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XGDS-4

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

DATE: April 27, 1978

SUBJECT: TORTURE REPORT

PARTICIPANTS: Nina Lindley, Time Inc.
F.A. Harris, Political Officer, Buenos Aires

PLACE: U.S. Embassy, Buenos Aires

DISTRIBUTION: ARA/ECA AMB
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After a discussion of Argentine Human Rights developments for a Time magazine story on Argentina, Mrs. Lindley (strictly protect) mentioned a security force operation involving a Time employee.

After assurances that the information would be very closely held (Note XGDS-4 classification) to protect herself and the involved person, she related the following information.

In late December 1977 Eduardo Frias, Argentine contract photographer for Time Inc., was abducted from his home. He was held for 15 days in what he believes to have been a military barracks. He was repeatedly tortured by picana on the floor of his mouth (under his tongue). (Note: ICRC local delegate confirms that Red Cross reps have seen scars around the mouth of a number of prisoners in Argentina from the use of the picana.) Frias' interrogation centered around a series of photos which he took for GENTE magazine on the war in Tucuman in 1976. These were taken from the then unguarded GENTE photo morgue and used in a Montonero publication. During his

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interrogation he continued to profess his innocence regarding the use of the pictures by the Montoneros. His mouth was grotesquely swollen by his ordeal and his spirits broken.

He is a changed person after the experience. Frias believes that the intervention of the head of Editorial Atlantica directly with President Videla was responsible for his release. The day following his release, his leather coat and 40,000 pesos of his were returned to him at his home in Buenos Aires.

AF

POL:FAHarris:gcr

Clearances: POL:AGFreeman *af*
DCM:MChaplin *mc*

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