



Department of State

LA TELEGRAM

File
Arctic
FL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 6062
PAGE 01 BUENOS 4896 271620Z
ACTION ARA-10
INFO OCT-01 ISO-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 CU-02
PPT-01 SCA-01 PER-01 A-01 SCCT-01 DHA-02 AID-05 EB-07
COME-00 TRSE-00 PC-01 IO-13 70920W
R 271416Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6504

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 4896
R. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS: ARE
SUBJECT: SECURITY CONDITIONS IN ARGENTINA: ADVICE FOR VISITING
STUDENTS

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON CURRENT SECURITY CONDITIONS IN ARGENTINA IS INTENDED TO ASSIST DEPARTMENT IN RESPONDING TO INQUIRIES FROM STUDENT EXCHANGE ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS CONTEMPLATING VISITS OR STUDY IN ARGENTINA.
2. TERRORIST AND COUNTER-TERRORIST ACTIVITIES IN ARGENTINA HAVE TRADITIONALLY BEEN DIRECTED AT PERSONS AND INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED IN THE ARGENTINE POLITICAL SCENE. "TARGETS" ARE NORMALLY SPECIFIC RATHER THAN GENERAL. INDISCRIMINATE BOMBINGS OF THEATERS OR OTHER PUBLIC PLACES, FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE BEEN RARE, AND IN THE RELATIVELY FEW INSTANCES WHERE SUCH RANDOM TERRORISM HAS TAKEN PLACE IT HAS BEEN DIRECTED AT BUILDINGS KNOWN TO BE EMPTY OR AFTER AMPLE WARNING TO PERSONS PRESENT TO EVACUATE. CURRENT TARGETS OF THE ILLEGAL EXTREMIST GROUPS ARE THE ARGENTINE SECURITY FORCES AND TO A LESSER EXTENT EXECUTIVES, BOTH FOREIGN AND ARGENTINE, OF LARGE ENTERPRISES. CASUAL VISITORS, EVEN STUDENTS, ARE UNLIKELY TO BECOME TARGETS. FURTHER, A VISITOR OR FOREIGN RESIDENT WOULD NORMALLY NOT BE AFFECTED BY SECURITY FORCES OPERATIONS OTHER THAN TO PASS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



Department of State TELEGRAM

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 02 BUENOS 4896 / 271628Z
OCCASIONAL STREET CHECKPOINTS OR ANSWER ROUTINE POLICE STOP
INQUIRIES. A VISITOR OR FOREIGN RESIDENT COULD BE CAUGHT UP
INADVERTENTLY IN AN INCIDENT, BUT TO OUR KNOWLEDGE NO AMERICAN
TOURIST OR RESIDENT HAS HAD THIS MISFORTUNE TO DATE. FOR THE
TOURIST OR "PRIVATE" FOREIGN RESIDENT IN GENERAL, THAT IS, A
RESIDENT NOT DIRECTLY IDENTIFIED WITH AN EMBASSY, OR BUSINESS
CONCERN, THERE IS A FAIRLY LOW LEVEL OF DANGER.
S. IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS COMING TO
ARGENTINA TO RESTORE IN RECENT MONTHS FROM THE US HAS DECREASED
SIGNIFICANTLY. THIS IS APPARENTLY IN RESPONSE NOT TO ANY
SPECIFIC INCIDENT INVOLVING STUDENTS, BUT TO IMPRESSIONS
CREATED BY PRESS TREATMENT OF THE GENERAL SITUATION.

ADVISE TO BE OFFERED TO STUDENTS AT SECONDARY, UNDERGRADUATE
AND GRADUATE LEVEL AND EXCHANGE ORGANIZATIONS MIGHT INCLUDE:

A. AVOIDANCE TO DEGREE POSSIBLE OF SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IN FOUR
PROVINCES OF SANTA FE (CITY OF ROSARIO), CORDOBA, TUCUMAN,
AND CATAMARCA; THESE ARE AREAS OF PARTICULAR INTENSITY OF
SECURITY PROBLEMS. STUDENTS MIGHT ALSO AVOID UNIVERSITY OF
LA PLATA IN BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE. AS GENERAL RULE, A FOREIGN
STUDENT WILL BE LESS CONSPICUOUS IN BUENOS AIRES THAN IN A
PROVINCIAL CITY, AND STUDENT WOULD PROBABLY BE LESS EXPOSED
TO ATTENTIONS OF EITHER THE LEFTIST EXTREMISTS OR GOA SECURITY
FORCES.

B. STRICT AVOIDANCE OF INVOLVEMENT IN ANY FORM OF INTERNAL
ARGENTINE AFFAIRS. ARGENTINE UNIVERSITIES, LIKE MOST LATIN
AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES, TEND TO BE CENTERS OF POLITICAL AGITATION.
ANY FOREIGN STUDENT SHOULD BE AWARE OF THIS, AND OF THE IMPOR-
TANCE OF KEEPING ALOOF FROM ANYTHING WHICH COULD BE INTERPRETED
AS INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS OF HOST COUNTRY.
UNDER CURRENT CONDITIONS, INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS MAY
BE INTERPRETED BY AUTHORITIES AS NOTHING MORE THAN ATTENDANCE
AT POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS, ASSOCIATION EVEN BY ACCIDENT WITH
SUBVERSIVES OR SUSPECTED SUBVERSIVES, OR COLLECTING "SUBVERSIVE"
LITERATURE.

C. NEW MILITARY GOA IS CONSERVATIVE IN POLITICS AND WITH
RESPECT TO ITS OUTLOOK ON PERSONAL CONDUCT. AUTHORITIES CAN

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



Department of State **TELEGRAM**

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 03

BUENOS 04896 271628Z

BE EXPECTED TO CONSIDER UNCONVENTIONAL BEHAVIOR, RADICAL HAIR-
STYLES, UNKEMPT APPEARANCE OR BIZARRE DRESS, DRUG USE, ETC., AS
UNDESIRABLE AND A POSSIBLE INDICATION OF UNDESIRABLE POLITICAL AND
SOCIAL VIEWS. WE WOULD BE AMONG FIRST TO AGREE WITH STUDENTS THAT
THIS IS UNFAIR AND UNJUSTIFIED, BUT IT IS FACT OF LIFE IN
ARGENTINA WHICH A SERIOUS STUDENT WILL WISH TO TAKE INTO CON-
SIDERATION IF HE PLANS TO STUDY HERE.

5. IN SUMMARY, WE DO NOT THINK THAT A STUDENT WITH A STRONG
AND SPECIFIC INTEREST IN STUDY IN ARGENTINA SHOULD BE DISSUADED,
AS LONG AS HE IS PREPARED TO FOLLOW THE ADVICE GIVEN ABOVE AND
TO CONDUCT HIMSELF PRUDENTLY.
CHAPLIN

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNCLAS

JUL 20 11 42 AM '76

JS
PKJ
the
reporting
method

RECEIVED

Declassified Case: EW-52966 Date: 1-31-2013

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

US1576

PAGE 01 BUENOS 04728 201534Z

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

53
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INE-00

SCOT-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-09 SS-15 CLAE-00 DOD-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 7047 W

07667

O R 201502Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6399
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 4728

INFO 201502Z JUL 76
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
SUBJECT: SANTUCHO, OTHER TOP ERP LEADERS ALLEGEDLY KILLED BY SECURITY FORCES

1. MARIO ROBERTO SANTUCHO AND ENRIQUE GORRIARAN MERLO, RESPECTIVELY THE NUMBER ONE AND TWO TOP LEADERS OF THE OUTLAWED PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY ARMY (ERP), WERE ALLEGEDLY KILLED YESTERDAY AFTERNOON (JULY 19) IN A JOINT ARMY AND POLICE RAID ON A SUBVERSIVE HIDEOUT NEAR LA PLATA. IN A LATER JOINT OPERATION, ANOTHER FIVE EXTREMISTS, ALSO ALLEGED TO BE ERP LEADERS, WERE REPORTEDLY KILLED. THE INCIDENTS HAVE NOT YET BEEN OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED, ALTHOUGH KEY NEWSMEN TELL US POLICE HAVE PRIVATELY CONFIRMED THE DEATH OF THE TWO SUBVERSIVE LEADERS. THE STORY WAS CARRIED IN MOST BUENOS AIRES NEWSPAPERS AND NEWS AGENCIES, BUT IN THE CONDITIONAL TENSE. THE ONLY INFORMATION IN THE ARMY COMMUNIQUE ISSUED LAST NIGHT WAS THAT AN ARMY CAPTAIN HAD BEEN KILLED DURING THE SHOOTOUT.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02

BUENOS 04728 201534Z

ALREADY HARD-HIT ERP SUBVERSIVE MOVEMENT. HOWEVER, MASSIVE
 RETALIATION BORN OF DESPERATION, IS A POSSIBILITY IN THE IMMEDIATE
 SHORT TERM. STRIPPED OF ITS TOP LEADERSHIP, ERP MAY SPEED UP A
 REPORTED MERGER WITH THE STILL FORMIDABLE MONTONEROS, WHO HAVE
 APPARENTLY BEEN MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN ERP IN RECRUITING NEW
 MEMBERS AND AVOIDING HEAVY LOSSES BY ARGENTINE SECURITY FORCES.
 EVEN SO, SANTUCHO'S DEATH WOULD BE AN ENORMOUS PSYCHOLOGICAL
 BOOST TO MILITARY AND POLICE.

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

[Handwritten signatures and initials]
 [Illegible handwritten notes]

NNNN