pilot which he did. His father stated that his son had no interest in politics and that all of his friends are free.

CC: POL
POL/R
SY
✓ LEGATT
ARA/ECA (Bumpus)
D/HA (Bova)
H (Cutter)

M

POL:FAHarris:eg (8/29/77)

*Hamon file
Lyle's file*

109-812-143
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AUG 29 1977
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CONTROL: 6621
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

INDICATE
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FROM

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

ACTION:

INFO:

GDS

SHUM, PORS, AR, PINS

DERIAN MEETING WITH ARGENTINE PERMANENT
ASSEMBLY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES: 6621

REF: (A) BUENOS AIRES 6221 (B) STATE 193417

1. HUMAN RIGHTS COORDINATOR DERIAN MET WITH

REPRESENTATIVES OF PERMANENT ASSEMBLY ON AUGUST 9.

ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVES DESCRIBED TWO RECENT

ACHIEVEMENTS: (1) THE SUPREME COURT'S REQUEST

TO THE PRESIDENT THAT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH THOROUGHLY

INVESTIGATE THE HABEAS CORPUS PETITIONS FILED BY

FAMILIES ON BEHALF OF "DISAPPEARED" RELATIVES. THE

ASSEMBLY HAS ITSELF AIDED IN THE SUBMISSION OF 655

HABEAS CORPUS PETITIONS; MORE PETITIONS ARE IN

PREPARATION, AND (2) THE EX DOCUMENT PUBLISHED

IN MAY BY THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS DESCRIBING CASES OF

DRAFTED BY: D/HAMBOVA:cls

DRAFTING DATE
9/3/77

TEL. EXT.

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:
POLCOUNS:WHallman

CLEARANCES:

POL:FAHarris:

SEP 1977

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CLASSIFICATION

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY THE PUBLIC AUTHORITIES. THEY ALSO SAID THEIR GROUP WAS GROWING AND BECOMING MORE REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL SECTORS OF ARGENTINE SOCIETY.

2. THE GROUP SAID THEY SAW NO IMPROVEMENT IN THE GENERAL HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION SINCE MS. DERIAN'S LAST VISIT, RATHER THINGS ARE INTENSIFYING. THE NUMBER OF DISAPPEARED CONTINUES TO RISE AND DETENTIONS CONTINUE, E.G. PEREZ ESQUIVEL. THEY SEE SIGNS THAT THE HIGHEST AUTHORITIES EITHER CAN'T OR DON'T WISH TO MODIFY THE SITUATION. THEY SAID THERE IS GROWING PUBLIC DISCONTENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT. PEOPLE ARE LOSING THEIR FEAR AND GOING TO THE COURTS TO PRESENT CASES AGAINST THE PUBLIC FORCES FOR MURDER, TORTURE AND DETENTION. THEY SAID THERE ARE NO MORE MILITARY ENCOUNTERS WITH GUERRILLAS BUT THERE ARE INCIDENTS SET-UP TO LOOK LIKE ENCOUNTERS DESIGNED TO KILL PRISONERS. THEY SAID THE ASSEMBLY HAS HAD SOME SUCCESS TO DATE BECAUSE IT HAS WORKED RESPECTFULLY AND DISCRETELY THROUGH LEGAL CHANNELS.

3. MS. DERIAN ASKED ONE MEMBER, DR. MIGNONE, FOR HIS PERSONAL OPINION ON WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WAS ABLE TO CONTROL THE SITUATION. HE RESPONDED THAT, LIKE THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE, THE GOVERNMENT HAS SET A ~~NEW~~ SECURITY APPARATUS INTO MOTION AND IT COULD NOT NOW CONTROL IT. HE CITED THE KIDNAPPING OF AMBASSADOR HIDALGO SOLA, THE ATTACK ON FOREIGN MINISTER GUZETTI AND THE DISAPPEARANCE OF

FERNANDEZ PONDAL OF ULTIMA CLAVE AS EXAMPLES OF INTERNECINE CLASHES BETWEEN MODERATE AND FAR RIGHT ELEMENTS IN THE ARMED FORCES.

4. MS. DERIAN EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT IF A DISPUTE AT THE TOP WERE TO BE FOUGHT OUT AS TERRORISM WAS FOUGHT, THE PEOPLE WOULD BECOME IRRELEVANT VICTIMS OF THE COMBAT. SHE SAID WHEN SHE WAS LAST IN ARGENTINA THERE WAS A CONSENSUS THAT WHILE THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT WAS NOT ~~XXXX~~ IDEAL, THERE WAS NO ALTERNATIVE IN SIGHT. SHE SAID HER IMPRESSION NOW WAS THAT PEOPLE FELT THEY MUST CHOOSE SIDES WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT. SHE ASKED WHAT THEY PREDICTED WOULD COME OUT OF AN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL DISPUTE.

5. ONE MEMBER SAID THAT THE U.S. MUST DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE, I.E. THAT THE STEPS THE U.S. TOOK WITH REGARD TO ARMS COULD BE CORRECT BUT THE EFFECT ON THE PEOPLE OF SIMILAR ECONOMIC STEPS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED. HOWEVER, EXTERNAL PRESSURES WELL THOUGHT OUT AND DIRECTED COULD HELP PUSH THE GOVERNMENT IN A CERTAIN DIRECTION, ~~INTERNECINE~~ INTERNECINE PROBLEMS. HE SAID NO ONE CARES ABOUT ARMS BUT ECONOMIC STEPS COULD LEAD TO A GROWTH OF ANTI-AMERICANISM. ANOTHER MEMBER DIFFERED, SAYING THAT THE U.S. IS ENJOYING GREATER POPULARITY TODAY IN ARGENTINA THAN IT HAS FOR MANY YEARS AND U.S. ACTIONS DESIGNED TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING NEGATIVE ACTION IN THE INTERNATIONAL BANKS, IS SEEN IN A POSITIVE LIGHT.

6. THE GROUP CONCURRED THAT THE U.S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY WAS POPULAR. RETURNING TO MS. DERIAN'S QUESTION, IT WAS AGREED THAT A DIFFERENCE EXISTED BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THAT THE ASSEMBLY BACKS ~~X~~ THE MODERATE GROUP TO WHICH VIDELA BELONGS. ONE MEMBER SAID ~~THE~~ THE VIDELA GROUP IS WEAKER AT PRESENT AND ALL PRO-HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF ARGENTINA MUST MOVE FIRMLY AHEAD.

7. THE GROUP MENTIONED THAT THERE WAS SOME PROBLEM WITH APPARENT AN ~~APPARENT~~ LACK OF CONSISTENCY IN THE U.S POLICY, KOREA WAS CITED AS AN EXAMPLE. MS. DERIAN EXPLAINED THAT WE ARE TALKING TO PEOPLE EVERYWHERE AS WE WERE HERE.

8. RETURNING TO ARGENTINA IT WAS OBSERVED THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT RESPECTING ITS OWN LAWS. MS. DERIAN ASKED IF THE GROUP THOUGHT THAT THE RIGHT OF OPTION TO SELF EXILE WOULD BE REINSTATED. ONE MEMBER SAID THIS WOULD SERVE AS A GREAT ESCAPE VALVE, STATING THAT ONLY A FEW OF THOSE DETAINED ~~ARE~~ ARE TERRORISTS AND ~~THE~~ THE GOVERNMENT COULD DENY THE RIGHT OF OPTION TO THEM. THE PROBLEM WITH THE RIGHT OF OPTION IS THAT IT FORCES THE GOVERNMENT TO ACCUSE PEOPLE. THE GROUP INSISTED THE DIRTY WAR MUST END, LISTS OF THE DETAINED MUST BE PUBLISHED.

9. ~~IN~~ MS. DERIAN INDICATED AGREEMENT BUT SAID SHE FEARED THE GOVERNMENT LACKED THE SELF-CONFIDENCE NEEDED. SHE SAID

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~~~Classification~~

THE ASSEMBLY MUST USE TACTICS WHICH WOULD AVOID BACKLASH. A GROUP MEMBER EXPRESSED CONCERN WITH THE RECENT DISAPPEARANCE OF JOURNALISTS AND A RECENT JUDGEMENT AGAINST A 17 YEAR OLD OVERTURNED BY THE SUPREME COURT. ANOTHER MEMBER SUGGESTED THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT GIVE THE RIGHT OF OPTION TO THOSE UNDER OFFICIAL DETENTION NOW WHO ARE NOT CONSIDERED EXTREMELY DANGEROUS AND PUT ALL OTHERS DETAINED INTO PUBLIC JAILS. MS. DERIAN SPECULATED THAT THERE ARE PROBABLY PEOPLE WHO HAVE SUFFERED SUCH SEVERE TRAUMAS THAT THE GOVERNMENT COULDN'T AFFORD TO LET THEM OUT.

10. ~~IN~~ ONE GROUP MEMBER SPECULATED THAT THE RECENT ~~REXXXXXX~~ ACTION OF THE COURTS IS A HOPEFUL SIGN AND SHOWS AN INTEREST IN A DEMOCRATIC SOLUTION. HE SAID THE ASSEMBLY IS INTERESTED IN STIMULATING ALL THAT CAN LEAD TO ~~MOX~~ NORMALIZATION AND THE ~~XXXXX~~ DIALOGUE WHICH VIDELA HAS CALLED FOR.

11. THE GROUP THANKED MS. DERIAN SAYING THEY WERE IMPRESSED BY THE CLARITY WITH WHICH SHE SAW THE SITUATION. THEY ASSURED HER THAT THEY WOULD OVERCOME THE DIFFICULTIES AND THAT A COUNTRY WITH THE VALUES OF ARGENTINA COULDN'T BE STOPPED.

12. MS. DERIAN PRAISED THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY SAYING IT WAS THE HOPE OF THE COUNTRY. SHE SAID THAT ARGENTINA HAD EVERYTHING GOING IN ITS FAVOR AND IF IT WAS POSSIBLE TO OVERCOME REPRESSION ANYWHERE, SURELY IT WAS POSSIBLE IN ARGENTINA.

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~~XXXXXXXX~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:

GDS
SHUM, PFOR, ARX, PINS
DERIAN VISIT WITH ADMIRAL MASSERA

ACTION:

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO:

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

CHARGE
POL-3
POL/R
USIS
ECON.
CONS
SY
DAO
LEGATT
MILGP
RF
CHRON

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES: 6644
~~NOTA~~

REF: (A) BUENOS AIRES 6221 (B) STATE 192822

1. AT HIS REQUEST, U.S. COORDINATOR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.
PATT DERIAN MET WITH JUNTA MEMBER MASSERA ON MORNING OF
AUGUST 10. THE ADMIRAL STRESSED THAT ARGENTINA WAS IN
THE PROCESS OF RETURNING TO NORMAL LEGAL PROCEDURES AND
THAT MUCH PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE SINCE MS. DERIAN'S
LAST VISIT. MRS. DERIAN EXPRESSED HER HOPE THAT
NORMALIZATION COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED SOON AND IN SUCH A
WAY THAT ALL LEVELS OF THE SECURITY APPARATUS WOULD
UNDERSTAND IT.
2. THE ADMIRAL STARTED THE CONVERSATION BY STRESSING
THAT PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE IN CONTROLLING THE

DRAFTED BY *[Signature]*
D/HA:MBova:eg

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

DRAFTING DATE

9/6/77

TEL. EXT.

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CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

POLCOUNS:WHallman *[Signature]*

CLEARANCES:

POL:FAHarris *[Signature]*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL FORM 100 (H)
(Formerly FO-41) 4-1
January 1976
Dept of State

SITUATION. WHILE NOTING THAT FALSE INFORMATION CIRCULATES, AND SOME INCIDENTS CONTINUE TO OCCUR ("SOME GROUPS STILL ESCAPE US") HE STRESSED THAT THE END WAS IN SIGHT. MRS. DERIAN EXPRESSED HER HOPE THAT THIS WAS THE CASE AND NOTED TWO THINGS OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO THE USG: (1) THE LARGE NUMBER OF DISAPPEARED AND (2) THE CONDITIONS OF BEING HELD INCOMMUNICADO WHERE PEOPLE ARE TREATED TOO HARSHLY. SHE SAID SHE HOPED NEW PROCEDURES WILL BE INTRODUCED.

3. ADMIRAL MASSERA SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT NUMBERS PRESIDENT VIDELA OR ADMIRAL ALLARA HAD PROVIDED REGARDING THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE CHARGED OR TAKEN ILLEGALLY BUT HE SAID THE LAST FEW MONTHS SHOWED RAPID PROGRESS. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE ARGENTINE ARMY WAS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT FROM OTHERS IN THAT ITS ORGANIZATION CONTAINED CORPS COMMANDERS WHO HAD SOME INDEPENDENCE ADMINISTERING INTERNAL SECURITY BUT SAID THAT THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT PRESIDENT VIDELA WAS NOT IN CONTROL. HE ADVISED THAT THERE COULD BE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE IMPRESSION RECEIVED OF THE CURRENT SITUATION AND THE ACTUAL REALITY.

4. MRS. DERIAN EXPRESSED HER CONCERN OVER THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO DON'T KNOW IF MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILY ARE DEAD OR ALIVE. SHE MENTIONED THAT LABOR LEADERS AND OTHERS HAVE BEEN IN JAIL SINCE 1975. SHE SAID THAT THE LEGAL SYSTEM SEEMS TO HAVE GROUND TO A HALT, E.G., PEOPLE WERE PICKED UP AND NEVER CHARGED, SOME WERE HELD WITH NO EVIDENCE AGAINST THEM, SOME WERE TRIED AND FOUND INNOCENT BUT STILL DETAINED. SHE EXPLAINED THAT

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Classification

OPTIONAL FORM 153A
(Formerly FS-213A)
January 1975
Dept. of State

AFTER A PERIOD OF TIME THE GOVERNMENT, HAVING WON THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM, SHOULD SHOW ITS STRENGTH BY SAYING TO THE PEOPLE THAT IT HAS WON BUT IT NEEDS HELP IN THIS MOP-UP PHASE. SHE SAID THE TERRORISTS ACHIEVE THEIR MAIN OBJECTIVE OF DESTROYING THE LEGAL INSTITUTIONS OF THE STATE IF THE GOVERNMENT DOESN'T ADMIT IT HAS WON THE WAR AND MUST NOW RETURN TO THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM BY BRINGING THOSE DETAINED TO TRIAL. SHE CITED THE CASE JACOBO OF ~~XXXXXX~~ TIMMERMAN AS AN EXAMPLE, ADDING HE HAS BEEN MISTREATED WHILE UNDER DETENTION. ADMIRAL MASSERA SAID HE DIDN'T BELIEVE TIMMERMAN HAD BEEN MISTREATED ALTHOUGH HE MAY HAVE SAID HE HAS BEEN.

5. RETURNING TO THE GENERAL SITUATION, MRS. DERIAN SAID THAT MANY PEOPLE IN THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT HAD TOLD USG REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE NAVY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ABUSES WHICH OCCUR WHEN PEOPLE ARE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY AND INTERROGATED BEFORE THEY ENTER THE SYSTEM. ADMIRAL MASSERA RESPONDED THAT, WHILE HE DOESN'T WISH TO GIVE THE APPEARANCE OF "WASHING HIS HANDS OF THE MATTER," INTERNAL SECURITY IS NOT THE NAVY'S RESPONSIBILITY, THAT THE NAVY HAS VIRTUALLY NO BUENOS AIRES ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ JURISDICTION AND WHEN IT DOES DO SOMETHING IN THIS AREA IT DOES SO WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE ARMY. HE SAID THAT THOSE WHO SAY OTHERWISE ARE TRYING TO DECEIVE. MRS. DERIAN SAID THAT ON HER PRIOR VISIT SHE HAD BEEN TOLD ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ THAT ONE OF THE WORST INTERROGATION CENTERS

WAS THE NAVY MECHANICAL SCHOOL IN BUENOS AIRES. THE ADMIRAL DENIED THIS, SAYING THAT THE NAVY'S ENTIRE ANTI-SUBVERSIVE ROLE WAS CARRIED OUT BY NO MORE THAN THIRTY PEOPLE.

6. MRS. DERIAN SAID THAT WHEN SHE WAS IN ARGENTINA BEFORE THERE WAS A GENERAL ATTITUDE THAT THE WAR AGAINST TERRORISM WAS COMING TO AN END BUT WAS NOT REALLY OVER. THIS TIME SHE GOT THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT EVERYONE CONCLUDES THE WAR IS NOW OVER AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOW REACHED THE EQUALLY DIFFICULT PHASE OF GETTING BACK TO NORMAL DEMOCRATIC PROCEDURES. SHE ADVISED THAT THE PEOPLE BECOME IMPATIENT IF THIS PHASE TAKES TOO LONG TO CARRY OUT. SHE MENTIONED THAT SHE HAD DISCUSSED THIS PROBLEM WITH THE MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND THAT HE GAVE HER THE IMPRESSION THAT HE, TOO, WAS WORRIED ABOUT TIME. SHE REFERRED TO THE LEGISLATION PASSED IN THE U.S. CONGRESS WHICH SETS A ONE YEAR TIME LIMIT ON CONTINUING CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS WHICH WE HAVE WITH ARGENTINA. SHE SAID THAT INTERNATIONAL OPINION WAS BECOMING MORE AND MORE CRITICAL OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN ARGENTINA AND SAID IT WOULD BE DEVASTATING IF ARGENTINA BECAME THE NEXT CHILE IN THE EYES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. MRS. DERIAN EXPLAINED THAT SHE THINKS THERE ARE PEOPLE OF GREAT INTEGRITY IN THE GOVERNMENT WHO HOLD THE SAME VALUES THAT BOTH OUR CONSTITUTIONS INSCRIBE FOR OUR CITIZENS AND THAT SHE FEELS VERY UNHAPPY THAT THERE IS SUCH A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEORY AND PRACTICE.

7. THE ADMIRAL RESPONDED THAT, WHILE HE COULDN'T TALK OF A TIME PERIOD, THAT HE HAD NO CRYSTAL BALL WITH WHICH TO PREDICT, ARGENTINA WAS ON THE ROAD TO NORMALIZATION. HE ADMITTED THAT IN ROUGH THE ~~RECENT~~ BATTLE AGAINST TERRORISM SOME THINGS GOT OUT OF HAND, BUT THAT THERE HAS BEEN REAL IMPROVEMENT SINCE MARCH. HE REFERRED TO ONE OF HIS OFFICERS ESPECIALLY DESIGNATED TO RECEIVE PEOPLE LOOKING FOR THEIR RELATIVES AND SAID HIS CASE LOAD HAS DROPPED MARKEDLY.

8. MRS. DERIAN REFERRED TO THE RECENT CASE OF THE LAWYERS AND THEIR WIVES WHO HAD BEEN KIDNAPPED AND THE CASE OF THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR TO VENEZUELA. ADMIRAL MASSERA SAID THE AMBASSADOR'S CASE WAS CLEARLY POLITICAL, THAT HE KNEW SOME PEOPLE BLAMED THE NAVY FOR IT, BUT THAT SOMETHING ELSE WAS INVOLVED, PERHAPS, A LEFTIST GROUP TRYING TO MAKE TROUBLE FOR THE GOVERNMENT. HE SAID HE DOESN'T BELIEVE THAT ONE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S FORCES OUT OF CONTROL IS RESPONSIBLE, AS THIS WOULD GO AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT AND DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.

9. MRS. DERIAN SAID THAT BECAUSE OF THE DISORDER SO MANY CAN OPERATE THINKING THEY HAVE THE APPROVAL OF EITHER THE GOVERNMENT OR THE PEOPLE, THAT THE LEFT WING HAS BEEN LICKED BUT A MONSTER CREATED. ADMIRAL MASSERA SAID HE DIDN'T SEE IT THAT WAY. HE SAID THE RIGHT WING IS VERY SMALL IN ARGENTINA AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN STEPS, LIKE THE CLOSING OF THE MAGAZINE CABILDO. HE SAID THE RIGHT EXISTS ONLY AS A POLITICAL FORCE. MRS. DERIAN MENTIONED THAT THE INCIDENT AGAINST THE

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LAWYERS COULDN'T HAVE OCCURRED WITHOUT SOME OFFICIAL SUPPORT.

ADMIRAL MASSERA ASKED WHAT PRESIDENT VIDELA HAD TOLD HER ABOUT THIS INCIDENT AND, WHEN SHE RESPONDED THAT THEY HADN'T DISCUSSED IT, HE SAID THAT INCIDENTS SUCH AS IT COULD BE COUNTED ON THE FINGERS OF YOUR HAND.

10. MRS. DERIAN ASKED WHAT THE CHANCES WERE FOR EITHER A COMPLETE OR PARTIAL REINSTATEMENT OF THE RIGHT OF OPTION. ADMIRAL MASSERA EXPLAINED THAT THIS CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT HAD BEEN SUSPENDED FOR SIX MONTHS, THAT THIS TIME WAS NEARLY UP, AND THAT THE THOUGHT WAS TO REINSTATE IT. HE EXPLAINED THAT IN THE BEGINNING MANY PEOPLE WERE UNDER EXECUTIVE JUDGMENT AND IT WAS DIFFICULT TO CLARIFY CASES. HE EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO GET CASES MOVING AND BROUGHT TO TRIAL SO THAT THERE COULD BE RELEASES AND A RESTORATION OF THE RIGHT OF OPTION. HE ASKED MRS. DERIAN TO MAINTAIN AN EQUILIBRIUM REALIZING THAT WHILE THESE CASES WERE IMPORTANT, THEY WERE OLD AND FEW AND THE JUNTA WAS ON THE ROAD TO NORMALIZATION.

11. MRS. DERIAN SAID SHE HAD THE SENSE BUT WAS WORRIED ABOUT UNCERTAINTY AMONG LOWER GRADE OFFICIALS AND WONDERED WHETHER WHEN THE CHANGES COME THEY WOULD BE DIRECT AND CLEAR SO THAT PEOPLE WON'T FEEL THEMSELVES IN JEOPARDY AND THE PROCESS OF LOCATING THE DISAPPEARED WILL BE ENHANCED RATHER THAN HURT. ADMIRAL MASSERA SAID THE GOVERNMENT COULD, AT LEAST, PUBLISH A LIST IN THE NEWSPAPERS OF ALL THE PEOPLE IT HAS STATING IT

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DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO OTHERS. HE SAID THE LIST WOULDN'T BE LONG, THAT SOME LISTS ARE BEING PUBLISHED AND THAT WHILE MANY HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO TRIAL HE REALIZES THERE ARE SOME IN A GREY ZONE AND THAT THIS HURTS THE GOVERNMENT.

12. MRS. DERIAN ENDED BY REFERRING TO THE HABEAS CORPUS PETITIONS SUBMITTED TO THE EXECUTIVE BY THE SUPREME COURT SAYING IT WAS MUCH ON PEOPLES MINDS AND THAT SHE WOULD BE GLAD WHEN ALL THIS WAS OVER. SHE SAID THAT THE REINSTATEMENT OF LEGAL PROCEDURES WOULD CERTAINLY HELP RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND STRESSED THAT WE WERE ANXIOUS TO RETURN TO NORMAL GOOD RELATIONS.

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CONTROL: 6716
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TELEGRAM

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FROM

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CLASSIFICATION

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E.O. 11652:

GDS

TAGS:

SHUM, PFOR, AR, PINS

SUBJECT:

HUMAN RIGHTS COORDINATOR MEETINGS WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY GROUP

ACTION:

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO:

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 6716

CHARGE

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POL/R

USIS

ECON

CONS

SY

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MHLGP

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1. SUMMARY: Mrs. Derian met with the Foreign Ministry's working group on three occasions, the second meeting being held at their request. The Foreign Minister was present at the beginning of the first session and at the end of the third, hosting the lunch which followed it. The theme reiterated by the group was their desire that Mrs. Derian clearly understand the Argentine situation and they repeatedly offered to do all they could to clarify matters. Mrs. Derian expressed hope with the signs of progress they described, wondered if this attitude was clearly understood at all levels of the Government, and cautioned that time was limited and the Government should demonstrate its strength to the people.

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9/9/77

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FILE-BUENOS AIRES

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(Formerly FS 413(H))
January 1970
Dept. of State

of Argentina and the world now by acting openly and in accord with its traditional legal values. END SUMMARY.

2. ~~12~~ First working group meeting, August 8. This meeting was preceded by a meeting between Mrs. Derian and the Foreign Minister, with a few others present. Mrs. Derian asked Foreign Minister Montes: (1) How habeas corpus pleas were proceeding, (2) How Mr. Timmerman's case was coming, referring to her concern over his health, and (3) What progress was being made in reinstituting regular procedures for those under detention. The Minister responded by saying he would like to provide maximum information and asked if Mrs. Derian would like to see anyone in person in order to have a complete picture of the situation because, if so, ~~W~~ he would arrange it. Mrs. Derian asked for time to think over the latter proposal.

3. Mrs. Derian stressed the U.S. desire to return to the extra good feeling which had typified good relations between our two countries, noted the seriousness of the threat which had faced Argentina, observed that the Government has essentially broken the back of the subversives, encouraged a demonstration of strength at this time by returning to normal legal procedures, suggested publishing a list of the "disappeared" about whom the Government had knowledge and cautioned that the public support given the Government in a time of emergency would not continue ~~indefinitely~~ indefinitely.

4. THE FOREIGN MINISTER AGREED THAT SUBVERSION HAD BEEN DESTROYED, SAID THAT WHILE HE HAD NO CRYSTAL BALL THE SITUATION WOULD BE UNDER CONTROL IN A SHORT TIME, STRESSED THAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE AND EXPRESSED THE DESIRE THAT RELATIONS STAY GOOD BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ARGENTINA AND THE SOUTHERN CONE COUNTRIES.

5. THE WORKING GROUP SESSION STARTED WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY GROUP DESCRIBING U.S./ARGENTINE DISCUSSIONS AS BEING CONSTRUCTIVE TO DATE. AS A DEMONSTRATION OF THEIR DESIRE TO PROVIDE MRS. DERIAN WITH ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION, SHE WAS GIVEN A BOOK WHICH SHE WAS ASKED TO CONSIDER CONFIDENTIAL. IT WAS STRESSED THAT WHILE MUCH PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE, PROBLEMS CONTINUE AND THE U.S. WAS ASKED TO BE PATIENT AND UNDERSTANDING. THE ARMED FORCES HAD NOT ONLY INHERITED A SITUATION OF SUBVERSION BUT ALSO ONE OF POLITICAL CHAOS. MRS. DERIAN SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO SEND THEORISTS TO OTHER COUNTRIES TO STUDY POLITICAL ORGANIZATION AND OFFERED U.S. ASSISTANCE. THE RESPONSE WAS THAT PART OF ARGENTINA'S PROBLEM WAS THE TENDENCY TO OVER ANALYZE AND INCORPORATE FOREIGN IDEAS.

6. MRS. DERIAN SAID SHE HAD FORGOTTEN TO ASK THE FOREIGN MINISTER ABOUT THE RIGHT OF OPTION AND WONDERED IF THERE WERE PLANS TO RESTORE SOME ASPECTS OF IT. COL. SULLIVAN OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR RESPONDED THAT, WHILE NOT YET APPROVED, THE PROPOSAL FOR FULL RESTORATION WAS BEING STUDIED. HE ADDED THAT WHILE FORCES TO THE RIGHT AND LEFT ARE TRYING TO

BLOCK PROGRESS, THE GOVERNMENT IS PROGRESSING AND HE SAID THAT THE BOOK GIVEN MRS. DERIAN DESCRIBES STEPS BEING TAKEN.

7. THE DISCUSSION THEN RETURNED TO THE BOOK WHICH WAS SAID TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS WHICH ALWAYS ARISE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE USG, I.E., INFORMATION AND LISTS ON THE NUMBER AND NAMES OF DETAINED, A SHORT EXPLANATION OF THE POWERS AND CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THE GOVERNMENT IS OPERATING, A LIST OF DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS TAKEN AGAINST THOSE ABUSING AUTHORITY (A SEPARATE LIST MARKED SECRET NAMING INDIVIDUALS SO DISCIPLINED WAS SHOWN BUT NOT GIVEN TO MRS. DERIAN), STATISTICS ON TERRORIST ACTS.

8. AT THIS POINT DISCUSSION WAS DIVERTED FROM THE BOOK WHILE THE FOREIGN MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVES LAMENTED THE FACT THAT TERRORIST ACTS DON'T RECEIVE THE SAME PUBLICITY WHICH GOVERNMENT ACTS DO. MRS. DERIAN AGREED, SAYING THIS IS SO BECAUSE PEOPLE EXPECT A STATE TO REACT IN A LEGAL WAY AND WHEN IT EMPLOYS METHODS USED BY TERRORISTS IT LOSES PUBLIC SYMPATHY. THE COUNTER RESPONSE WAS THAT, WHILE THE GOA DID NOT USE TERRORIST METHODS IT WAS FORCED TO RESORT TO EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST SUBVERSION, BUT THAT EXCESSES WERE PUNISHED. THEY SPECULATED ON HOW THE U.S. WOULD REACT IN A SIMILAR SITUATION AND CITED ACTIONS TAKEN RECENTLY IN RESPONSE TO THE AFTERMATH OF THE NEW YORK BLACKOUT. THEY WONDERED HOW WE WOULD REACT TO PUBLIC CRITICISM FROM THE GOA. MRS. DERIAN RESPONDED BY NOTING THAT NO ONE HAS REALLY STUDIED THE PROBLEM OF HOW TO REACT TO ALL OUT TERRORISM AND

THAT THE INSTINCTIVE APPROACH SEEMS TO BE TO FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE. SHE HOPED WE COULD LEARN FROM THE EXPERIENCES OF OUR NEIGHBORS AND NOTED THAT THE INTERESTING THING ABOUT THE NEW YORK INCIDENT WAS THE GREAT EFFORT WHICH WAS MADE TO USE NORMAL PROCEDURES. SHE NOTED THAT THE PROCESS WAS OPEN AND WIDELY PUBLICIZED. SHE ADMITTED THAT THE U.S. HAD MANY PROBLEMS AND DESCRIBED HER OWN PREVIOUS WORK IN THE FIELD OF CIVIL RIGHTS, AND NOTED THE MANY GROUPS, INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WHICH WORK FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES. SHE SAID THE U.S. ~~GOVERNMENT~~ WOULD HAVE ITS OWN WEAKNESSES OPEN TO PUBLIC VIEW AT THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE AND WILL WORK TO CORRECT ITS FAULTS. SHE SAID THAT WHILE SHE INTENDED TO EXERCISE DISCRETION WITH REGARD TO PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON ARGENTINA THERE IS NO WAY WE COULD OR WOULD WISH TO GAG THE FREE PRESS.

9.- THE GROUP AGREED WITH MRS. DERIAN AND POINTED TO SIGNS OF OPENESS IN ARGENTINE SOCIETY SUCH AS THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, THE LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, STATEMENTS BY POLITICAL PARTY REPRESENTATIVES, AND THE COMMUNIQUE OF THE BISHOPS. THEY SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS OPEN TO STATEMENTS FROM RESPECTABLE GROUPS OF SUFFICIENT STANDING BUT THEY CRITICIZED MALINTENTIONED INFORMATION PUT OUT BY SUBVERSIVES AS PART OF AN INTERNATIONAL PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE GOA. THEY EXPRESSED CONCERN WITH WITNESSES HEARD BY THE FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE AND THE USG RECEPTION OF SOLARI IRRIGOYEN. THEY

SAID THE GOA WELCOMES THE EXPRESSION OF DIFFERENT POINTS OF VIEW AND REFERRED TO GOVERNMENT OFFICES, SUCH AS ONE IN THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OPEN TO RECEIVE COMPLAINTS AND ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC.

10. MRS. DERIAN ASKED WHAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD DONE TO PROTECT THE LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE WHO WAS THREATENED BY RIGHT WING ANTI-SEMITIC GROUPS. THE RESPONSE WAS THAT THEY REGRETTED THAT THEY HADN'T BEEN INFORMED OF THE THREATS AND HAD COMMUNICATED WITH HIM SINCE AND WERE PROTECTING HIS OFFICE AND HOME AND ALLOWING THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY TO RECOVER ITS RECORDS. THE DISCUSSION THEN TURNED TO THE GENERAL PROCESS FOR PROTECTING CITIZENS. MRS. DERIAN ASKED HOW LONG A PERSON WAS DETAINED BEFORE HIS NAME WAS MADE PUBLIC. THE RESPONSE WAS THAT AN OFFICIAL ORDER INSTRUCTS ALL SECURITY FORCES TO SUBMIT NAMES OF THOSE DETAINED TO THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR WITHIN 10 DAYS OF CAPTURE. (ALTHOUGH A SHORT EXTENSION CAN BE REQUESTED FOR CAUSE IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES.) THE NAMES OF THOSE DETAINED ARE PUBLISHED UPON RECEIPT. IF NAMES ARE NOT PROVIDED IN 10 DAYS THEN THERE IS NO GUILT AND THE SUSPECT IS FREED. A SOCIAL REHABILITATION PLAN FOR PRISONERS IDEOLOGICALLY OPPOSED TO THE GOVERNMENT WAS DESCRIBED AS A FURTHER INDICATION OF PROGRESS BEING MADE.

11. THE CLASSIFIED BOOK GIVEN MRS. DERIAN WAS SAID TO LIST ALL THOSE DETAINED WITH JUDICIAL PROCEDURE AND ALL THOSE DETAINED

AND CHARGED UNDER THE STATE OF SIEGE. IN ADDITION THE NAMES OF ALL THOSE TAKEN LATELY WHETHER CHARGED OR UNCHARGED, WERE SAID TO BE INCLUDED. IT WAS REITERATED THAT THE GOA, LIKE OTHER GOVERNMENTS, COULD NOT ACCOUNT FOR ALL PEOPLE WHO DISAPPEAR IN THE COURSE OF A YEAR AND ESTIMATED THAT LESS THAN 500 PEOPLE ARE BEING HELD BY EXECUTIVE POWER WITH A TOTAL OF SOME 2029 BEING HELD UNDER SOME KIND OF CHARGE. IT WAS ~~WAS~~ REITERATED THAT IT WAS LEGAL IN ARGENTINA TO HOLD SOMEONE INCOMMUNICADO FOR TEN DAYS. MRS. DERIAN EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR THE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS DURING THIS TIME PERIOD. THE RESPONSE WAS THAT TORTURE IS NOT USED AS A NORMAL WAY OF OBTAINING INFORMATION AND WHERE IT WAS KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN USED, SANCTIONS HAVE BEEN APPLIED. THE MINISTRY GROUP STRESSED THAT ARGENTINE PRISONS ARE OPEN TO THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS FOR INSPECTION AND THAT THERE ARE NO MILITARY DETENTION OR CONCENTRATION CAMPS.

12. RETURNING AGAIN TO THE BOOK, PART II WAS DESCRIBED AS CONTAINING THE ARGENTINE POSITION IN THE OAS WITH REGARD TO THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. MRS. DERIAN ASKED IF THE COMMISSION WOULD BE COMING TO ARGENTINA. THE RESPONSE WAS NO BUT THAT THE GOA HAS AND WILL CONTINUE TO TALK TO THE IAHRC AND SEEKS WAYS TO MAKE THIS A SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND NOT A METHOD OF IMPOSING SANCTIONS. IT WAS SUGGESTED WE TALK AT LENGTH ABOUT THIS IDEA SOMETIME.

13. MRS. DERIAN ENDED BY REFERRING TO A LETTER FROM THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE INQUIRING ABOUT FELLOW SCIENTISTS IN ARGENTINA AND SAID SHE HAD OTHER LETTERS OF INQUIRY WHICH SHE WOULD EITHER BRING THE NEXT TIME OR SUBMIT VIA THE EMBASSY. (MRS. DERIAN SUBMITTED LETTER TO FONOFF ON AUGUST 9. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NO REPLY TO DATE.)

14. SECOND WORKING GROUP MEETING; AUGUST 9.

THIS MEETING SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN CALLED FOR THE PURPOSE OF SHOWING HOW FACTS CAN BE DISTORTED IN THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS. THE ATMOSPHERE WAS CONFRONTATIONAL. MRS. DERIAN WAS TOLD A LONG AND COMPLICATED STORY BY MINISTRY OFFICIAL ARLIA ABOUT THE RECENT DISAPPEARANCE OF A YOUNG SWISS NAMED ALEXIS JACAR. AT THE END OF THE STORY SHE WAS ASKED HOW THE GOA COULD REFUTE THIS INFORMATION. COMPLAINTS WERE ALSO REGISTERED ABOUT OTHER ATTACKS MADE ON THE GOA, SOME IN U.S., AND THE FACT THAT BILATERAL PUNITIVE MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST ARGENTINA LEAD TO CONFRONTATION AND HURT MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING.

15. MRS. DERIAN EXPLAINED THAT WE WERE TRYING VERY HARD TO UNDERSTAND THE ARGENTINE SITUATION BUT THAT THE GOA MUST ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THE U.S. HAS LEARNED FROM ITS OWN DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCES THAT IT MUST PURSUE ITS SENSE OF VALUES IN ITS INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. THIS DECISION HAS BEEN REINFORCED BY THE IDEOLOGICAL DEBATE WITH THE USSR IN WHICH WE HAVE FOR SO MANY YEARS REMAINED SILENT

IN THE FACE OF PUBLIC SOVIET STATEMENTS OF THEIR GOALS AND BELIEFS. SHE EXPLAINED THAT THE USG'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY HAS TWO GOALS (1) TO INCREASE THE OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AROUND THE WORLD, AND (2) TO DISTANCE OURSELVES FROM REPRESSIVE GOVERNMENTS. SHE WARNED AGAINST GETTING INTO LEGALISTIC DISPUTES OVER INDIVIDUAL OCCURANCES IN A WAY WHICH DIVERGES FROM A DISCUSSION OF THE REAL ISSUES AND THE GENERAL GOALS OF OUR FUTURE RELATIONSHIPS. SHE STRESSED ARGENTINA'S STRUGGLE AND COUNSELED THAT NOW WAS THE TIME TO ACT IN AN OPEN AND POSITIVE WAY AND THAT THIS WOULD BE THE BEST POSSIBLE MEANS OF FENDING OFF CRITICISM.

16. THE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER SAID HE UNDERSTOOD MRS. DERIAN'S MESSAGE AND THAT THE GOA SHARED IT. HE SAID THAT THEY HAVE FOUGHT, AND CONTINUE TO FIGHT ARMED AGRESSION, AND SUFFER FROM THE RESIDUAL OF IDEOLOGICAL AGRESSION AGAINST WHICH THEY HAVE NOT TAKEN STEPS. HE SAID THAT ARGENTINA IS NOT A REPRESSIVE COUNTRY; CITING ECONOMIC PROGRESS, HE SAID THAT THE PUBLIC HAS COLLABORATED WITH THE GOVERNMENT, AND HE SAID THAT ~~XX~~ VIOLENCE IS LIMITED TO A SMALL GROUP WHICH SYSTEMATICALLY VIOLATES THE LAW. MRS. DERIAN ASKED IF VIOLENCE WAS NOW COMING FROM THE RIGHT. MINISTRY OFFICIAL ARLIA ANSWERED NO, THAT IT IS STILL COMING FROM THE SAME LEFTISTS AS BEFORE.

17. ~~THIRD~~ THIRD WORKING GROUP MEETING AUGUST 10.

MRS. DERIAN WAS ASKED TO EVALUATE WHAT SHE HAD LEARNED DURING HER VISIT. ~~WHILE EXPLAINING THAT SHE HAD NOT YET HAD TIME TO~~

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~~EVALUATE WHAT SHE HAD LEARNED DURING HER VISIT.~~ WHILE EXPLAINING THAT SHE HAD NOT YET HAD TIME TO REFLECT, MRS. DERIAN DESCRIBED THE FOLLOWING IMPRESSIONS TO THE GROUP. SHE SAID SHE WAS HEARTENED BY EARLY STEPS TOWARD (1) REINSTITUTING THE RIGHT OF OPTION, (2) PUBLISHING LISTS OF ALL THOSE DETAINED AND (3) GETTING THE JUDICIAL PROCESS GEARED UP SO THAT PEOPLE COULD EITHER BE CHARGED OR RELEASED. WHILE NOTING HOPEFUL SIGNS THAT SOME THINGS WERE BEGINNING TO HAPPEN WITH SOME REGULARITY, SHE SAID SHE WAS STILL CONCERNED WITH THE WIDE GAP WHICH SEEMS TO EXIST BETWEEN THEORY AND PRACTICE, E.G., THE TEN DAY INCOMMUNICADO LIMIT COULD BE EXTENDED, AND IN PRACTICE SEEMED INOPERATIONAL, AND THE SUPREME COURT'S INQUIRY REGARDING THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH'S PROCEDURES IN CONSCIENTIOUSLY INVESTIGATING HABEAS CORPUS PETITIONS HAS NOT BEEN ANSWERED YET. SHE SAID SHE FELT AT THE FIRST MEETING THAT THERE WAS MUCH DEFENSIVENESS AND THAT IT WAS HARD TO TALK FRANKLY AND OPENLY. SHE NOTED THAT COMMUNICATIONS HAVE NOW IMPROVED. SHE SAID SHE HAD THE SENSATION THAT THERE WAS A LIMITED TIME PERIOD AVAILABLE. SHE SAID SHE WAS ASSURED THAT MANY OF THE THINGS WHICH HAPPENED EARLY IN THE GOVERNMENT'S RULE WERE NOW VIEWED AS UNNECESSARY AND SOME AS UNWARRANTED AND THAT SINCE MARCH A MOVE TOWARD GREATER REGULARITY AND A DIFFERENCE IN ATTITUDE WAS PREVALENT. SHE SAID THAT PEOPLE WERE NOW WRESTLING WITH THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE PAST, E.G., WHAT TO DO WITH ALL THESE PRISONERS AND ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ HERE SHE NOTED THE DISTRESS OF THE FAMILIES

OF THE PRISONERS AND DESCRIBED SOME OF THE SAD STORIES WHICH FAMILY MEMBERS HAD TOLD HER. SHE SAID THAT A SHADOW HUNG OVER THIS AMICABLE GATHERING, AS IF ARGENTINA WAS A PLACE WHICH HELD A TERRIBLE SECRET. SHE WONDERED IF BELOW THE LEVEL OF THIS GROUP, IF THE OFFICIALS AND THE ARMED SERVICES HAVE A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO DO -- THAT LOWER OFFICIALS SEEMED AFRAID TO GIVE OUT INFORMATION TO FAMILY MEMBERS AND AFRAID TO RAISE OFFICIAL OBJECTIONS TO ABUSES THEY FOUND. IN SUMMARY MRS. DERIAN SAID THAT HER IMPRESSION WAS WHILE SHE SAW GREAT HOPE AND POSSIBILITY ON THE ONE HAND, ON THE OTHER HAND SHE SAW MUCH SADNESS.

18. DEPUTY MINISTER RESPONDED THAT MRS. DERIAN HAS HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO GATHER MANY IMPRESSIONS IN HER SHORT STAY BUT THAT THE BREVITY OF HER STAY COULD NOT ENSURE THAT THEY ARE BALANCED. HE ASKED HER TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE OPENESS AND COOPERATION OF THE GOA IN MAKING AN EVALUATION OF THE SITUATION. HE SAID THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM SHOULD BE LIMITED TO ITS PROPER DIMENSIONS AND NOT CONTAMINATE OTHER AREAS OF INTEREST IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS, I.E., THAT WHILE HE WAS NOT PRETENDING TO ISOLATE THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM HE ASKED THAT IT BE KEPT IN CONTEXT WHEN CONSIDERING OTHER PROBLEMS. HE STRESSED THAT ARGENTINA HAD BEEN ENGAGED IN A FIGHT IT HAD NOT CHOSEN AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT SOUGHT TO PRESERVE THE RIGHTS OF THE MAJORITY EVEN THOUGH THIS MEANT
A FEW MUST SUFFER.

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19. MRS. DERIAN EXPLAINED THAT THIS IS WHERE WE HAD OUR GREATEST DIFFERENCES. THAT TERRORISTS WERE TRYING TO DO AWAY WITH THE WAY OF LIFE AND DEMOCRATIC PROCEDURES OF GOVERNMENT AND TO FIGHT THEM WITH THEIR OWN TACTICS WAS TO LOSE THE WAR.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

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FROM
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CLASSIFICATION
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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, AR, PINT
SUBJECT: RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS IN ARGENTINA

ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC ~~XXXXXXXX~~ NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO: AMEMBASSY ~~CHILE~~ SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
~~AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN~~
AMEMBASSY BONN
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES: 6791

CHARGE
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RF
CHRON

ARA/ECA PLEASE PASS CHAPLIN

SUMMARY. There are several indications of increased official Argentine concern about human rights violations in the country. The series of high-level US visitors here during August considerably raised the Argentine consciousness of these violations and, we believe, heartened public groups and political factions who seek correction of these abuses. Reports of President Videla's

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Human Rights file
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CLASSIFICATION

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Classification

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visit to Washington, though often couched in assertions that he obtained US "understanding" of Argentina's troubles, point to his own heightened concern and intention do make this concern felt. Even before his visit ~~the~~ classified sources of the Embassy had reported efforts to control free-wheeling security arms and to get control of all security units.

The disappearance of Alfredo Bravo, labor leader and human rights activist, came as a setback in this process equal to that of the disappearance of Ambassador Hidalgo Sola. ~~For~~ Forces inimical to human rights improvement are still without doubt at work. What remains to be seen is the degree to which President Videla can and will oppose these forces, a decision which will be made against a background of continued opposition on the part of many to what will be regarded as "softening" in the war against terrorism and leftist subversion. END SUMMARY

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Classification

1. "HUMAN RIGHTS POLITICS." AT THIS POINT WE CAN ONLY SPECULATE ABOUT THE EFFECTS A LONG STRING OF VISITORS FROM THE UNITED STATES WILL HAVE ON ARGENTINE RESOLVE TO CORRECT HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES. NOR CAN WE PREDICT HOW WELL VIDELA'S ASSERTION MADE IN WASHINGTON THAT ORDER WILL HAVE BEEN RESTORED IN THE COUNTRY BY CHRISTMAS CAN BE MADE A HARD FACT OF ARGENTINE LIFE.

2. ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE WE KNOW THAT CARPING AND COMPLAINT FOLLOWED IN THE WAKE OF VISITS BY MRS. DERIAN, ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN, CODELS YATRON AND HOLLINGS. A SMALL BUT IMPORTANT GROUP OF PEOPLE BELIEVED -- OR PROFESSED TO BELIEVE AS A MEANS OF CRITICIZING PRESIDENT VIDELA -- THAT THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN TOO FORTHCOMING WITH "INSPECTORS" FROM THE UNITED STATES. WE HEARD THAT SUBSECRETARY ALLARA AND OTHERS IN THE FONOFF OPPOSED VIDELA'S TRIP TO WASHINGTON. THESE SENTIMENTS WILL FLOURISH IN HARDLINE CIRCLES, WITHIN AND ON THE FRINGES OF GOVERNMENT, THAT SEEK TO WIDEN THE WAR AGAINST TERRORISM -- FOR EXAMPLE AGAINST "INTELLECTUAL SUBVERSION" -- AND HOLD INTACT THE EXISTING ANTI-TERRORIST APPARATUS. IT APPEARS POSSIBLE THAT THE DISAPPEARANCE OF TEACHERS' UNION LEADER ALFREDO BRAVO (SEE BELOW) RESULTED FROM THIS KIND OF SENTIMENT'S HAVING BECOME ONCE AGAIN "OPERATIONAL".

3. ON THE POSITIVE SIDE WE BELIEVE THAT U.S. ATTENTION HAS STRENGTHENED THE HAND OF ~~THE~~ ARGENTINES CONCERNED OVER HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. INCLUDED IN THIS GROUP ARE MILITARY OFFICERS

and members of government troubled by the fact of human rights violations, but even more deeply by the unwholesome political situation certain to accrue if no progress is registered in bringing all destructive forces in the community--of whatever political stripe--under control. Newspapers here gave Videla's pledge wide coverage and also his statement that "my hand will not tremble" in punishing law violators on both left and right. There has been much lately to encourage people of moderate view, and this encouragement will have its own political effect.

4. We weigh all this and come out believing:

1) that President Videla's trip to Washington and the recent focus of US attention on ~~XXXXXXXX~~ Argentina will strengthen his hand--as well as his resolve--in getting ^{control} ~~hold~~ of the independently operating security forces, and of regulating counter-terrorist operations to accord with sober threat analysis, and;

2) that hardline elements and any ^{other} Videla opponents will make lively use against the President of any "soft" policy initiatives. Any Videla policy likely to emerge to insure "peace by Christmas" will be

as politically risky for himself as it will be necessary for the country.

5. Disappearances: Alfredo Bravo. Alfredo Bravo, Secretary General of the National Teachers Union (CTERA) and a leader in the Argentine Permanent Assembly for Human Rights, was taken from his classroom on September 8 by seven men who identified themselves as security officers. The names given by "police" at the time of the kidnapping, along with badge numbers, were later disclaimed by police authorities. ~~as known to~~ Bravo had met with the visiting AFL-CIO Solidarity Group in Buenos Aires to maintain contact with the Argentine labor movement, along with colleagues from the Permanent Assembly on Human Rights, the evening of Wednesday, Sept 7. The Embassy has learned from William Doherty, Executive Director for AIFLD, that AFL-CIO is deeply concerned since a possible explanation of the Bravo "disappearance" is that it was an act of retaliation for his having met with the visiting labor leaders. Embassy view is, however, that Bravo's association with the "Permanent Assembly" may have provided motivation for the abduction. Circumstances surrounding the case are reminiscent of those of the

notorious--and still unsolved--Hidalgo Sola disappearing.

6. Deutsch Family Abduction and Detention.

There has been no further news regarding the health ~~of~~ or whereabouts of Alejandro and ~~HELEN~~ Helena Deutsch and their three daughters, taken from their home on August 27, except for the short official government announcement that they were being detained by the Third Army for investigation of possible connection with subversive activities ~~(See)~~. (See Buenos Aires 6629) Embassy is continuing its efforts to facilitate the safe travel of the Deutsch grandchildren Erica and Tomas Alejandro.

7. Human Rights Group Activities.

There appears to be livening activity on the part of public groups here working in human rights interests.

a. The Argentine League for Human Rights. In a precedent making step the League purchased (at a discount), and "LA PRENSA" published in its September/^{2nd} edition, a half page advertisement calling for national government action to resolve the problems of "the disappeareds". Following ad, up on the ~~ad~~ the League sent ~~copies~~ to all persons who have registered a disappeared relative ~~with the league~~ ~~xx~~ two draft petitions; one to be signed by family members who have disappeared relatives and the other ~~petition by~~ ^{to be signed by} persons supporting increased government efforts to locate disappeared individuals. The League hopes to provide

additional information regarding the total number of disappearances in the country as well as to assist in individual cases. The League has requested a meeting with the military Junta in order to present these petitions on Mother's Day.

b. Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo. Despite the detention and release of 16 of their numbers several weeks ago^{and} (see Buenos Aires 6415) ~~the~~ stepped-up police surveillance, Plaza Mothers continue to show up on Thursdays in front of the presidential palace. To avoid confrontation the mothers have requested that men and younger women not come to the Plaza on Thursdays, but older women ~~mothers~~ continue to walk around the Plaza by twos and threes, trading information, ~~as before~~. They are no longer allowed to form groups as before but as one said, "no one can stop an ~~old~~ lady from taking a walk."

The mothers have prepared a draft petition to the Junta which was quietly signed at a church in Palermo on September 10 by 170 mothers of disappeared young people. A fund raising/campaign is underway in order to have the petition and the names run as a public advertisement in LA PRENSA.

c. Permanent Assembly of Human Rights. The Permanent Assembly received on September 3 a response

from President Videla to their August letter asking increased governmental efforts to solve the problem of the numerous disappearances within the country. President Videla's letter was a courteous reply of concern but made no promises. The Assembly plans to pursue this dialogue with the Junta in a continuing effort to focus GOA attention on the disappearance issue.

8. Foreign Governments Human Rights Initiatives.

Swedish Minister Falldin wrote Argentine President Videla in early September to express his concern over an Argentine response to the disappearance of Dagmar Hagelin, a 17-year old girl of Argentine-Swedish citizenship. Falldin pointed out that he was dissatisfied that the Argentine Government had not been able to explain the circumstances surrounding Hagelin's disappearance despite the fact that seven months had passed.

According to an officer of the German Embassy, the Federal Republic of Germany, in response to the death of FRG national Elizabeth Kasemann, decided earlier this summer not to increase a German "EXIM" type loan guarantee program for Argentina. With the expanding Argentine economy, a substantial increase in commercial loan guarantee funds for Argentina had been programmed for next year, but at the urging of the ~~German~~ ^{German} Embassy here and reportedly after a major bureaucratic

argument with the Economics Ministry in Bonn, it was decided to keep the loan facility at its present level.

9. HUMAN RIGHTS: The Psychological Input.

Of interest in weighing the impact of human rights concerns of the US and other countries upon Argentine officials and the Argentine public was the treatment given by the press to a series of US visitors during August (Mrs. Derian, Mr. Todman, CODELS Yatron and Hollings)--all readily assumed by Argentines to have human rights concerns foremost in mind.

The balance in the actual presentations made by these officials was largely overlooked by the press in favor of accentuating positive comments and asserting that visitors had left Argentina with a "better understanding" of the situation Argentina faced--and thus, presumably, a less stringent attitude toward human rights violations in Argentina. The tone was, except for small carping against US "inspectors", generally optimistic.

This optimism was muted in ~~xxxx~~ the private conversations of senior military and Foreign Ministry officials, who tended to dwell on the "understanding" (and presumably exculpation) issue and the "hardness" of Mrs. Derian's stance. Her talk with Minister of Interior Harguindeguy was cited in this connection.

Public response to the visits also took the form of an outpouring of petitions addressed directly to the US visitors asking them to help in the specific cases of disappeared family members. A total of 326 cases were presented, which the Embassy is sorting for presentation to the Human Rights Working Group of the Foreign Ministry.

10. Anti-Semitic Book Banned.

The OFFICIAL BULLETIN of September 6 announced the banning of the publication of "Schulchan Arukh-The Secret Code of the Jews". The "DAIA", ^{or} spokesgroup for the Jewish community, acknowledges that this banning was spontaneous but remains concerned about other books available in the ^{news}stands of Buenos Aires Jewish groups regard as offensive.

11. Improving the Argentine Image.

On August 30 the Foreign Office announced the creation of a press and broadcasting office reporting directly to the Foreign Minister. This office may have been a result of the recent meeting of Argentine Ambassador ^s in Europe during which the deterioration of Argentina's image abroad was reported to be a principal topic.

12. Judicial Proceedings.

There have been press reports in the past month of ^{famous} judicial proceedings in which persons in association

with "subversive movements" have received relatively light sentences (3-6 years) and persons with deeper associations but who have been cooperative with police have received reduced sentences or been released without sentence.

In two cases of interest to the Embassy (the Camuso de Rodriguez case and the Vogeler case) persons held for long without charge have in fact been officially charged ~~with~~ with illegal possession of weapons. Whether this was done merely to thwart US and others interests in having these prisoners promptly released from executive detention is not yet clear. The further development of these cases will be a signal on how these kinds of trials will proceed.

HIGGINS 

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

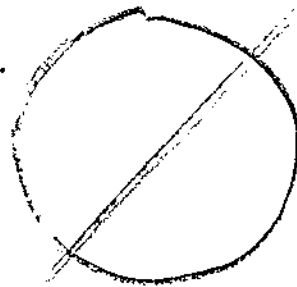
September 13, 1977

To: POL/R
SY
LEGATT ✓
DAO
MILGP
Subject: "Operation GADE"

I would appreciate any information regarding GOA anti-subversive activities conducted under the above code name.

Many thanks

124



Box 9/15/77

POL:FAHarris:eg

*Harris
Reports*

109812-148
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

SEP 14 1977

FBI-BUENOS AIRES

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

W. Hitchcock - CONS
D. Stock - POL/R
R. Scherrer - LEGATT ✓

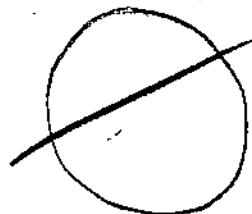
DATE: September 20, 1977

FROM : F. A. Harris - POL. *FAH*

SUBJECT: Name Check

In order to respond to two inquiries from Washington I would appreciate any information you might have regarding: (1) Argentine or Bolivian national Thomas Kornfeld. (2) Argentine citizen Eno Geist abducted from his home on August 7.

NO RECORD
AUG 26 1977
10 11 56 AM



109-812-149
SEARCHED *sk* INDEXED *sk*
SERIALIZED *sk* FILED *sk*

SEP 27 1977

U.S. - BUENOS AIRES
Lux

Human Rights file

POL:FAHarris:eg



DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

CONTROL: 7351
301855Z SEP 77

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

UNCLASSIFIED

E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

ACTION:

N/A

SHUM, AR

DETAINMENT OF ARGENTINE PRIESTS: TESTA, MATHOT,
GUTTIEREZ GARCIA, MUSSE AND TRONCOSO

SECSTATE WASHDC

UNCLASSIFIED BUENOS AIRES: 7351

REF: STATE 192106

CHARGE

POL-3

POL/R

LEGATT

USIS

ECOM

RF

CHRON

1. ARGENTINE FOREIGN OFFICE HUMAN RIGHTS WORKING

GROUP HAS PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON

SUBJECT CASES:

(A) TESTA, JOHN FRANCO -- DETAINED UNDER PEN DECREE

1845 OF 12/12/74. TESTA HAS ALSO BEEN CHARGED

BEFORE FEDERAL CRIMINAL JUDGE IN CHACO FOR

ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF ARMS IN VIOLATION OF

CRIMINAL LAW 189 (BIS). TESTA IS BELIEVED TO BE

A MEMBER OF ERP CELL WHICH ATTACKED POLICE

STATION IN COLONIA ABORIGEN (CHACO) IN

OCTOBER 1974. TESTA IS PRESENTLY HELD IN UNIT 9

OF LA PLATA PRISON.

(B) MATHOT, HUGO ORLANDO -- DETAINED UNDER PEN

DECREE 52 OF 1/9/76 FOR POSSESSION OF MONTONERO

DRAFTED BY:

POL:FAHarris:eg

DRAFTING DATE

9/29/77

TEL. EXT.

277

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

POLCOUNS:WHallman

CLEARANCES:

POL/R:DSmock

LEGATT:RWScherrer

OCT 3 1977

FBI-BUENOS

UNCLASSIFIED

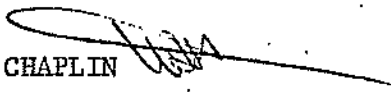
CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL FORM 152(H)
(Formerly FS-413(H))
January 1975
Dept. of State

PROPAGANDA.

- (C) GUTTIEREZ GARCIA, FRANCISCO -- BEING DETAINED UNDER PEN DECREE 3558 OF 11/25/75 FOR VIOLATION OF ARGENTINE LAW 20,840 FOR MEMBERSHIP IN 'MOVEMENT OF THIRD WORLD' (MONTONERO ORGANIZATION). HE IS FURTHER ACCUSED OF DIRECT PARTICIPATION IN ORGANIZING GUERRILLA BASES, TRAINING FUTURE COMBATANTS, AND RECRUITING ADHERENTS IN THE SANTO CRISTO CHURCH IN BUENOS AIRES THROUGH ITS RECREATION CENTER.
- (D) MUSSE, ELIAS -- DETAINED UNDER PEN DECREE 2045 OF 7/29/75 FOR VIOLATION OF LAW 20,840 AND CRIMINAL CODE PROVISION 189 (BIS). MUSSE IS CHARGED WITH ILLEGAL ASSOCIATION, ATTACKING POLICE STATION NUMBER 2 IN MAR DEL PLATA AND FOR THE THEFT OF ARMS AND EXPLOSIVES.
- (E) TRONCOSO, RAUL -- BEING DETAINED UNDER PEN DECREE 1135 OF ~~XXXXX~~ 7/1/76 FOR MEMBERSHIP IN MONTONERO ORGANIZATION AND FOR CONSTRUCTION OF CLANDESTINE ARMS DEPOSIT.

2. EMBASSY HAS NO INFORMATION ON THESE INDIVIDUALS TO EVALUATE CHARGES MADE BY COA AUTHORITIES. MINISTRY CONTINUING TO CHECK ON OTHER NAMES LISTED REFTEL/

CHAPLIN 

UNCLASSIFIED
Classification

AUG 77

1735

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

O. 11652:
TAGS: SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: PERSONAL LETTERS ON HUMAN RIGHTS CASES SUBMITTED
TO DERIAN, TODMAN AND CODEL YATRON AND HOLLINGS
ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES: 6508

REF: (A) STATE 199962 (B) BOVA-HARRIS PHONE CONVERSATION
8/24/77

CHARGE
POL-3
POL/R
LEGATT
SY
ECOM
USIS
RF
CHRON

1. AS REQUESTED BY RECENT VISITORS, EMBASSY IS PREPARING
A UNIFIED LIST OF ALL CASES SUBMITTED TO HUMAN RIGHTS
COORDINATOR DERIAN, ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN, AND
CODELS YATRON AND HOLLINGS FOR SUBMITTAL TO GOA. THIS
LIST, WITH ACCOMPANYING EMBASSY NOTE SEEKING INFORMATION,
WILL BE TRANSMITTED TO ARGENTINE FONOFF WORKING GROUP ON
HUMAN RIGHTS.

2. SEVERAL HUNDRED PERSONAL LETTERS FROM ARGENTINE
FAMILIES WITH DISAPPEARED OR DETAINED RELATIVES HAVE
BEEN RECEIVED. MAIL IS STILL ARRIVING DAILY. IN A
NUMBER OF CASES, FAMILIES WROTE TO SEVERAL U.S.

VISITORS. EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEE IS WORKING FULL TIME
TO CATALOGUE LETTERS FOR PREPARATION OF LIST TO FONOFF.

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

DRAFTED BY:

POL:FAHarris:eg

DRAFTING DATE

8/25/77

TEL. EXT.

277

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

POL:JUN:W. Todman

LEARANCES:

BUENOS AIR

Human Rights file

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL FORM 102-H
(Formerly FC 413)
January 1975
Dept. of State

AND TO FACILITATE SENDING WRITTEN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO THE
CONCERNED FAMILY MEMBER.

CHAPLIN

Mc

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Participants: Jorge Pascale
Servicio Paz y Justicia

Leonardo Perez Esquivel
Son of Detainee

F. Allen Harris
Political Officer
U.S. Embassy, Buenos Aires

Subject: Detainee Adolfo Perez Esquivel

Date: August 25, 1977

There have been few new developments in the case. During week of August 15, Amanda Guerreño de Esquivel, Esquivel's wife, called at the Ministry of the Interior and met with Army Colonel (name unknown). Mrs. Esquivel was very disappointed when the Colonel pulled her husband's file which had only one document in it -- the decree placing him under PEN. Evidently no investigation has begun in his case. Later in the week, she called on an officer at Army Headquarters who produced a similarly thin file on her husband. This officer also checked a list of detained persons "who will be placed in freedom in the future". The Army officer informed her that her husband was not on this list.

Mr. Pascale stated that they had been in touch with a Mr. Tom Digley (phonetic spelling) of the U.S. Committee for Peace and Justice. Mr. Digley had agreed that the U.S. Committee would work actively in the U.S. for the release of Adolfo Perez Esquivel. Leonardo Perez Esquivel at this point raised on behalf of his father the possibility of his coming to the U.S. at such time that he was released from PEN. There followed a short discussion of U.S. immigration procedures. Leonardo Perez Esquivel appeared disappointed at the long delays needed to obtain a visa for the U.S.

Adolfo Perez Esquivel is incarcerated in Unidad 9, Pavillion 17/V in La Plata. His son described the conditions as not terrible but very difficult. Food is deficient in quality and quantity, but the prisoners can purchase additional food. During their weekly visit the family gives Esquivel some money, but are not allowed to provide him food. Adolfo Esquivel divides the money which his family provides him with those who have no funds.

*Human Rights
file*

let

Date: August 25, 1977

2

Medical facilities are non existent. There is one nurse for 1,600 prisoners. The jail was designed for only 900. The jail is under International Red Cross supervision, however, there are 3 cell blocks in which a severe regime is practiced. Unfortunately Adolfo Esquivel is in one of the toughest cell blocks, the other pavillions are better. There are many types of punishments. Physical and psychological used on the prisoners but Leonardo Esquivel declines to discuss them.

The remainder of the conversation dealt with legal questions on the right of option.

ARA	-	Mr. Lister
ARA/ECA	-	Mr. Bumpus
D/HA	-	M. Bova
INR/ORPA	-	Suzanne S. Black
L/HR	-	Mr. Runyan
H	-	Mr. Cutter
INR/RAR	-	Mr. Buchanan

POL/R	-
DAO	-
USIS	-
SY	-
LEGATT	- ✓
CONGEN	-
CHARGE	-
POL	-


POL:FAHarris:eg

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Memorandum

TO : MILGP, DAO, LEGATT, POL/R, and SY

DATE: October 3, 1977

FROM : E.A. Harris - POL *EH*

SUBJECT: First Corps Officers Involved with PEN and Disappeared Cases.

45-13 ? (probably N.I.)
his
The following are among the officers of the First Army Corps located in Palermo with responsibilities for PEN detainees and missing persons: Lt. Col. Roarke, Lt. Col. Gatica, and Padre Monson, Chaplain of the First Army Corps.

Does anyone know or have any information on these persons?

109-812-150
sk sk sk

Human Rights file

WILLIAM P. HARRIS

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

LEGATT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

DATE: October 12, 1977

SUBJECT: Right of Option

PARTICIPANTS: Fernando De la Rúa, Radical Party Member
and Former Member of Congress
William H. Hallman, Political Counselor

TIME & PLACE: October 12 - A Restaurant in Buenos Aires

DISTRIBUTION: CHARGE, POL (Human Rights File, De La Rúa Bio),
DATT, SY, LEGATT, ECOM, ARA/ECA, INR/RAR

De la Rúa said he believes the government's proclaiming recently a highly regulated Right of Option was a device to appear to restore constitutionality to government which will have no practical effect upon imprisoned persons. He said that the Supreme Court had leaned heavily against the government on this issue and that the "right" had been restored to call away criticism--even while it was hedged with so many rules and regulations as to make exercises of the "right" a practical impossibility. I asked whether the restored Right of Option might not be a useful way of turning loose a great many prisoners who in fact have little or no connection with terrorism. De la Rúa said he doubted there were many such prisoners, and that in any event it did not seem likely that the government would permit terrorist links to be restored by seepage back into the country of persons who had opted to leave it.

De la Rúa's cynical attitude toward the restored Right of Option interested me, since among civilian politicians I know personally he is the most outspoken loyalist to the military Junta and believer that almost all actions taken by security forces are right and proper and do indeed net the right people. De la Rúa is fascinated by the fanaticism he says he has observed in the terrorist movement--which includes a willingness to abduct and extort from members of one's own family--and also by the constant use of terrorist

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Human Rights File

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OCT 20 1977	
FBI-BUENOS AIRES	
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109-812-151

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

2

threats against the lives and families of persons who refuse to cooperate with the movement. De la Rua says he knows of many instances of persons who, for example, were recruited just to "hand out leaflets" or "put up posters"--when in actual fact a great deal more was planned and persons, especially young persons, who were merely sympathetic bystanders found themselves suddenly involved in police killing or armed attacks. Thus inadvertently deeply involved the sympathizers were forced to become full-time members of terrorist organizations.

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CONTROL: 8232
022025Z NOV 77

TELEGRAM

INDICATE
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☐ CHARGE TO

FROM

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS

ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC

ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10-04-2017 BY C32W33B91 ADG

INFO: AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES: 8232

CHARGE
POL-3
POL/R
ECOM
USIS

LEGATT
RF
CHRON
AGATT
SY
DEA
ADMIN
CONS

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY:

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS IN ARGENTINA

b3 per DIA

ARE MIXED. THE GOVERNMENT'S RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT OF A
RESTRICTED RIGHT OF OPTION PROGRAM TO ALLOW PERSONS
HELD UNDER EXECUTIVE DETENTION TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY,
ALTHOUGH POINTED TO BY THE GOA AS A SIGNIFICANT ADVANCE,
SEEN
IS ~~EXERCISED~~ BY PERSONS SEEKING THE "OPTION" TO LEAVE AS
NO ESSENTIAL CHANGE OVER PAST PROCEDURES. THE
GOVERNMENT STILL RETAINS THE RIGHT TO RELEASE ONLY
THOSE PERSONS THAT IT CHOOSES TO. LOCAL BAR MEMBERS
WITH DETAINED CLIENTS HAVE DUBBED THE NEW PROGRAM AS

THE REAL TEST WILL LIE IN THE ADMINISTRATION
"THE RIGHT TO PETITION", / ~~PERMANENT ASSEMBLY AND~~
OF THE PROGRAM. PERMANENT ASSEMBLY AND

DRAFTED BY: POLFAHarris:eg DRAFTING DATE: 11/1/77 TEL. EXT.: 277 CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: A/POLCOUNS:AGFreeman

CLEARANCES:

LEGATT:RWScherrer (in draft)
(in draft)
POL/R:DSmock (in draft)
USIS:MO'Brien (in draft)
CONGEN:MSherman (in part)

Human Rights file

152
11/1

BA-17
4-12-76

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL FORM 153
(Formerly FD-441)
January 1975
Dept. of State

LEAGUE FOR THE RIGHT OF MAN MEMBERS STATE THAT THEY HAVE BEEN RECEIVING ABOUT THE SAME NUMBER OF REPORTED DISAPPEARANCES OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS. THE POSITIVE NEWS IS THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS ARE GAINING IN STRENGTH. THE RECENT "MOTHER'S DAY" PETITION AND DEMONSTRATION ARE VIEWED AS HAVING NOT ONLY SENT A SIGNAL TO THE JUNTA REGARDING THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE DISAPPEARANCE PROBLEM, BUT ALSO HAVING STRENGTHENED THE COMMITMENT OF THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED. THE MOST SOBERING DEVELOPMENT IS THE EXPECTED RETENTION AND IN SOME CASES PROMOTION OF SENIOR ARGENTINE HARD-LINE MILITARY OFFICIALS CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE ANTI-TERRORIST AND ANTI-SUBVERSIVE CAMPAIGNS. HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS HAD HOPED EARLIER THAT THIS YEAR'S CYCLE OF PROMOTIONS AND RETIREMENTS WOULD SEE NEW, MORE MODERATE OFFICERS MOVING INTO POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY RELATING TO THE ANTI-SUBVERSIVE PROGRAMS. END SUMMARY.

1. UNION HUMAN RIGHTS SURVEY -----

IN AN EFFORT TO "DIALOGUE" AND SHOW THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS RESPONSIVE TO WORKER PROBLEMS, THE GOVERNMENT-INTERVENED NATIONAL TRADE UNION CENTRAL (CGT) HAS ESTABLISHED A SUBCOMMITTEE OF TRADE UNION LEADERS TO DEAL WITH THE QUESTION OF TRADE UNION DETAINEES AND DISAPPEARED. AS A FIRST STEP THE MILITARY OFFICER PRESIDING OVER THE COMMITTEE ASKED ITS MEMBERS TO PREPARE A LIST OF ALL LABOR LEADERS AND WORKERS WHO HAVE EITHER DISAPPEARED IN RECENT YEARS OR ARE BEING

OPTIONAL FORM 1584
(Formerly 1287613)
January 1973
Dept. of State

BEDOYAN; HAROLD
COUPLES -- DR. IGNACIO IKONICOFF AND MARIA/LOGITURATO AND LILIANA
GALLETI. ALTHOUGH DENMARK, LIKE ITS EC COLLEAGUES, HAS DECIDED
NOT TO MAKE GENERAL BILATERAL HUMAN RIGHTS DEMARCHES, ITS EMBASSY
HERE IS UNDERTAKING "QUIET INVESTIGATIONS" ON BEHALF OF HIGH
INTEREST CASES.

5. GOVERNMENT'S VOLUNTARY SURRENDER PROGRAM CONTINUES -----
WEEKLY PRESS PUBLICITY IS BEING GIVEN TO THE REDUCED SENTENCES
BEING LEVIED AGAINST FORMER SUBVERSIVES WHO HAVE VOLUNTARILY
SURRENDERED. THE SENTENCES OF THOSE SURRENDERING WHO HAVE NOT
PARTICIPATED IN ACTS OF VIOLENCE ARE GENERALLY REDUCED BY ONE
HALF TO TWO THIRDS. IT IS ALSO PRESUMED THAT THE DEGREE OF
COOPERATION IN PROVIDING INFORMATION TO THE AUTHORITIES IS
ANOTHER FACTOR TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. THE EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS
THAT XXXX THERE ARE SEVERAL SECRET AND WELL PROTECTED
"REHABILITATION CENTERS" IN SOUTHERN ARGENTINA WHERE THESE
PRISONERS SERVE THEIR TIME, WELL PROTECTED FROM THEIR FORMER
TERRORIST COLLEAGUES. SOME MAY EVEN BE LISTED AS
"DISAPPEARED". THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT
COUPLES SURRENDERING WILL BE ALLOWED TO LIVE TOGETHER AND
YOUNG CHILDREN WILL BE ABLE TO REMAIN WITH THEIR MOTHERS.

6. HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS INCREASE ACTIVITIES -----
LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS ARE CLAIMING THAT THE OCTOBER 14
MASS DEMONSTRATION STAGED BY THE "FAMILIARES DE DETENIDOS Y
DESAPARECIDOS" AND THE MOTHERS OF PLAZA DE MAYO WAS A

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification

BA-17
4-12-76
OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
(Form Approved by GSA)
5010-104-01
200-000-000-000

SIGNIFICANT ACT CALLING ATTENTION TO THE GRAVE "DESAPARECIDO" PROBLEM. (SEE BA 7700.) OVER 200 PERSONS PEACEFULLY ALLOWED THEMSELVES TO BE ARRESTED, RAPPORT WAS ESTABLISHED WITH THE POLICE UNITS, SYMPATHETIC PRESS ACCOUNTS WERE GENERATED AND MOST IMPORTANTLY THE MOTHER'S RESOLVE TO CONTINUE THEIR CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE (THERE IS AN OFFICIAL BAN ON DEMONSTRATIONS) HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED. THE MOTHERS ARE BEGINNING TO TALK ABOUT A PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION DURING SECRETARY VANCE'S VISIT SIMILAR TO THE ONE HELD DURING ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN'S AUGUST TRIP. THE "FAMILIARES DE DETENIDOS Y DESAPARECIDOS" GROUP (WHICH IS LINKED TO A GROUP WITH COMMUNIST PARTY ASSOCIATION) CLAIMS THAT 24,000 PERSONS THROUGHOUT ARGENTINA ~~XXXXXXXX~~ SIGNED ITS PETITION TO THE MILITARY JUNTA WHICH CALLED FOR A SEARCH FOR MISSING CITIZENS, THE APPEARANCE OF DETAINED CITIZENS, THE FREEING OF THOSE DETAINED WITHOUT CHARGES, THE REESTABLISHMENT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT OF OPTION AND TRIAL ACCORDING TO NATIONAL LAW OF PERSONS PROPERLY CHARGED. THREE OTHER PETITIONS ON THE PROBLEM OF THE "DESAPARECIDOS" APPEARED AS NEARLY FULL PAGE ADVERTISEMENTS IN LA PRENSA IN RECENT WEEKS. TWO OF THE ADS WERE FUNDED BY THE "FAMILIARES DE DETENIDOS Y DESAPARECIDOS" AND THE OTHER WAS FUNDED BY THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE MOTHERS OF THE PLAZA DE MAYO. A COUNTER ADVERTISEMENT APPEARED IN CLARIN SIGNED BY "COORDINATOR FEDERICO VOLPE". ITS MAJOR CAPTION WAS "HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL AND HUMAN DUTIES FOR ALL". THE TEXT

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Classification

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OPTIONAL-10-761
(Formerly F-4)
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POINTED OUT THAT SUBVERSIVES ARE THE FIRST TO CALL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, BUT ARE ALSO THE FIRST TO VIOLATE THEM BY KILLING INNOCENT MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

A RELIGIOUS GROUP ALSO IS PLANNING TO UNDERTAKE HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVITIES. A CATHOLIC, PROTESTANT, JEWISH ORGANIZATION -- THE INSTITUTE FOR HIGHER RELIGIOUS STUDIES -- IS STARTING TO PLAN A MASS DEMONSTRATION DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON IN BUENOS AIRES TO PRAY FOR PEACE.

7. HIGH INTEREST CASES -----

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE RELEASE OF MRS. DEUTSCH AND HER TWO ELDEST DAUGHTERS, THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE MOVEMENT AMONG THE HIGH VISIBILITY
XXXXXXXXXX CASES.

ALTHOUGH THE SUBVERSION INVESTIGATION AGAINST FORMER LA OPINION PUBLISHER TIMERMAN HAS BEEN DROPPED "FOR LACK OF MERIT" (I.E. INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE), HIS FAMILY'S KEEN EXPECTATION OF HIS EARLY RELEASE HAS NOT MATERIALIZED. (SEE BA 7716.) THE FAMILY HAS NOW DECIDED TO PURSUE LEGAL REMEDIES THROUGH A PETITION FOR HABEAS CORPUS. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THE FAMILY HAS GONE PUBLIC. ON OCTOBER 31, THE FEDERAL COURT OF APPEALS ASKED THE FIRST ARMY CORPS TO AFFIRM THAT TIMERMAN IS NO LONGER BEING
SECOND SPECIAL
HELD FOR INVESTIGATION OF SUBVERSION BY THE/MILITARY COURT. AT THE SAME TIME, THE COURT REQUESTED THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR TO PROVIDE THE REASONS FOR THE CONTINUED EXECUTIVE DETENTION OF

MR. TIMERMAN. THE FAMILY'S LAWYER TOLD THE EMBASSY PRIVATELY THAT HE WAS OPTIMISTIC FROM A LEGAL POINT OF VIEW, BUT HE FEARED THAT DECISIONS IN THE CASE WOULD CONTINUE TO BE MADE ON POLITICAL GROUNDS. (A POSITIVE PRECEDENT WAS ANNOUNCED ON NOVEMBER 1, WHEN A FEDERAL JUDGE ORDERED IMMEDIATE FREEDOM FOR A BUSINESSMAN HELD UNDER EXECUTIVE DETENTION FOR ILLEGAL SUGAR TRANSACTIONS. THE JUDGE HELD THAT THE EXECUTIVE'S STATE OF SIEGE POWERS RELATED ONLY TO PRESERVING LAW AND ORDER, NOT ILLICIT MARKETING.)

IN THE ALFREDO BRAVO, CASE, NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS AND PETITIONS HAVE FAILED TO END THE EXECUTIVE DETENTION OF THIS IMPORTANT LABOR AND HUMAN RIGHTS LEADER.

THE DISAPPEARANCES OF EDGARDO SAJON, ENRIQUE RAAB, RODOLFO FERNANDEZ PONDAL AND JUAN RAMON NAZAR WERE RECALLED TO PUBLIC ATTENTION BY THE ARGENTINE PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION (ADEPA). ON SEPTEMBER 24, ADEPA ISSUED A STATEMENT THAT FULL FREEDOM OF THE PRESS DOES NOT EXIST IN ARGENTINA. THE ASSOCIATION POINTED OUT TO THE MANY DISAPPEARANCES AND DETENTIONS OF EDITORS AND JOURNALISTS, THE GOVERNMENT'S INTERVENTION OF LA OPINION AND SEVERAL INTERIOR PAPERS, AND THE MURDER OF SEVERAL JOURNALISTS AS DAMAGING THE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN ARGENTINA. THE ORGANIZATION QUESTIONED THE UTILIZATION OF THE STATE OF SIEGE AUTHORITY IN CURTAILING THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND CALLED FOR THE RELEASE OF THOSE JOURNALISTS BEING HELD UNDER EXECUTIVE DETENTION. A DELEGATION OF THE MOTHERS OF THE PLAZA DE MAYO MET WITH THE ADEPA LEADERSHIP TO URGE THEM TO GIVE MORE ATTENTION TO THE GENERAL DISAPPEARANCE PROBLEM; ADEPA REPLIED THAT ITS FIRST CONCERN WAS IN LOCATING MISSING JOURNALISTS.

8. UK REJECTS SMALL ARMS SALE -----

IN LINE WITH A RECOMMENDATION FROM THEIR EMBASSY IN BUENOS AIRES, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TURNED DOWN THE SALE OF TWO DOZEN SOUND SUPPRESSED SUBMACHINE GUNS TO ARGENTINA. THE PURCHASING ORGANIZATION OF RECORD WAS THE BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE PRISON AT LA PLATA. BRITISH EMBASSY SOURCES INDICATE THAT THERE WAS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR "PRISON AUTHORITIES" ORDERING COMMANDO TYPE WEAPONS. THE BRITISH ARE PREPARED TO SUPPLY LARGE WEAPON SYSTEMS TO THE ARGENTINES, SUCH AS THE SMALL GUIDED MISSILE DESTROYER RECENTLY DELIVERED, BUT HAVE DECIDED AT PRESENT NOT TO PROVIDE ARMS FOR INTERNAL SECURITY PURPOSES.

THE UK PREVIOUSLY SOLD A NUMBER OF STERLING SUBMACHINE GUNS
TO THE PERONIST GOVERNMENT, MOST OF WHICH TURNED UP AT THE
IN UNION HALLS
SOCIAL WELFARE MINISTRY AND ~~THE NEXT~~. THE VIDELA GOVERNMENT
FORMALLY PLAYED UP THE U.K.'S SALE OF THE STERLINGS WHICH
WENT TO THE PERONIST'S HEAVIES. THE LATEST UK REFUSAL
TOOK
PROBABLY REFLECTS THE VERY BAD BURNING HMG ~~BOOK~~ ON THE PREVIOUS

SALE.

9. REPORTS OF EXCESSES -----

XX IN SEPTEMBER, TWO SHOOTOUTS WITH TERRORISTS IN BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE WERE REPORTED IN THE PRESS WITH THREE MONTONERO A RELATIVE OF ONE OF THE DECEASED HAS TERRORISTS KILLED IN EACH ENCOUNTER. / ~~THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN~~ THE EMBASSY FIRE INFORMED/THAT THE YOUNG MEN KILLED IN THE ~~XXX~~ FIGHTS HAD BEEN TAKEN FROM THEIR HOMES IN BAHIA BLANCA BY SECURITY FORCES THREE MONTHS TO OVER A YEAR AGO. THEIR FAMILIES WERE UNDERSTANDABLY SHOCKED BY THE NEWS

REPORTS OF THE THEFT OF TELEVISION SETS AND OTHER PORTABLE VALUABLES IS A FREQUENT OCCURRENCE ASSOCIATED WITH THE ARREST AND DISAPPEARANCE OF INDIVIDUALS IN ARGENTINA. A REPORT HAS BEEN FILED WITH THE EMBASSY THAT THE OWNER OF AN AUTO REPAIR SHOP WHO WAS "ARRESTED" AND THEN DISAPPEARED HAD HIS SHOP "SEARCHED FOR WEAPONS" SEVERAL DAYS AFTER HIS ARREST. ALL HIS TOOLS AND A FULL-SIZED BUS WHICH HE RECENTLY PURCHASED WERE STOLEN. LOCAL POLICE AUTHORITIES REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE DENUNCIA OF THE CRIME FROM HIS FAMILY. SENIOR MILITARY OFFICIALS HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER SUCH ROBBERIES TO THE

THE GOA IS TRYING TO GET CONTROL OVER THE SECURITY FORCES TO PREVENT SUCH FLAGRANT ABUSES.

b3 per DIA

10. RELIGIOUS FREEDOM -----

PRESIDENT VIDELA ANNOUNCED ON OCTOBER 13 THAT THE NEW PENAL CODE WILL CONTAIN SANCTIONS AGAINST ANYONE WHO HARMS OR DISCRIMINATES AGAINST PERSONS OR GROUPS FOR ETHNIC OR RELIGIOUS

REASONS. THE LOCAL JEWISH LEADERSHIP, THE DATA, WAS PLEASANTLY
SURPRISED BY THE PRESIDENT'S WELCOME INITIATIVE.

POLICE RAIDS IN THE LAST 18 MONTHS
IN ADDITION TO SOME 20 SCATTERED ~~XXXXXXXX~~ AGAINST JEHOVAH WITNESS
MEETING HALLS, HOMES, AND ADHERENTS; THE JEHOVAH WITNESSES ARE
FIGHTING A THREE SIDED LEGAL BATTLE WITH THE GOA. UNFORTUNATELY,
THEY ARE LOSING ON TWO FRONTS.

THE WITNESSES WON AN IMPORTANT LEGAL VICTORY SEVERAL MONTHS AGO
WHEN THE FEDERAL COURT OF APPEALS (THE NATION'S MOST PROGRESSIVE
COURT) HELD THAT JUNTA DECREE NO. 1867/76 PROSCRIBING ALL JEHOVAH
WITNESS ACTIVITY WAS AN UNCONSTITUTIONAL INFRINGEMENT OF
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM. HOWEVER, THE DECISION IN THAT CASE HAS NOT
TAKEN EFFECT AS THE GOVERNMENT HAS APPEALED TO THE SUPREME COURT,
WHERE THE CASE IS STILL PENDING.

IN THE FLAG SALUTING CASES, THE WITNESSES RECEIVED A FAVORABLE
EARLIER THIS YEAR
DECISION IN CORDOBA PROVINCE/ WHICH BOTH ALLOWED THEIR CHILDREN
TO RETURN TO SCHOOL AND VOIDED THE PROVINCE'S DIPICTIVE. BUT
IN A SIMILAR CASE ~~XXXXXXXX~~ IN BUENOS AIRES ~~PROVINCE~~ IN LATE
OCTOBER, THE WITNESSES WON ONLY THE RE-ENTRY OF THE CHILDREN
TO THEIR SCHOOLS.
THE ~~XXXXXXXX~~ DECREE REGARDING HOMAGE TO THE FLAG, ANTHEM,
ETC. WAS UPHELD. MANY WITNESS CHILDREN ARE DE FACTO BEING DENIED
AND AN EDUCATION BECAUSE OF THEIR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS THROUGHOUT
THE COUNTRY.

THE LAST FRONT IS THE WITNESS' REFUSAL TO SERVE IN THE ARMED FORCES. THIS NOW APPEARS TO BE BECOMING THE MAJOR AREA OF CONFRONTATION. ABOUT 200 WITNESSES ARE SERVING PRISON SENTENCES FOR FAILURE TO WEAR ARMY UNIFORMS. THE YOUNG WITNESSES GENERALLY RESPOND PROMPTLY TO THEIR DRAFT NOTICES, BUT REFUSE TO CHANGE INTO MILITARY UNIFORMS. THEY ARE THEN COURT-MARTIALED, AND GIVEN WELL 30 TO 48 MONTH SENTENCES. THEY ARE TREATED REASONABLY/DURING THEIR PRISON SENTENCES; SOME EVEN ALLOWED WEEKENDS AT HOME.

THE GOVERNMENT IS NOW PROSECUTING CHURCH LEADERS, INCLUDING AMCIT ARGENTINE BRANCH COORDINATOR CHARLES EISENHOWER, FOR INCITEMENT, CONSPIRACY, AND APOLOGIA (PRAISING A CRIME) IN THESE MILITARY SERVICE REFUSAL CASES. EISENHOWER AND A FELLOW WITNESS WERE SENTENCED TO 6 MONTHS TO 2 YEARS IMPRISONMENT ON A MINIMAL OCTOBER 31. THEY WERE ALLOWED TO POST/BAIL AND WILL APPEAL THE CONVICTION.

11. ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE VISIT -----

RABBI ROSENTHAL, LATIN AMERICAN DIRECTOR FOR THE JEWISH ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE, MADE TWO BRIEF VISITS TO BUENOS AIRES IN MID-OCTOBER. ROSENTHAL WAS GUEST OF HONOR AT A LUNCH HOSTED BY THE CHARGE AND ATTENDED BY THE DAIA LEADERSHIP. HE ALSO MET WITH OTHER LEADERS OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY AND THE FOREIGN PRESS. THE FOREIGN OFFICE, WHICH USUALLY PROVIDES A CORDIAL BRIEFING FOR VISITING U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS WORKERS, IGNORED THE RABBI'S VISIT, PERHAPS IN RESPONSE TO HIS TESTIMONY BEFORE

THE FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE LAST YEAR ON ARGENTINA. THE FONOFF'S COLD SHOULDER TREATMENT WAS INTERESTING GIVEN THE FACT THAT ROSENTHAL HAD MET WITH BOTH VIDELA AND MONTES DURING THEIR RECENT VISITS TO THE U.S.

ROSENTHAL RECEIVED DIVIDED JUDGEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY HERE. THE DATA INDICATED THAT ANTI-SEMITISM AND HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS WERE GETTING NO BETTER ~~FOR~~ WORSE IN ARGENTINA. MORE LIBERAL JEWISH COMMUNITY LEADERS EXPRESSED SERIOUS CONCERN REGARDING CONTINUING ABUSES OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND/A SHIFT IN GOVERNMENT TARGETS FROM TERRORISM TO INTELLECTUAL SUBVERSION. ROSENTHAL EVIDENCED SERIOUS CONCERN OVER THE LACK OF PROGRESS IN THE ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION. HE ENCOURAGED THE DATA TO TAKE A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN PURSUING JEWISH AND NON-JEWISH CASES WITH THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT. HE WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE DEUTSCH, TIMMERMAN AND ~~STOULMAN~~ ^{STOULMAN} CASES.

REGARDING THE LATTER, HE PASSED ON INFORMATION FROM THE ~~STOULMAN~~ ^{STOULMAN} FAMILY IN SANTIAGO THAT AFTER HIS DISAPPEARANCE, ~~STOULMAN~~ ^{STOULMAN} ORDERED JACOBO ~~STOULMAN~~ ^{STOULMAN} HAD ~~RECEIVED~~ THE TRANSFER OF ABOUT \$16,000 NEW YORK ~~STOULMAN~~ ^{STOULMAN} A MIAMI OF TWO OTHER INDIVIDUALS. FROM HIS/ACCOUNT ~~STOULMAN~~ ^{STOULMAN} TO/XX ACCOUNT/~~STOULMAN~~ ^{STOULMAN}

THIS POSSIBLE VIOLATION OF U.S. LAWS IS BEING INVESTIGATED BY THE FBI. THE FUNDS TRANSFER EVIDENCE IS SERIOUS, AS IT POINTS TO EXTORTION OF THE ~~STOULMAN~~ ^{STOULMAN} AFTER THEIR REPORTED DISAPPEARANCE FROM EZEIZA AIRPORT.

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OPTIONAL FORM 10-75
(Formally 5010-107)
Date of

AIRES, HAD ISSUED A "CAPTURE ORDER" FOR HIM. TORRILLA SAID THAT HIS LIFE WAS IN DANGER BECAUSE HE WAS A PERONIST STUDENT LEADER IN HIGH SCHOOL. TORRILLA SOUGHT LEGAL PROTECTION FROM THE FEDERAL COURT IN LA PLATA BY SUBMITTING A PREVENTIVE HABEAS CORPUS PETITION (SIC) DETAILING HIS ASSOCIATION WITH THE PERONIST YOUTH MOVEMENT AND HIS PREVIOUS INTERROGATION AND RELEASE BY THE ARGENTINE SECURITY FORCES. HOWEVER, WHEN THE COURT REFUSED TO ACCEPT HIS HABEAS CORPUS PETITION AND HIS HOUSE WAS PLACED UNDER SURVEILLANCE, HE DECIDED TO REQUEST POLITICAL ASYLUM.

(PROTECT),
IN MID-OCTOBER, MRS. GLADYS BARRENECHEA DE MOYANO/ A MIDDLE AGED ARGENTINE WOMAN, ALSO REQUESTED ASYLUM. SHE STATED THAT SHE WAS BEING SOUGHT BY POLICE IN BUENOS AIRES FOR INTERROGATION REGARDING HER SON'S POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. HE WAS PREVIOUSLY IMPRISONED IN RAWSON AND WAS FREED BY THE CAMPORA AMNESTY. SHE SAID SHE HAS NOT SEEN HER SON FOR SEVERAL YEARS; BUT FEARS THAT IF SHE IS CAPTURED, SHE WILL BE TORTURED AND FORCED TO GIVE THE NAMES OF MANY INNOCENT PEOPLE. SHE HAD BEEN LIVING WITH HER DAUGHTER IN BUENOS AIRES UNTIL POLICE RAIDED THE HOUSE AND PUT IT UNDER SURVEILLANCE.

AN EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER EXPLAINED TO BOTH PERSONS THAT THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WAS NOT TO GRANT EMBASSY SANCTUARY. HE SUGGESTED THAT THEY CONTACT ONE OF THE LATIN AMERICAN EMBASSIES WHO WERE SIGNATORIES TO THE HAVANA

CONVENTION. AFTER LONG DISCUSSIONS OF THEIR SITUATIONS, BOTH
PERSONS LEFT THE EMBASSY VOLUNTARILY.

~~KHARKYM~~

CHAPLIN

me

MR. WILLIAM H. HALLMAN, POLITICAL
ATTENTION: MR. HARRIS COUNSELOR

11/22/77

MR. ROBERT W. SCHERRER, LEGAL ATTACHE

DR. ALFREDO N. GALLETTI;
PROFESSOR ELIDA ENRIQUETA BUSI DE GALLETTI;
PROFESSOR LILIANA ELIDA GALLETTI

Attached is the original of a self-explanatory letter dated 11/20/77 and the transmittal envelope which was directed to Assistant Secretary for Inter-American Affairs, TERENCE A. TODMAN.

On 11/22/77, Ambassador TODMAN instructed that the Embassy acknowledge the attached letter, register LILIANA ELIDA GALLETTI in appropriate Human Rights records and that the Embassy include her name, if appropriate, on the list of cases in which the U. S. has an interest. Ambassador TODMAN advised that the Embassy need not provide any correspondence to him concerning captioned matter.

Attachments

- 1 - Addressee (Encs. 2)
- 1 - Buenos Aires (109-812)

RWS
RWS:jn
(2)

3'

RWS

109-812-153

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : FILE 109-812 (C)

DATE: 12/30/77

FROM : LEGAT, BUENOS AIRES

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS INQUIRIES - ARGENTINA

Captioned matter was opened and assigned in order to remain alert for any information concerning the subject of this case which might be of interest to the Bureau.

Inasmuch as no current information concerning captioned matter has come to the attention of this office, this case is being closed administratively.

Should any information of interest to the Bureau be developed at a future date, captioned matter will be reopened and assigned.

Post
RWS:jn
(1)
Jm

Close

CHIEF OF
DESTRUCTION
12/28/80

109-812-153A

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FBI - BUENOS AIRES	



5010-110

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TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

	FROM Amembassy BUENOS AIRES	CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
E.O. 11652: TAGS: SUBJECT:	M/A CVIS, SREF, SHUM, AR Name Checks: Argentine Detainees	
ACTION:	SECSTATE WASHDC RUEABND/DEA XX HQS WASHDC	
	DIRECTOR FBI	
	UNCLASSIFIED BUENOS AIRES <u>168</u>	
CONS CHRON POL*-2 POL/R* LEGATT* SY* DAO* DEA*	1. VISAS EAGLE 2. BERMUDEZ, Oscar Amilcar Argentine May 24, 1951 Bahia Blanca, Buenos Aires, Arg. Occupation unknown Detained by Argentine authorities	
*POL, POL/R, LEGATT, SY, DAO, and DEA, please do file check, note results hereon, and return directly to CONS/REF. Thanks.	3. FERRARI, Claudio Alberto Argentine April 30, 1950 Santa Fe, Argentina University student Detained by Argentine authorities Affiliated with Peronist Party 4. FERRARI, Sergio Gustavo Argentine June 15, 1953 Rosario, Santa Fe, Argentina University student Detained by Argentine authorities Affiliated with Peronist Party	
	5. GONZALEZ, Pablo Daniel (AKA "Danny") Argentine November 19, 1952 Quilmes, Buenos Aires, Argentina University student Detained by Argentine authorities	
DRAFTED BY:	DRAFTING DATE	TEL. EXT. CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:
CONS/REF: SBCoughlin: sbc	1-9-78	332 CONS: WWhitchcock <i>WWhitchcock</i>
CLEARANCES:		

UNCLASSIFIED

OPTIONAL FORM

- 11-811-141
6. KORNFIELD HOCHSTIMM, Tomas Juan Bolivian/Austrian
February 27, 1944 Oruro, Bolivia
Typesetter Detained by Argentine authorities
7. NEGRO, Javier Federico Argentine
September 16, 1955 La Plata, Buenos Aires, Arg.
Art teacher Detained by Argentine authorities
8. REYES, Pascual Angel Argentine
December 1, 1954 Capital Federal, Buenos Aires, Arg.
Plumber Detained by Argentine authorities
9. SEOANE, Raul Santiago Argentine
October 8, 1946, Capital Federal, Buenos Aires, Arg.
Lawyer Detained by Argentine authorities
10. AZAR SAADI, Nestor Carlos Argentine
August 1, 1948 Junin, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Business employee Detained by Argentine authorities
11. ROVARETTI, Leopoldo Alberto Argentine
September 22, 1951 ~~Mar~~ Cordoba, Argentina
Architect Detained by Argentine authorities
12. de ROVARETTI nee GIRADO, Monica Elena Argentine
February ~~21~~ 26, 1952 Buenos Aires, Argentina
IBM Programmer Gorriti 550, Dpto. 126, Bloque B,
Cordoba, Argentina
13. Wife of detainee above.
14. ~~CAMPDEPADROS,~~ PÉREZ, Hector Tomas Argentine
January 24, 1946 Avellaneda, Buenos Aires, Arg.

- Mechanic Detained by Argentine authorities
15. de CAMPDEPADROS nee SOTELO, Adriana Argentine
August 22, 1956 Avellaneda, Buenos Aires, Arg.
Office worker for a lawyer Gutierrez 336 and
Estanislau del Campo, Quilmes 1878, Arg.
16. Wife of detainee above.
17. COSTA, Mario Luis Argentine
March 12, 1949 Maria Teresa, Santa Fe, Argentina
Chemical Engineer Detained by Argentine authorities
18. de COSTA nee FILIPPETTI, Maria Argentine
June 28, 1950 Venado Tuerto, Santa Fe, Argentina
Occupation unknown Roca 581, Venado Tuerto, Santa
Fe, Argentina 2600
19. Wife of detainee above.
20. GONZALEZ, Americo (AKA "Quique") Argentine
December 7, 1948 Quilmes, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Salesman Detained by Argentine authorities
21. de GONZALEZ nee GENTILESCHI, Monica Argentine
April 17, 1952 ~~1952~~ Berazategui, Buenos Aires, Arg.
Occupation unknown Matienzo y Libertad, Berazategui,
Buenos Aires 1884, Argentina
22. Wife of detainee above.
23. OBEID NOVOA, Ruben Argentine
September 23, 1947 San Martin de los Andes, Neuquen,
Argentina.
Teacher Detained by Argentine authorities

24. de OBEID nee VEGA, Maria Cristina Argentine
October 6, 1948 Cipolletti, Rio Negro, Argentina
Occupation unknown Hipolito Yrigoyen 9034, 1st Floor,
Apt "G", Lomas de Zamora, Bs As, Arg.
25. Wife of detainee above.
26. POZZO, Roberto Luis Argentine
November 20, 1944 Oliva, Cordoba, Argentina
Chemical engineer Detained by Argentine authorities
Sympathizer "Partido Justicialista".
27. de POZZO nee SUAREZ, Teresa Elisa Argentine
March 3, 1947 Laguna Paiva, Santa Fe, Argentina
Teacher Dorrego 5480, 3000 Santa Fe, Argentina
28. Wife of detainee above.
29. REARTE PEDROZA, Carlos Alberto Argentine
March 28, 1946 Campana, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Chauffer Detained by Argentine authorities
30. de REARTE nee VIGNATI RODRIGUEZ, Stella Maris, Argentine
October 21, 1952 Campana, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Occupation unknown Saavedra 790, Campana, Bs As, Arg.
31. Wife of detainee above.
32. Subjects seek release from detention by Argentine authorities under recently instituted "Right of Option" procedures, which require that embassy of country having interest in accepting the detainee issue certificate to effect that

CONTROL: 0792
0113102 FEB 78

TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM Amembassy BUENOS AIRES		CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
E.O. 11652:	N/A	
TAGS:	SREF, SHUM, AR, CI (FUENTES FARIAS, Hugo Hernan)	
SUBJECT:	Name Check: Hugo Hernan FUENTES FARIAS	
ACTION:	SECSTATE WASHDC RUEABND/DEA HQS WASHDC	
	DIRECTOR FBI Amembassy SANTIAGO	
	UNCLASSIFIED BUENOS AIRES 0792	
CONS	1. VISAS EAGLE	
CHRON	2. <u>FUENTES FARIAS, Hugo Hernan</u> Chilean	
POL/R*	DoJ: June 16, 1949 PoB: El Manzano, Cachapual, Chile	
LEGATT*	Furniture maker, Nurse's Aide Care UNHCR Buenos Aires, Arg	
SY*	3. Refugee alien. Joined Socialist Party 1969.	
DEA*	4. FOR SANTIAGO: VISAS ALPHA. Cedula No. 6.342.601-6. Santiago	
	*POL/R, SY, LEGATT and DEA, please do file check, note results hereon, and return directly to CONS/REF. Thanks.	
	• CASTRO <i>WMD</i>	

DRAFTED BY: CONS/REF: SBCoughlin:sbc *sc* DRAFTING DATE: 1-30-78 TEL. EXT. 332 CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: CONSWEN Whittecock *WMD*

109-812-155
FEB 1 1978
FBI-BUENOS AIRES
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UNCLASSIFIED

OPTIONAL FORM 10 (Formerly 10)

CONTROL: 0791
011308Z FEB 76

TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

ACTION:

CONS
CHRON
POL/R*,
LEGATT*
SY*
DEA*

*POL/R, SY,
LEGATT and
DEA, please
do file
check, note
results
hereon,
and return
directly to
CONS/REF.
Thank.

FROM

Embassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

UNCLASSIFIED

N/A

SECRET, SHUM, AR, CI (ZUÑIGA TORRES, Luis Ernesto)

NOTE Check: Luis Ernesto ZUÑIGA TORRES

SECSTATE WASHDC
RUEABND/DEA HQS WASHDC

DIRECTOR FBI
Amembassy SANTIAGO

UNCLASSIFIED BUENOS AIRES 0791

1. VISAS EAGLE

2. ZUÑIGA TORRES, Luis Ernesto

Chilean

December 3, 1955

Valparaiso, Chile

Student of electricity

Care UNHCR Buenos Aires, Arg.

3. Refugee alien. Joined Socialist Youth in 1971, acted as
Treasurer and Propaganda Chief in Carlos Cortez cell of Barril
Esperanza.

4. FOR ~~SANTIAO~~ SANTIAGO: VISAS ALPHA. Cedula No. 584 469
issued Valparaiso..

CASTRO

WMD

109-812-156

DRAFTED BY

CONS/REF: SECoughlin:sbc

CLEARANCE

DRAFTING DATE

1-30-78

TEL. EXT.

332

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED

CONS: Hitchcock

FBI-BUENOS AIRES

UNCLASSIFIED

CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL
(Form 10)

CONTROL: 0790
011307Z JAN 78

TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: SREF, SHUM, AR, CI (OJEDA CONTRERAS, Leonel Guillermo)
SUBJECT: Name Check: Leonel Guillermo OJEDA CONTRERAS

ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC
RUEABND/DEA HQS WASHDC

DIRECTOR FBI
Amembassy SANTIAGO

UNCLASSIFIED BUENOS AIRES 0790

1. VISAS EAGLE

2. OJEDA CONTRERAS, Leonel Guillermo . Chilean

May 1, 1953 Santiago, Chile

Chauffeur, Mechanic Care UNHCR Buenos Aires, Argentina

3. Refugee alien. Militant of Socialist Party 1967. In 1971
designated president of Villa Amapola (poblacion).

4. FOR SANTIAGO: VISAS ALPHA. Cedula No. 636 42 47, Santiago.

CASTRO



CONS
CHRON
POL/R*
LEGATT*
SY*
DEA*

*POL/R, SY,
LEGATT and
DEA, please
do file
check, note
results
hereon and
return
directly to
CONS/REF.
Thanks.

DRAFTED BY:

CONS/REF: SBCoughlin; sbc

CLEARANCES:

DRAFTING DATE

1-30-78

TEL. EXT.

332

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

CONS: WWHitchcock

UNCLASSIFIED

CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL FOR
(Formerly)

021515Z FEB 78

TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM	Amembassy BUENOS AIRES	CLASSIFICATION	UNCLASSIFIED
11652: TAGS: BJECT: CTION:	N/A SE SREF, SHUM, AR, CI (MONARDEZ ELGUETA, Sergio Edmundo) Name Check: Sergio Edmundo MONARDEZ ELGUETA SECSTATE WASHDC RUEABND/DEA HQS WASHDC DIRECTOR FBI Amembassy SANTIAGO UNCLASSIFIED BUENOS AIRES 0831 1. VISAS EAGLE 2. MONARDEZ ELGUETA, Sergio Edmundo Chilean 3. August 23, 1946 Santiago, Chile Precision lathe operator Care UNHCR Buenos Aires, Arg. 3. Refugee alien. 4. OLIVARES PERKES de MONARDEZ, Nury del Carmen Chilean 4. January 4, 1957 Valparaiso, Chile Housewife Care UNHCR Buenos Aires, Arg. 4. Wife of above refugee alien. 5. FOR SANTIAGO: VISAS ALPHA. Cedula No. for subject 5743669-7 issued in Santiago. Cedula for wife 7.155091-5 issued in La Cisterna. CASTRO		

TELETYPE	DRAFTING DATE	TEL. EXT.	CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:
IS/REP: SBCoughlin:sbc	2-1-78	332	CONS: WWhitchcock

UNCLASSIFIED
CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL FORM 153
(Formary FS-413)
January 1975
Dept. of State

FROM:	Embassy BUENOS AIRES	CLASSIFICATION:	UNCLASSIFIED
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11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, SHUM, AR, CI (GONZALEZ NAVARRO, Jose Fernando)

SUBJECT: Name Check: Jose Fernando GONZALEZ NAVARRO

ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC
RUEAEND/DEA HQS WASHDC

DIRECTOR FBI
Embassy SANTIAGO

UNCLASSIFIED BUENOS AIRES CS32

1. VISAS EAGLE

2. GONZALEZ NAVARRO, Jose Fernando Chilean
August 18, 1936 Santiago, Chile
Radio operator Care UNHCR Buenos Aires, Arg.

3. Refugee alien. Sympathizer Communist Party.

4. GONZALEZ nee VAZQUEZ GARCIA, Mirna Nelly Chilean
March 27, 1936 Iquique, Tarapaca, Chile
Housewife Care UNHCR Buenos Aires, Arg.

5. Wife of above refugee alien. No political affiliation.

6. GONZALEZ VAZQUEZ, Oriel Alberto Chilean
July 13, 1958 Santiago, Chile

D BY: REF: SBCoughlin: sbc <i>As</i>	DRAFTING DATE 2-1-78	TEL. EXT. 332	CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY CONS: JWHitchcock <i>W</i>
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OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
(Formerly Form 100)
JULY 1973 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CVIS, SREF, SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: Name Checks: Argentine Detainees

ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC
RUEABND/DEA HQS WASHDC

DIRECTOR FBI

UNCLASSIFIED BUENOS AIRES 1112

CONS
CHRON
POL8*-2
POL/R*
LEGATT
SY*
WAX DAO*
DEA*

*POL, POL/R,
LEGATT, SY,
DEA, and
DAO, please
do file
check, note
results
hereon,
and return
directly to
CONS/REF.
Thanks.

1. VISAS EAGLE
2. ANDRADA LAZOY, Juan Carlos Argentine
December 26, 1955 Federal Capital, Buenos Aires, Arg.
Metallurgical worker Detained by Argentine authorities
3. ARANDA VALLEJO, Carlos Raul Argentine
April 18, 1952 Mercedes, Corrientes, Argentina
Construction worker Detained by Argentine authorities
4. D'ANNUNZIO PEREZ, Mariano Jose Argentine
August 8, 1953 Punta Alta, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Student of Medicine Detained by Argentine authorities
5. HISA PAEZ, Jose Luis Argentine
May 3, 1956 Santa Fe, Argentina
Shoemaker, Chemical Technician Detained by Arg. authorities

*Consul advised
of ident. reference
re #11 - referred to
may 11/2/77
but*

109-812-160

DRAFTED BY: CONS/REF: SBCoughlin: sbc	DRAFTING DATE 2-13-78	TEL. EXT. 332	CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: CONS: WWHitchcock
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UNCLASSIFIED

OPTIONAL FORM
(Formerly 54)

6. MOVIA RUSSIAN, Ada Graciela Argentine
May 19, 1948 Federal Capital, Buenos Aires, Arg.
Art Teacher Detained by Arg. authorities
7. PEREZ, MIG Miguel Antonio Argentine
April 13, 1955 Cordoba, Argentina
Clerk Detained by Argentine authorities
8. VARELA DUTREGNIT, Jorge Raul Argentine
August 1, 1954 Avellaneda, Buenos Aires, Arg.
Administrative Employee Detained by Arg. authorities
9. VELAZQUEZ COGLEY, Javier Alfredo Lujan Argentine
March 25, 1951 Federal Capital, Buenos Aires, Arg.
Student Detained by Argentine authorities
10. GARCIA STOERMANN, Washington Alejandro Argentine
February 5, 1942 Jachal, San Juan, Argentina
Anesthesiologist Detained by Argentine authorities
11. GALLETTI BUSI, Liliana Elida Argentine
September 5, 1945 La Plata, Buenos Aires, Argentina
History Professor Disappeared

12. All subjects (except GALLETTI BUSI, Liliana) seek release from detention by Argentine authorities under recently instituted "Right of Option" procedures, which require that embassy of country having interest in accepting the detainee issue certificate to effect that detainee will be accepted for admission to that country upon release from detention. In order for this embassy

TELEGRAM

CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL/NOFORN~~

XGDS-2
SHUM, AR
RUMORS OF BODIES DISPOSED AT SEA

INFO: AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES: 1919

~~NOFORN~~

~~REF: X CHAP LYN HONOR X X KCOM X X KX78 X~~

1. DURING THE PAST MONTH STORIES CIRCULATED IN BUENOS AIRES CONCERNING BODIES THAT HAD BEEN WASHED ASHORE ON BEACHES IN THE GENERAL AREA OF ATLANTIC COAST MAR DE AJO--AN AREA ON THE ~~COAST OF THE BAY~~ ~~STATE~~ ABOUT MIDWAY BETWEEN BUENOS AIRES AND MAR DEL PLATA. ONE SUCH STORY--REGARDING TWO BODIES-- WAS PICKED UP IN THE LOCAL PRESS. ~~WHERE~~ ACCOUNTS OF BETWEEN 35 AND 40 BODIES WERE GIVEN US BY CONTACTS OF THE EMBASSY, BUT WITHOUT ANY KIND OF CONFIRMATION.

2. PERMANENT ASSEMBLY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VICE

DRAFTING DATE

TEL. EXT.

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

POL:WHHallman:eg

3/13/78

278

DCM: MChaplin

CLEARANCES:

POL/R:DSmock

LEGATT: RScherrer

'SY:RKelly

DAO:COLCoughlin

USIS: JHiggins

~~CONFIDENTIAL/NOFORN~~

~~CLASSIFICATION~~

OPTIONAL FORM 153
(Formerly FS 413)
January 1955

PRESIDENT EMILIO MIGNONE (STRICTLY PROTECT) MADE AN INVESTIGATORY TRIP TO THE AREA AND ~~HAS~~ ^{HAS WRITTEN} ~~WRITTEN~~ A REPORT WHICH IMPLIES A LINK BETWEEN THESE OCCURRENCES AND THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-TERRORIST ACTIVITIES.

3. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY'S TRANSLATION OF ^{THE} ~~A~~ REPORT MIGNONE PREPARED:

"A THOROUGH VISIT MADE DURING FEBRUARY TO THE BEACHES OF GENERAL LAVALLE DISTRICT, BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE (SAN CLEMENTE DEL TUYU, LAS TONINAS, SANTA TERESITA, MAR DEL TUYM, LUCILA DEL MAR, SAN BERNARDO Y MAR DE AJO) HAS SUBSTANTIATED THE FOLLOWING:

"BETWEEN JUNE 1977 AND JANUARY 1978, 16 BODIES WERE THROWN UP UPON THE LISTED BEACHES FROM THE SEA. ALL WERE IN STATE OF DECOMPOSITION AND WERE WITHOUT CLOTHES, ACCORDING TO DOCTORS WHO INVESTIGATED THEY HAD BEEN IN THE WATER NOT LESS THAN 15 DAYS. THE MAJORITY HAD BEEN DECAPITATED AND THE HANDS CUT OFF TO MAKE IDENTIFICATION DIFFICULT. IN ONE CASE IT WAS POSSIBLE TO SEND THE HANDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF POLICE IN LA PLATA, BUT NO REPLY HAS BEEN GIVEN BY THE POLICE SO FAR. IT SHOULD BE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THEY BELONGED TO YOUNG PEOPLE, FOR THE MOST PART WOMEN.

"ACCORDING TO INFORMATION PUBLISHED DURING FEBRUARY BY THE DAILY "LA NACION", TWO BODIES IN THE SAME CONDITIONS APPEARED ON THE BEACH OF VILLA GESELL, FURTHER TO THE SOUTH,

PEOPLE OF THAT RESORT AREA AFFIRMED THAT DURING JANUARY 41 BODIES APPEARED IN SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES IN MAR DEL PLATA.

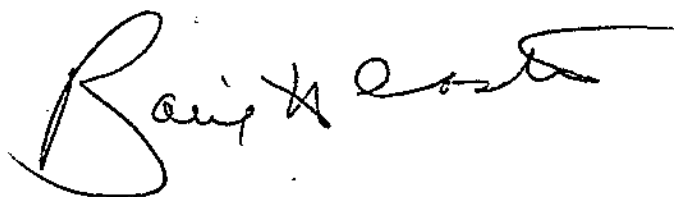
"THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE FIRST PARAGRAPH CONCERNING THE BEACH TOWNS OF GENERAL LAVALLE DISTRICT ARE CORROBORATED BY TESTIMONY OF THE POLICE THAT MADE THE OFFICIAL COUNT, FORENSIC PHYSICIANS AND OTHER OFFICIALS AND PASSERSBY (BATHERS, FIREMEN, NEIGHBORS, ETC.).

"NEIGHBORS AT THE ABOVE MENTIONED BEACH AREAS STATE THAT THE BODIES ARE WASHED ASHORE WHEN THERE IS WIND FROM THE SOUTH. THEY ARE CONVINCED THAT THEY HAVE BEEN THROWN INTO THE SEA BY AIRCRAFT OF THE NAVY FROM NEARBY BASES, WHICH THEY SEE FLYING FREQUENTLY OVER THE AREA. SOME NEIGHBORS AFFIRMED HAVING SEEN BUNDLES FALLING FROM THE AIRCRAFT.

"IF ONE CONSIDERS THAT THE NUMBER OF BODIES THROWN UP FROM THE SEA IS SMALLER THAN THE TOTAL NUMBER--ESPECIALLY TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THAT BODIES MIGHT BE THROWN WEIGHTED IN ORDER TO SINK THEM--ONE IS FACED WITH ONE EXPLANATION FOR THE DISAPPEARANCES OF PEOPLE. THIS MIGHT EXPLAIN AN AFFIRMATION BY THE NAVY THAT IT HAS NOT A SINGLE PRISONER."

4. EMBASSY COMMENTS. EMBASSY OFFICERS DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS HAVE HEARD ~~FREQUENT~~ RUMORS THAT MILITARY AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN USED TO DUMP AT SEA THE BODIES OF SLAIN TERRORISTS. ACCORDING TO SOME REPORTS PLANES DEPARTED FROM CAMPO DE MAYO AIRFIELD. (DAO SOURCES, HOWEVER, CAN NEITHER CONFIRM OR DENY

THESE CLAIMS.) OTHER REPORTS EXIST OF BODIES WASHED UP ON THE URUGUAYAN SHORE. EARLIER REPORTS OF WASHED-UP BODIES DID NOT, HOWEVER, AVER MUTILIATION. WE CANNOT, HOWEVER, ACCEPT MIGNONE'S STATEMENT AT FACE VALUE. THE VILLA GESELL ENUMERATION LOOKS FLIMSY, AND THE FINAL SENTENCE HAS A POLEMICAL TOUCH THAT DETRACTS FROM OTHER INFORMATION. ASSOCIATED PRESS, WHICH WAS GIVEN THE STORY--PRESUMABLY BY THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY--REFUSED TO USE IT ON GROUNDS THAT NO SEPARATE CONFIRMATION WAS AVAILABLE. . WHILE OTHER EMBASSY AGENCIES DO NOT DISAGREE THAT THE MIGNONE REPORT COULD HAVE SOME FACTUAL BASIS, THEY HAVE NO INFORMATION FROM THEIR SOURCES WHICH ~~CASTRO~~ WOULD CONFIRM THE REPORT.



CASTRO

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LEGATT

TO : POL/R, LEGATT, SY and DAO

DATE: February 10, 1978

FROM : POL:WHHallman *W.H.*

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS TEST CASE

I am sending attached correspondence relating to the disappearances of the husband, son-in-law, and mother of Mrs. Marta del Carmen Francese de Bettini, currently living in Madrid. Briefly, the correspondence reports that Mrs. Bettini's husband, Dr. Antonio Bautista Bettini, was abducted under the usual mysterious circumstances on March 18, 1977 in La Plata. After Dr. Bettini's son-in-law, Navy Lt. Jorge Alberto Daniel Devoto, reported the circumstances of his father-in-law's disappearance to naval authorities the young lieutenant disappeared also. Mrs. Bettini's first letter goes on to assert that in late June an armed Argentine "commando", together with members of the Uruguayan Navy, broke into the houses of three of Mrs. Bettini's Uruguayan relatives at 3:00 a.m. and carried off family members--young people and adults. These people were tortured for six days, says Mrs. Bettini, in order to find out Mrs. Bettini's whereabouts and those of her family. Mrs. Bettini's most recent letter, dated January 16, 1978 (which was delivered to me by a member of the Spanish Embassy, the letter having been sent through the Spanish diplomatic pouch for reasons of security), asserts that on November 3, 1977 Mrs. Bettini's mother, a woman of 77, was abducted by an armed group from her home in La Plata and has not been heard of since.

It is not possible or desirable that we should follow up many cases of this kind presented to us. I believe, however, and the Ambassador has agreed, that it would be useful to assemble as much data as possible concerning Mrs. Bettini's assertions as a kind of "Human Rights Test Case." It should be relatively easy to document the disappearance of a naval officer. If Mrs. Bettini's association with terrorism was as heinous as would seem implied by the events she describes, then hopefully her name and perhaps of those of family members will turn up

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Rux

somewhere among our holdings. I regret that we do not have the name of Mrs. Bettini's daughter (Lt. Devoto's wife) who probably does also play a lead role in this sad business. There is a possibility, at least in my mind, that Mrs. Bettini is involved in some kind of provocation, which our looking hard at her assertion should reveal.

ACTION REQUESTED

That each element addressed check its files and use other resources available to develop information on Marta del Carmen Francese de Bettini, Jorge Alberto Daniel Devoto, Antonio Bautista Bettini, and Maria Mercedes Hourquebie de Francese.

Madrid, 16 de enero de 1.978.-

Al Señor Embajador de los
Estados Unidos de Norte América
Excelentísimo Doctor
Don Raúl Castro
Embajada de los Estados Unidos de Norte América
Buenos Aires
S / a

De mi mayor consideración:

Me di-
rigo al Señor Embajador con referencia a la tremenda tragedia que
estoy viviendo, hecho ya conocido por esa Embajada, según surge de
la respuesta que me enviara el Señor James Bumpus, a raíz de mi de-
nuncia presentada ante el Señor Cyrus Vance del Departamento de Es-
tado, tragedia agravada por la reciente desaparición de mi madre.

Con-
fío en que Ud., que ha llegado a mi país precedido de los más auspi-
ciosos elogios por su interés en la solución de los problemas que
atañen a los derechos humanos, como representante del Señor Presi-
dente de los Estados Unidos de Norte América James Carter, quien ha
demostrado reiteradamente su deseo en este sentido, a través de las
diversas visitas a Buenos Aires de personalidades de su Gobierno,
me ayudará a encontrar alguna solución a tan desesperante situa-
ción.

El
día 3 de noviembre de 1.977 a las 14 horas, fue también secuestrada
mi madre, la Señora Doña MARIA MERCEDES HOURQUEBIE DE FRANCESE, ma-
dre política del Doctor ANTONIO BAUTISTA BETTINI, y abuela política
del Teniente de Fragata JORGE ALBERTO DANIEL DEVOTO, uruguaya de se-
tenta y siete años de edad, por un grupo armado, no uniformado, que
autotitulándose "policías", la sacó de su residencia en la ciudad
de La Plata, capital de la Provincia de Buenos Aires, República Ar-
gentina, en presencia de su chofer y de su mucama, con el pretexto
de someterla a un interrogatorio, luego del cual - según las pro-
pias palabras de las personas que consumaron el secuestro - sería
reintegrada a su hogar.

Han
transcurrido ya setenta y tres días del hecho mencionado, sin que
se hayan tenido noticias de su situación y paradero.

Cabe
señalar que al cometerse semejante atropello, no se ha tenido en
cuenta ni su avanzada edad, ni su recta trayectoria avalada por sin
número de instituciones católicas a las cuales pertenece, ni su ciu-
|||||

////

deducir uruguay, ni su sólida posición económica, ni su reconocimiento
prestigio dentro de la sociedad argentina, no habiendo precedentes
de casos similares, confirmando de esta manera la monstruosa per
secución que se lleva a cabo contra nuestra familia.

Además de remitir esta denuncia a la Secretaría de Estado, he pensado
dirigirme a Usted, Señor Embajador, por parecerme la vía más directa
más rápida y más eficiente en estos momentos, ya que habiendo sido
girado nuestro caso a esa Embajada, es de su directa incumbencia.

Confío en la ayuda de Dios y en su pronta respuesta, lo saludo con
mi mayor consideración

Marta Francesa de Bettini

Marta del Carmen Francese de Bettini

Andrés Bello 9

Madrid 28

ESPAÑA

October 14, 1977

Mrs. Marta del Carmen Francese Bettini
Andrés Bello 9
Madrid 28, Spain

Dear Mrs. Bettini:

Your letter to Secretary Vance concerning your husband Dr. Antonio Bautista Bettini and your son-in-law Lt. Jorge Alberto Daniel Devoto has been forwarded to me for response. I was saddened to hear of their disappearance.

I am sending a copy of your letter to our Embassy in Buenos Aires and requesting that they make inquiries as to the whereabouts of Dr. Bettini and Lt. Devoto. When we receive word, I will let you know.

Sincerely,


James Bumpus
Argentine Desk Officer
Bureau of Inter-American
Affairs

Milán, 28 de agosto de 1977.-

Al Señor Secretario de Estado
de los Estados Unidos de Norte América
D. Cyrus Vance
Departamento de Estado
Washington D. C.
3 / d

De mi mayor consideración:

Enterada de la visita que realizará el Teniente General Jorge Rafael Videla, Presidente de la República Argentina, a esa ciudad el próximo día 7 de septiembre, he pensado poner en su conocimiento el tremendo drama que nos aflige, a fin de que Ud. pueda aprovechar esta oportunidad, para reclamar por ello al Gobierno Argentino.

Mi marido, el Doctor ANTONIO BAUTISTA BESTINI, fue secuestrado el día 18 de marzo de 1977, en la ciudad de La Plata, capital de la Provincia de Buenos Aires, República Argentina, sin tener hasta el presente ninguna noticia de su paradero, a pesar de las innumerables gestiones realizadas. Mi marido es argentino, tiene sesenta años de edad, es abogado, Doctor en Ciencias Jurídicas y Sociales, miembro del Poder Judicial de la Nación, habiendo ejercido como Fiscal Federal durante treinta años, actual profesor titular en la Universidad Nacional de La Plata, en la Universidad Nacional de Buenos Aires, y en las Universidades Católicas de La Plata y del Salvador (jesuitas) de Buenos Aires, en las cátedras de Derecho Internacional Privado y Derecho de Familia y Sucesiones, teniendo publicadas diferentes obras y ensayos referentes a su especialidad, habiendo participado en simposios, encuentros y congresos representando a las Universidades anteriormente mencionadas, así como dictado cursos y conferencias en el exterior invitado especialmente por organismos extranjeros, tales como el Instituto de Cultura Hispánica de Madrid, y la Universidad Católica Sacro Cuore de Milán, entre otros; ex Presidente del Consejo Universitario de la Acción Católica Argentina, de larga y conocida trayectoria en los círculos universitarios y en el foro, no habiendo pertenecido ni afiliado jamás a ningún partido político en salvaguarda de la sagrada misión de la justicia, funciones cuyo digno desempeño pueden avalar distinguidas personalidades argentinas.

Este tremendo atropello fue consumado en presencia de mi hijo político JORGE ALBERTO DANIEL SVOYO, Oficial de la Marina de Guerra Argentina con el grado de Teniente de Fragata, por personas armadas, no uniformadas, al

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/////////
revisarse ambos de la Policía Federal adonde habían concurrido a
realizar gestiones atinentes a su cargo.

El Teniente JORGE ALBERTO DANIEL DEVOTO, de treinta años de edad, se destacó brillantemente en su carrera, encontrándose especializado en Control de Armas Antisubmarinas y siendo en la actualidad uno de los cuatro únicos Oficiales de la Armada de mi país especializado en Guerra de Minas, habiendo sido consultado en reuniones de Almirantes cuando se trataban espinosos problemas referentes a relaciones con países limítrofes, mereciendo en todos los destinos que ocupó, la felicitación de sus superiores, entre ellos la del Almirante Emilio Eduardo Massera - cuya carta obra en mi poder -, actual Comandante en Jefe de la Armada y miembro de la Junta Militar que gobierna a la Argentina.

Dada la magnitud de los hechos anteriormente expuestos, el Teniente Devoto, como único testigo de los acontecimientos, concurrió el día 21 de marzo de 1977, a la sede del Comando en Jefe de la Armada - arma a la cual pertenece - en la Capital Federal, a presentar la denuncia correspondiente, siguiendo el consejo de sus superiores, desapareciendo a partir de ese momento sin que se hayan tenido noticias de su paradero, y arrojando las gestiones en su favor igual resultado negativo que en el caso de mi marido.

Como trágico corolario, el día 29 de junio de 1977, un comando argentino, armado, de civil, conjuntamente con la Marina de Guerra uruguaya, allanó a las 3 horas de la madrugada, los domicilios de tres familiares nuestros uruguayos, residentes en Montevideo, República Oriental del Uruguay, llevándose a varios de ellos, encapuchados, tanto a los jóvenes como a los adultos mayores de cincuenta años de edad, torturándolos durante seis días, para averiguar mi paradero y el de mi familia. Una nueva confirmación del trabajo orquestado que se realiza en el Cono Sur con la mayor impunidad, despreciando las leyes y el derecho.

Ante las declaraciones de mi país rechazando sistemáticamente las violaciones a los derechos humanos, creo mi deber hacer conocer a Ud., y por su intermedio a quien corresponda, la injusticia y la persecución de que somos víctimas en estos momentos, habiendo tenido que salir del país por carecer de garantías al haber realizado las gestiones oficiales y extraoficiales que la gravedad de la situación impone - prueba de ello es lo ocurrido a mi hijo político en acuerdo a lo precedentemente relatado -. El avasallamiento de los derechos de que somos objeto, no

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//////

se limite a la privación ilegítima de la libertad de mis familiares sino que alcanza también en forma curiosa, a varias de nuestras propiedades, las cuales luego de ser saqueadas impunemente, parecen estar hoy afectadas por un extraño bloqueo no encuadrado en marco legal alguno, sumándose a esto la imposibilidad de percibir los sueldos correspondientes a mi marido.

Ruégole encarecidamente, Señor Secretario, trate este caso de (patética injusticia) a nivel privado, pues de lo contrario seríamos considerados elementos subversivos en nuestro país, que así considera en estos momentos el promover el respeto por los derechos humanos. No obstante esta salvedad, confío en que desde la importante función que Ud. desempeña, tratará de lograr algún indicio sobre el paradero y la situación de mis familiares desaparecidos, realizando un aporte decisivo a las gestiones que estoy efectuando ante personas vinculadas a organismos internacionales. Le adjunto copias de las respuestas que he recibido de algunos de ellos, que como Ud. verá, son gestiones que al realizarse en forma oficial, no han arrojado ningún resultado.

Con la esperanza puesta en Dios, y en las gestiones que Ud. pueda realizar, muy agradecida, lo saludo con mi consideración mas distinguida

Marta del Carmen Francese de Bettini
Andrés Bello 9
Madrid 28
ESPAÑA

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

MR. WILLIAM HALLMAN, POLITICAL COUNSELOR

3/14/78

MR. ROBERT W. SCHERRER, LEGAL ATTACHE

HUMAN RIGHTS TEST CASE

Reference your memo 2/10/78 concerning the disappearances of relatives of Mrs. MARTA DEL CARMEN FRANCESE DE BETTINI.

Records of my office contain no reference to Dr. ANTONIO BAPTISTA BETTINI or Navy Lieutenant JORGE ALBERTO DANIEL DEVOTO. Likewise records of my office contain no reference to Mrs. BETTINI.

Several office contacts were queried concerning the mentioned individuals with negative results.

- 1 - Addressee
- 1 - Buenos Aires (163-0)

RWS:jn

(2)

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RWS

100-42A

Box 1892 (Priority Hds.)

APR 14 09828

ACTION-COPY

UNCLASSIFIED

NNNNVV. ESA204BRAS41
RR RUEBBA
DE RUEHC #8247 3482158
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 142045Z DEC 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 9230
BT
UNCLAS STATE 298247

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: ARGENTINE NATIONAL RAFAEL A. PERROTTA, KIDNAP
1 TIM

1. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY AVAILABLE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE DISAPPEARANCE OF RAFAEL A. PERROTTA, AN ARGENTINE NATIONAL.

2. PERROTTA IS DESCRIBED AS AGE 56, THE FORMER EDITOR OF "EL CRONISTA COMERCIAL" OF BUENOS AIRES (HAVING SOLD THE PAPER OVER 15 MONTHS AGO.) HE WAS IN POOR HEALTH DUE TO A HEART CONDITION. ACCORDING TO THE LETTER HE WAS "ON GOOD TERMS WITH" PRESIDENT VIDELA.

3. HIS DISAPPEARANCE AND A SUBSEQUENT RANSOM DEMAND OCCURRED IN LATE JUNE OR EARLY JULY, APPROXIMATELY AT THE TIME HIDALGO SOLA, THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR TO VENEZUELA, DISAPPEARED. "LA PRENSA" OF BUENOS AIRES APPARENTLY REPORTED ON THE PERROTTA KIDNAPPING.

4. OTHER INFORMATION: RELATIVES MRS. BENGOLEA DE PERROTTA, WIFE; RAFAEL PERROTTA BENGOLEA AND SANTIAGO PERROTTA BENGOLEA, NEPHEWS.

5. U.S. INTEREST: LETTER FROM ANA MARIA PERROTTA, ALLERTON HOUSE, 130 EAST 57TH STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022. CHRISTOPHER
BT
#3247

TO	ACT	INF	TO	ACT	INF
AMB			DEA		
DCM			FAS		
POL			AID		
ROOM			INLGO		
POLR			P		
CONS			SEC		
ADM			DEF		
USIS			C		
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2/28/78

LEGAT, BUENOS AIRES

ARGENTINE NATIONAL RAFAEL A. PERROTTA
KIDNAP VICTIM

Captioned matter was opened and assigned in order to remain alert for any information concerning the subject of this case which might be of interest to the Bureau.

Inasmuch as no current information concerning captioned matter has come to the attention of this office, this case is being closed administratively.

Should any information of interest to the Bureau be developed at a future date, captioned matter will be reopened and assigned.

hwt
RWS:jn
(1)

Close
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