



Declassified Case: NW 52966 Date: 11-01-2018

Department of State

LA TELEGRAM

File SY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 9603

PAGE 01 BUENOS 07655 231643Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USTIA-06 DHA-02 MCT-01 IO-13 /078 W

089292

R 231115Z NOV 76
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7989

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 7655

F.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, PINT, AR
SUBJECT: DEATH TOLL MOUNTS IN ANTI-TERRORIST WAR

REF: (A) BUENOS AIRES 7386, (B) BUENOS AIRES 7290

1. SUMMARY. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS BASED ON OFFICIAL SOURCES, THE KILLING OF 14 TERRORISTS IN SHOOTOUTS WITH SECURITY FORCES NOV. 16 BRINGS TO 101 THE TOTAL OF SUSPECTED SUBVERSIVES KILLED SINCE THE BEGINNING OF NOVEMBER. WELL OVER HALF (71) WERE KILLED IN THE LA PLATA AREA, WHICH HAS BEEN THE SCENE OF UNUSUALLY HEAVY FIREFIGHTS BETWEEN PROVINCIAL POLICE AND TERRORISTS SINCE THE NOV. 9 BOMBING OF LA PLATA POLICE HEADQUARTERS (REFTEL). SECURITY FORCES HAVE SUFFERED NO FATALITIES AND LESS THAN TEN INJURED IN THE NUMEROUS SEPARATE INCIDENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE TOLL OF TERRORIST DEAD THE FIRST HALF OF NOVEMBER ROSE TO 101 WITH THE REPORTED KILLING OF 14 TERRORISTS IN TWO SEPARATE SHOOTOUTS WITH POLICE IN LA PLATA NOV. 16. DAILY BOX SCORES BASED ON OFFICIALLY RELEASED INFORMATION HAVE APPEARED IN THE PRESS UNDER BANNER HEADLINES. ALL OF THE ACCOUNTS CONCERNING SHOOTOUTS IN PARAS 3 AND 4 THIS CABLE ARE BASED ON INFORMATION IN THESE REPORTS.

3. IN THE NOV. 16 INCIDENT, POLICE KILLED NINE PERSONS DURING

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A MID-NIGHT ATTACK ON A POLICE STATION IN ARANA, NEAR LA PLATA, REPORTEDLY SOME 40 TO 50 TERRORISTS FIRED ON THE POLICE STATION FROM MOVING CARS, SLIGHTLY WOUNDING SIX SECURITY AGENTS AND DESTROYING THE TRANSMISSION ANTENNA. FOLLOWING THE SHOOTOUT, THE OTHER TERRORISTS ESCAPED IN TWO CARS. LATER ONE OF THE CARS WAS FOUND WITH A DEAD GUERRILLA INSIDE, NO CAPTURES WERE REPORTED, NONE OF THOSE INJURED OR KILLED HAS YET BEEN IDENTIFIED. LATER THAT AFTERNOON FOUR MORE EXTREMISTS WERE KILLED IN A THREE HOUR SHOOTOUT AND CHASE DURING A HOUSE RAID IN A RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD. NAVAL MILITARY SCHOOL DEAN FMTLTO MARGUGLIESE WHO LIVED NEXT DOOR WAS REPORTEDLY KILLED IN THE CROSSFIRE.

4. ALL BUT A HANDFUL OF THE LA PLATA KILLINGS HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN SEPARATE INCIDENTS DURING THE LAST WEEK FOLLOWING THE POLICE HEADQUARTERS BOMBING NOV. 9. (AUTHORITIES LAST WEEK NAMED CIVILIAN CLERK ALFREDO MARTINEZ AS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE POLICE BOMBING IN WHICH ONE FIREMAN DIED AND 11 PERSONS WERE INJURED, MARTINEZ AND HIS WIFE REPORTEDLY FLED FROM THEIR HOME AND ARE STILL AT LARGE.) ALSO REPORTED IN THE LAST WEEK: ON NOV. 10 FOUR EXTREMISTS WERE KILLED DURING A ROADBLOCK SEARCH NEAR VALENTIN ALSINA, EIGHT DIED IN A SHOOTOUT WHILE TRYING TO ESCAPE FROM POLICE IN TWO CARS (TWO POLICE WERE INJURED); FOUR WERE KILLED RESISTING QUESTIONING IN CITY BELL AND THREE MORE WERE KILLED WHILE ATTACKING POLICE DURING A HOUSE SEARCH IN ROSARIO. ON NOV. 12, TWO MEN AND TWO WOMEN WERE KILLED WHILE ATTACKING AN ARMY PATROL IN LA PLATA AND FOUR MORE WERE KILLED DURING A CAR SEARCH IN TOLOSA. FIVE PEOPLE DIED IN A FLAMING CAR WRECK WHILE TRYING TO ESCAPE A POLICE ROADBLOCK NEAR LA PLATA ON NOV. 15. WITH THE CONTINUING VIOLENCE, LA PLATA HAS BECOME PRACTICALLY AN ARMED CAMP WITH ROVING SQUADS OF POLICE AND ARMY UNITS, ROADBLOCKS THROUGHOUT THE CITY AND ON ALL ACCESS ROADS, HOUSE-TO-HOUSE IDENTIFICATION CHECKS AND FREQUENT EVACUATION OF RESIDENTS AS RAIDS DEVELOP INTO GUN BATTLES.

5. EXCEPT FOR THE POLICE STATION BOMBING AND BRIEF TAKEOVER OF RURAL TELEVISION STATION NOV. 3 (BA 7290) (AND THE REPORTED ATTACK ON THE POLICE STATION IN ARANA), TERRORISTS IN THE GREATER BUENOS AIRES AREA HAVE LARGELY RESORTED TO LESS COSTLY ATTACKS AGAINST BUSINESSMEN, PROFESSORS AND OTHER LOWER-RISK (CONSERVATIVE) TARGETS. (THE DEATH OF TEXTILE OESTE COMPANY EXECUTIVE VIRGILIO

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GARCIA WHO WAS SHOT AT POINT BLANK RANGE OUTSIDE HIS HOME ON TUESDAY (NOV. 14) BRINGS TO NINE THE NUMBER OF SIMILAR EXECUTIVE KILLINGS IN THE LAST THREE MONTHS.) THE TERRORISTS' TACTIC IS APPARENTLY TO BUILD UP SYMPATHETIC SUPPORT AMONG THE LABOR FORCE BY LIQUIDATING "ENEMIES" OF THE WORKERS. A UNION ATTORNEY TOLD FMR SOURCES THAT LAST WEEK'S KILLING OF CANTABRICA PERSONNEL MANAGER ADOLFO VALIS WAS IN RETALIATION FOR DEATH THREATS RECEIVED BY UNION MEMBERS AND THE DISAPPEARANCE OF FOUR UNION LEADERS (PRESUMABLY SEIZED BY POLICE OR PARA-POLICE) IN CONNECTION WITH A LABOR-MANAGEMENT CONFLICT AT THE PLANT. SOURCE SAID VALIS' DEATH, WHICH WAS CLAIMED BY THE MONTONEROS, WAS APPLAUDED BY COMPANY WORKERS.

6. ARGENTINE SECURITY AUTHORITIES OF COURSE TIGHTLY CONTROL INFORMATION CONCERNING ANTI-TERRORIST ENCOUNTERS AND INFORMATION WHICH APPEARS IN PRESS ACCOUNTS IS SOLELY BASED ON OFFICIAL REPORTS. EMBASSY IS ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING THE INCIDENTS DESCRIBED IN THE CABLE, AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE.
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TO
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ER-07 FBIE-00 USSS-00 SY-05 DHA-02 IO-13
OCME-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /085 W

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R 191614Z NOV 76
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7970
INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 7609

F.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASEC, AR
SUBJECT: CONTINUING MONTONERO ACTIONS AGAINST CHRYSLER ARGENTINA

DEPT FOR A/SY/FO AND ARA/ECA

PANAMA FOR RSS

REF: (A) BUENOS AIRES 7218, (B) BUENOS AIRES 7179

1. ON NOV. 18, 1976 THE LEGATT FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING TO THE RSO; THAT MALCOLM WATSON, ACTING CHRYSLER DIRECTOR FOR ARGENTINA HAD ADVISED THAT ON NOV. 15, 1976 THE MONTONEROS PHONED THE WIVES OF SEVERAL CHRYSLER EXECUTIVES WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS FROM THEM (REFTEL B). SOME OF THE PHONE CALLS INDICATED THAT FUTURE LETTERS WOULD BE RECEIVED FROM THE MONTONEROS; OTHERS HINTED AT POSSIBLE ACTION AGAINST THE RECIPIENTS' HUSBANDS IN THE COMING WEEK.

2. RSO COMMENT: CHRYSLER IS NOW PROVIDING AN-ESCORT SERVICE FOR SELECT EXECUTIVES TO AND FROM THEIR RESIDENCES TO THE CHRYSLER PLANT. HOWEVER, THIS DOES NOT STOP THE OBVIOUS LEAK

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OF NECESSARY INFORMATION ABOUT THE EXECUTIVES FROM INSIDE THE COMPANY. ALL THE ABOVE-MENTIONED CALLS WERE MADE IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS, AFTER THE EXECUTIVES HAD DEPARTED FOR WORK. THIS, EITHER THEIR RESIDENCES ARE UNDER SURVEILLANCE, OR ELSE THE EXECUTIVES' DEPARTURE TIMES ARE KNOWN IN ADVANCE. THIS COULD HAPPEN FROM LEAKS WITHIN THEIR BODYGUARDS OR DOMESTICS, OR GOOD SECURITY PRACTICES ARE NOT BEING FOLLOWED. NEVERTHELESS, FROM RECENT EXPERIENCE, ONE WOULD HAVE TO BELIEVE IN THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE MONTONERO THREATS (SEE REFTELS). FUTURE ACTIONS BY THE MONTONEROS OR PREVENTIVE MEASURES TAKEN BY CHRYSLER WILL BE REPORTED ASAP.
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ACT FOR ARA-12

INFO OCT-01 150-20 CU-22 DY-05 CENAF-02 CIAB-06 IAP-07

NSAS-08 SSC-09 IMRE-02 SCCT-01 ARAZ-03 L-02 H-02 IC-13

SS-15 SSC-05 NSCE-02 PA-01 PHS-01 USIE-06 /ZOO W

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0 271257Z MAY 76
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECRETATE WASHDC NIACI IMMEDIATE 5170C

[Handwritten signatures and initials: D, RK, J, etc.]

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, ARA, ASEC, AR
SUBJECT: ABDUCTION OF ELIDA MESSINA

REF: BUENOS AIRES 3473, BUENOS AIRES 3468

1. ELIDA MESSINA WAS RELEASED IN DOWNTOWN BUENOS AIRES AT APPROXIMATELY 0030 HOURS, MAY 27, 1976. SHE PROCEEDED TO HER ADDRESS, 5046 SANTA FE STREET, 5TH FLOOR, APARTMENT B. UPON FINDING NO ONE PRESENT, SHE NEXT WENT TO HER PARENTS' ADDRESS, 9342 PARAGUAY.

2. SHE ADVISED EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE THAT WHEN SHE WAS TAKEN FROM HER HOME, SHE WAS ALIENFOLDED, CARRIED TO AN UNKNOWN LOCATION AND RETAINED IN A SMALL ROOM FOR TWO DAYS. SHE WAS REPEATEDLY QUESTIONED CONCERNING HER ASSOCIATION WITH AND KNOWLEDGE OF A BEATRIZ CASOY AND THE CASOY FAMILY. SHE STATED SHE WAS NOT ABUSED MENTALLY OR PHYSICALLY. SHE WAS ALIENFOLDED, PLACED IN A VEHICLE AND RELEASED AS DESCRIBED. SHE COULD NOT FURNISH ANY POSITIVE INFORMATION AS TO THE IDENTITY OF HER ABDUCTORS.

3. EMBASSY IS EXERCISING GREATEST CARE NOT TO SPECULATE ABOUT CAUSE OR NATURE OF THIS EVENT. TO DO SO MIGHT ENDANGER MRS. MESSINA.

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 MCT-01 USSS-00 EB-07 COME-00

TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /070 W
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R 161732Z NOV 76
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7929
INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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PANAMA FOR RSS ELLIS

DEPT PASS ARA/ECA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC, PINS, PINT, AR

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT UNION CARBIDE (ARGENTINA) THREATENED

REF: (A) BUENOS AIRES 5160, (B) BUENOS AIRES 5609, (C) BUENOS AIRES 5673, (D) BUENOS AIRES 5774, (E) BUENOS AIRES 6078, (F) BUENOS AIRES 6214, (G) BUENOS AIRES 7179, (H) BUENOS AIRES 7218

1. ON NOV. 15, FEDERICO A. DODDS, PRESIDENT UNION CARBIDE ARGENTINA, ADVISED THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRE AND THE RSO OF THE FOLLOWING, ON NOV. 12, THE SECURITY GUARD OFFICE AT THE EVEREADY PLANT OF UNION CARBIDE, BUENOS AIRES, RECEIVED A PHONE CALL ON A RESTRICTED AND UNLISTED NUMBER. THE PERSON MAKING THE CALL ASKED TO SPEAK TO MR. DODDS. THE CALLER WAS ADVISED THAT DODDS WAS NOT PRESENT AT WHICH TIME THE GUARD WAS INFORMED THAT DODDS WAS GOING TO BE EXECUTED BY THE PEOPLE. THE CALLER BROKE THE CONNECTION AND DID NOT IDENTIFY HIMSELF AS BEING A REP OF ANY TERRORIST ELEMENT.

2. DODDS ADVISED THAT HIS COMPANY HAD HAD NO LABOR.

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PROBLEMS. HE STATED THAT THE ONLY THING THAT HE COULD THINK OF WHICH MAY HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE CALL WAS THAT A UNION SHOP STEWARD (METAL WORKERS UNION) EMPLOYED BY HIS COMPANY HAD BEEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY BY THE POLICE. THIS ARGENTINE NATIONAL, WHO IS STILL IN CUSTODY AND HAS NOT BEEN CHARGED, WAS INFORMED THAT HE WAS PICKED UP AS THE RESULT OF A DENUNCIA BY THE COMPANY. DODDS REVEALED THAT THIS PARTICULAR EMPLOYEE HAS AN EXTENSIVE POLITICAL BACKGROUND, IS A DEDICATED AND COMMITTED PERONIST. DODDS ADVISED THAT HIS COMPANY HAD NOT MADE ANY ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THIS INDIVIDUAL AND THAT HE PLANS TO HAVE THE LEGAL SECTION OF THE COMPANY MAKE AN INQUIRY TO COURT IN ORDER TO ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE WHY THE COMPANY IS BEING BLAMED FOR THE DETENTION OF THE SHOP STEWARD.

3. RSO COMMENT: THE TERRORIST MOVEMENT IN ARGENTINA CONTINUES TO TAKE ITS TOLL OF US AND OTHER BUSINESS EXECUTIVES AT RANDOM. THE LATEST VICTIM WAS VIRGINIO GARCIA OF TEXTIL OESTE WHO WAS GUNNED DOWN AT 1245 HRS NOV. 15 WHILE RETURNING TO HIS HOME IN SAN JUSTO, SUBURB OF BUENOS AIRES. ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS, EYEWITNESSES REVEALED THAT A CAR DREW UP NEAR THE VICTIM WITH 2 MEN INSIDE. ONE OF THE MEN DISMOUNTED, SHOOTING GARCIA AT POINT-BLANK RANGE. SUBSEQUENTLY THE 2 MEN FLED THE SCENE IN THE VEHICLE.
CHAPLIN

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