

UNCLASSIFIED

Amembassy BUENOS AIRES  
March 4, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE MINISTER

SUBJECT : Letter from Amconsul Cordoba  
FROM : Wilbur W. Hitchcock, CONS

1. At your request, the following confirmation.
2. Mrs. Mabel Comparach is the sister of the wife of the late U.S. Consular Agent John Egan, at Cordoba. On Wednesday, February 26, 1975, she was visiting Buenos Aires from Cordoba (where she was visiting from Peru). Mr. Egan was kidnapped that evening. When she learned of the kidnapping and the Embassy learned of her whereabouts, it was arranged that she would fly back to Cordoba aboard the Air Attache's plane that night, accompanying the Embassy team that was going there.
3. I rode with Mrs. Comparach in the Embassy car that took her to the home of Consul General Huey so that he could take her to the airport. She was naturally upset and our conversation enroute to Mr. Huey's from the Embassy consisted in good part of Mrs. Comparach's lamentations over Mr. Egan's having accepted the consular agent position and my making the appropriate comforting but noncommittal remarks. We spoke in English, in which she is fluent.
4. One of her sentences I remember almost verbatim as follows: "And I just brought a letter to the Embassy from the Egans yesterday to report that they had no police guard!" She said this without malice, and only in sorrow. This was about 11:30 p.m. as we neared Mr. Huey's apartment.
5. I took her remark to mean that she had brought the letter to the Embassy the previous day, Tuesday, February 25. She was not critical of the Embassy and it therefore seemed best to me to leave it that way. Accordingly, I did not pursue the matter with her, lest it give her the impression that the letter had gone astray somewhere within the Embassy.
6. The next day, Thursday, February 27, I came to your office in the afternoon and told you of the remark she had made about the letter. We both then went to Special Assistant Rosenthal's office to tell him.
7. I was glad to learn two days later that Mrs. Comparach had not even arrived in Buenos Aires until Wednesday and that she therefore could not have brought the letter to the Embassy until that day. I am sure that her use of the word "yesterday" was from confusion and not because she was trying to mislead me.

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60A 41.  
Log

19:15 - Call from Mrs. Cgan

20:30 - Flash message to Dept. 1316  
Repeated to CINCSO at 20:45

20:40 - Telecon

Huey / Stafford and Dep. Dir. of  
Ops Center, Wash.

20:55 - Mr. Huey / Mrs. Cgan

21:00 - Personnel who convened at Cmb.  
as part of Task Force.

DCM

Mr. Brown

Mr. Huey

Mr. Boyle

Mr. Beckett

Mr. Jones

Mr. O'Brien

Mr. Hitchcock

Duty Sec.

2245- Greg Phillips contacted

2300- Mr. Hedberg arrived

\* Ambassador spoke to the SS Center - Amb  
Luis Hoffacker (No. 202-6329172)  
and read both the press statement  
and the 3rd SITREP over the telephone.

Hoffacker indicated they would have a  
24-hour watch and the Embassy  
~~would~~ should contact them if they need  
any support or had any questions.  
Hoffacker was given 2 numbers  
which to contact the Embassy.  
46-3211 & 46-9929.

\* Telecom at <sup>2315</sup>~~2100~~ (?) - from Washington  
op Center: Louis Hoffacker  
Frank Artig  
Bob Felder

The Ambassador  
Peter Jones  
The Minister

347 - Control  
380 - Storage

Following personnel notified:

The Ambassador  
Gen. Salisbury  
Col. Stapleton  
Mr. Stener  
Barbara Carr  
Mr. Smith

Following called but could not be reached:

Mr. Hedberg  
Mr. Rosenthal - (reached - is coming in)

of 21:30 - Watch Committee Meeting  
~~convened~~ convened by DCM, W15  
instructed to put out press release  
+ drafting of 2nd SITREP.

~~22:30~~ 22:30 Ambassador arrived  
Discussion ensued on groups to send  
to Cordoba

Cgan personnel file was searched for indications of next-of-kin with negative results. Consul General will attempt to determine Cgan blood type on arrival Cordoba and advise Embassy.

at 10 pm. Mr. Smith again spoke to Amb. Guirallez and gave him additional details of the kidnaping which were available to Embassy. Smith requested that Amb. Guirallez advise COA officials in Cordoba of planned trip by Emb. officers using DAO aircraft to Cordoba. Guirallez to do so.

Foreign Ministry has setup "Watch" office - Senior Agencias at 32-0480.

12:14 - Minister Monttlan - Called home of Mrs. Cgan advising her that the plane is on its way with (3) from the Embassy

This information was given to us by Mrs.  
Comparach - Was passed to Wash. by telephone.

Egan's brother:

James Egan  
1133 "S" Street  
Fresno, California

Phone: (209)-233-7075  
(Not certain of Area Code)

This info comes from Mrs. Egan's  
sister, Mrs. Comparach, who will  
(if I can arrange it) fly to Cordoba  
from Buenos Aires on the attache plane.

--WHitchcock

2447472

Eduardo Leonard

Ramon Falco 764

Luis Zamora

0100  
Voz del Interior

anonymous from

Montoneros call

saying they will issue  
Communique: <sup>tomorrow</sup> to wit

they will not ~~release~~

~~do~~ do anything  
with Egan (not release)

Until ~~by~~ six captured  
montoneros guerrillas  
in Tucuman

"produced"

Source: Acherman AP

at 0155 - Seniors Iglesias was called  
at 32-0480. Was not in office  
Ministry had no additional information to offer  
0200 - Corrine center at Foreign  
Ministry was called  
31-6895 - no information

0210 - DO called Wall Boyle to ask about  
sources of information on case.

0230 - Ambassador called and  
advised of incoming traffic  
from Wash. (State 044066  
and 044067)

0130 DO read press releases over  
telephone to ABC Los Angeles & advised  
then to check with <sup>Wall</sup> (792-6757) re: case  
Officer O'Brien in morning for additional  
news.

27 Feb 75

1900 - Mrs. Jones called Joe Min.  
Amb. Molina Salas nor Mrs. Medus  
available. Talked to Consejero  
Mathí. Mrs. Jones passed  
message of kidnappers' demands.  
The Consejero indicated he  
would inform Amb. ~~Joe~~ Molina Salas  
and Mrs. Medus and would call us  
back.

1910 - Mrs. Jones called Amb. Hill to report to  
him on call to Joe Min. Amb. Hill  
instructed Mrs. Jones to seek earliest  
possible appoint at Joe Min.

1930 Joe Min - Consejero Mathí informed  
Mrs. Jones that Amb

2000: Rosenthal reassigned charge of  
the Control Center

2345 - Congen called SIT represent

February 28

0815 Chuck Brown telephoned  
from ops center with some  
speculation delaying tickets - see  
mem cons

0915 Call from DC. Moller  
1000 Amb to MFA.

1030 ditto. Moller

1130 app Amb returned

1140 Huey called. - code

1245 Huey called - gave med report

1445 - Outgoing "no des"  
45328

1430 Amb O Smith to MFA.

1110 = phone call from Moller  
Egan dead at 1000

1130 Call placed to Mrs. Egan

1132 Ambassador talked to Egan's

Talked to Mrs. Egan's sister,

Mrs. Camporese. Expressed regrets

Mar 1

Mrs. Egan doesn't know.

0015 Call to Bowler -

Learned that White House  
and State statements and  
letters en route

0040 Ambassador - Diggle phone  
call.

0240 Diggle and Gamble phone call

Mrs Egan's condition

Two telegrams to be sent, to the  
Dept. notifying daughter + 3 brothers,  
to Lima notifying brother-in-law.

0400 McNeely / Gamble phone call Gov. and  
Abid paid call on McNeely

(from records)  
1015 McNeely / O'Brien, Monttler & Hedberg

16 45

A Huey + Jones, + M. O'Brien  
+ Duffie re arrangements  
for funeral  
Jones F. Obit  
A Huey + Jones

17 36

18 30

John P. EGAN

1916 Mrs. Egan contacted  
~~Bill Hitchcock~~  
~~John H. H. H.~~ saying husband  
(Hon. Manuel Egan - Cordoba) taken  
within last ten minutes of by  
Montoneros

1920 called Huey + advised  
who immediately phoned Ambassador  
1 Huey arrived Embassy at 1940 hours  
+ placed call to Dept operations  
center.

2000 hours contacted Amb who  
directed establishing operations  
center 8th floor + that a "flash"  
message be sent

2015 Flash message sent

2035 call to operations center  
came through and OP center  
advised (Stafford) who recorded  
info.

2010 Foreign Ministry called by Ambassador  
Wayne Smith <sup>who reports</sup> Chief of Prot  
Col S.F.M.

Buenos Aires, Argentina  
December 21, 1976

Mrs. John P. Egan  
Libertadores 710 - Apt. 502  
San Isidro  
Lima, Peru

*My Dear Friend-*

On my return from the United States I found your letter from Lima expressing appreciation for the assistance rendered you by the Embassy.

Cecelia and I hope and pray that you are having a pleasant time with your family after so many unfortunate experiences in Argentina. We will be thinking of you at Christmas and wish you and your family a very prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Hill  
Ambassador

November 9, 1976

The Hon. Robert C. Hill  
Ambassador of the U.S. of America  
BUENOS AIRES , Argentina

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Dear Mr. Ambassador:

I really have no words to express my gratitude to you for your kindness in providing me with a security guard after the robbery in my apartment. Since the police were uncertain as to whether the robbery was committed by extremists or common thief or thieves, knowing who I was they recommended I be accompanied all the time, specially returning to my apt. to change locks, believe me, although I had completely overcome the stage of fear they absolutely scared me, which is why I turned to your kindness and authority to ask for help.

Comisario Estela was most kind and helpful. Since I had to go so many times both to the Central Police headquarters and the precinct corresponding to my neighbourhood, I felt safe doing all I had to do accompanied by Mr. Salas, one of the Embassy's private guards.

The police is sure the robbery was committed by ordinary thieves, but since they recommended I leave the country for a while until they investigate the case and come to a final conclusion, I hope a couple of months' rest between Lima and Talara will help me forget the sad incident I had, and start a busy life again as from March on.

My family joins me in wishing you and Mrs. Hill a Merry Xmas and a Happy and Prosperous 1977.

Thanking you once again, and deeply indebted for your kindness please accept my respectful personal regards.

Very sincerely yours,



Mrs. John P. Egan

*Egan*

Buenos Aires, Argentina  
April 10, 1975

Miss Debra R. Benincasa  
American Embassy  
Buenos Aires

I wish to thank you for your very helpful assistance at the Embassy Control Center during the recent and tragic kidnapping and assassination of Consular Agent John Patrick Egan.

The period February 26th to March 2nd, 1975, was first an anxious and later a sad time for all of us. Nevertheless, Embassy Buenos Aires had to continue to function. Your contribution in the Control Center helped make that function a smooth one.

Please accept this letter as a small token of my appreciation for your performance.

With warm personal regard,

Robert C. Hill  
Ambassador

SA-N: *J*ERosenthal/mip.-  
X 166, 4-10-75

Clearance: DCM: *JJM*ortlor

Buenos Aires, Argentina  
April 4, 1975

Miss Dorothy Burke  
American Embassy  
Buenos Aires

I wish to thank you for your very helpful assistance at the Embassy Control Center during the recent and tragic kidnapping and assassination of Consular Agent John Patrick Egan.

The period February 26th to March 2nd, 1975, was first an anxious and later a sad time for all of us. Nevertheless, Embassy Buenos Aires had to continue to function. Your contribution in the Control Center helped make that function a smooth one.

Please accept this letter as a small token of my appreciation for your performance.

With warm personal regard,

Robert C. Hill  
Ambassador

SA-N: EB Rosenthal/mip.-  
X 166, 4-4-75

Clearance: DCM: J. Montalor

Buenos Aires, Argentina  
April 4, 1975

Miss Debora Crume  
American Embassy  
Buenos Aires

I wish to thank you for your very helpful assistance at the Embassy Control Center during the recent and tragic kidnapping and assassination of Consular Agent John Patrick Egan.

The period February 26th to March 2nd, 1975, was first an anxious and later a sad time for all of us. Nevertheless, Embassy Buenos Aires had to continue to function. Your contribution in the Control Center helped make that function a smooth one.

Please accept this letter as a small token of my appreciation for your performance.

With warm personal regard,

Robert C. Hill  
Ambassador

SA-N: EB<sup>A</sup>Rosenhal/mip.-  
X 166, 4-4-75/m

Clearance: DCM: JMMONTLOR

Buenos Aires, Argentina  
April 4, 1975

Miss Phyllis Carpenter  
American Embassy  
Buenos Aires

I wish to thank you for your very helpful assistance at the Embassy Control Center during the recent and tragic kidnapping and assassination of Consular Agent John Patrick Egan.

The period February 26th to March 2nd, 1975, was first an anxious and later a sad time for all of us. Nevertheless, Embassy Buenos Aires had to continue to function. Your contribution in the Control Center helped make that function a smooth one.

Please accept this letter as a small token of my appreciation for your performance.

With warm personal regard,

Robert C. Hill  
Ambassador

SA-N: EBRosenthal/mip.-  
X 166, 4-4-75

Clearance: DCM: J. J. Montllor

Buenos Aires, Argentina  
April 4, 1975

Miss Catherine Paul  
American Embassy  
Buenos Aires

I wish to thank you for your very helpful assistance at the Embassy Control Center during the recent and tragic kidnapping and assassination of Consular Agent John Patrick Egan.

I want you to know how valuable I consider the long hours you put in at the Control Center. As usual, you managed superbly; in this case not only as the ever present, ever efficient secretary to the Deputy Chief of Mission, but also as the volunteer secretary to the various duty officers. Although I personally thanked you, I would hope that you would accept this letter as a special note of appreciation for all that you did.

With warm personal regard,

Robert C. Hill  
Ambassador

SA-N: EBRosenthal/mip.-  
X 166, 4-4-75

Clearance: DCM: JSMottlor

Buenos Aires, Argentina  
April 4, 1975

Peter Jones, Esq.  
Assistant Commercial Attaché  
American Embassy  
Buenos Aires

I wish to thank you for your very helpful assistance at the Embassy Control Center during the recent and tragic kidnapping and assassination of Consular Agent John Patrick Egan.

As duty officer when the Embassy first learnt of the Egan kidnapping, you had the particular responsibility of providing the initial information to Washington and to me. Equally important, it was your responsibility to activate the Control Center, where you also served several tours of duty. Your performance in all these activities was outstanding and contributed materially - and specially in the initial hectic hours - to the smooth functioning of the Control Centers both here and in the Department of State.

Please accept this letter as a token of my appreciation for your excellent work performance under a difficult situation.

With warm personal regard,

Robert C. Hill  
Ambassador

SA-N: EBRosenthal/mip.-  
X 166, 4-4-75

b Clearance: DCM: JJMoller

Buenos Aires, Argentina  
April 4, 1975

Mrs. Beatrice L. Roberts  
American Embassy  
Buenos Aires

I wish to thank you for your very helpful assistance at the Embassy Control Center during the recent and tragic kidnapping and assassination of Consular Agent John Patrick Egan.

The period was first an anxious and later a tragic time for all of us, and a hectic one throughout. Both at the Chancery and the Residence you were, as usual, my strong right arm; in addition, I know of the many extra hours you spent assisting at the Control Center. Although I have personally thanked you, I would hope that you would accept this letter as a token of my appreciation for your performance during the Egan case.

With warm personal regard,

Robert C. Hill  
Ambassador

SA/N:EBRosenthal:mip  
X 166 4-4-75

Clearance : DCM:JJMontllor

Buenos Aires, Argentina  
April 4, 1975

George S. Beckett, Esq.  
Regional Security Officer  
American Embassy  
Buenos Aires

The activities of February 26th through March 2nd, 1975, relating first to the senseless kidnapping, through the tragic murder, and concluding with the solemn funeral of our Consular Agent in Córdoba, John Patrick Egan, placed a tremendous work load on the entire U.S. Government establishment in Argentina.

As the Embassy Security Officer who went to Córdoba, you had a particularly difficult task during these days. Your ability to coordinate with local law enforcement officers to assist in first the search and later the investigation of the murder, and yet to keep this Embassy fully informed of developments, represented a high caliber of professional efficiency. Although the incident ended in tragedy and sadness for all of us, I would hope you would take this letter as a token of my appreciation for a job well done.

With warm personal regard,

Robert C. Hill  
Ambassador

SA-N: EBRosenthal/mip.-  
X 166, 4-4-75

Clearance: DCM: JJMontKlor

Buenos Aires, Argentina  
April 4, 1975

George O. Huey, Esq.  
Consul General of the United States of America  
Buenos Aires

The activities of February 26th through March 2nd, 1975, relating first to the senseless kidnapping, through the tragic murder, and concluding with the solemn funeral of our Consular Agent in Córdoba, John Patrick Egan, placed a tremendous work load on the entire U.S. Government establishment in Argentina.

As Consul General you were sent to Córdoba to be my senior representative on the spot. The speed with which you established rapport with the provincial officials, the concern and later the sympathy which you demonstrated to Mrs. Egan, and, finally, the promptness with which you informed this Embassy of developments in Córdoba, reflect the highest traditions of duty in the Foreign Service.

Although the incident ended in tragedy, a sadness for us all, we all know you did all that was humanly possible in the face of unsurmountable odds. Please accept this letter as a token of my appreciation for a job very well done.

With warm personal regard,

Robert C. Hill  
Ambassador

SA-N: EBRosenthal/mip.-  
X 166, 4-4-75

Clearance: DCM: JJMontllor

Buenos Aires, Argentina  
April 4, 1975

Arthur V. Diggle, Esq.  
Information Officer  
American Embassy  
Buenos Aires

The activities of February 26th through March 2nd, 1975, relating first to the senseless kidnapping, through the tragic murder, and concluding with the solemn funeral of our Consular Agent in Córdoba, John Patrick Egan, placed a tremendous work load on the entire U.S. Government establishment in Argentina.

As my USIS representative in Córdoba during this time, you had the difficult and delicate function of serving both as the official liaison officer between the U.S. Government and the press, and the unofficial liaison officer between Mrs. Egan and the media. Developments were fast breaking and the reports from the media were often inaccurate. It is to your credit that you were not only able to obtain and disperse the facts to the journalistic community, thus killing promptly early and incorrect misstatements which could have turned into ugly rumor, but also you were able to keep this Embassy fully informed of the facts. Although I have personally thanked you, I would hope that you would take this letter as a token of my appreciation for a job well done.

With warm personal regard,

Robert C. Hill  
Ambassador

SA-N: EBRosenthal/mip.-  
X 166; 4-4-75

Clearance: DCM: J. Montalor

Buenos Aires, Argentina  
April 4, 1975

Miss Linda Benincasa  
American Embassy  
Buenos Aires

I wish to thank you for your very helpful assistance at the Embassy Control Center during the recent and tragic kidnapping and assassination of Consular Agent John Patrick Egan.

The period February 26th to March 2nd, 1975, was first an anxious and later a sad time for all of us. Nevertheless, Embassy Buenos Aires had to continue to function. Your contribution in the Control Center helped make that function a smooth one.

Please accept this letter as a small token of my appreciation for your performance.

With warm personal regard,

Robert C. Hill  
Ambassador

SA-N: EBRosenthal/mip.-  
X 166, 4-4-75

Clearance: DCM: JJMortimer

Buenos Aires, Argentina  
April 4, 1975

Roger R. Gamble, Esq.  
Labor Attaché  
American Embassy  
Buenos Aires

I wish to thank you for your very helpful assistance at the Embassy Control Center during the recent and tragic kidnapping and assassination of Consular Agent John Patrick Egan.

Your several hours of duty at the Control Center were of major importance in keeping me and Washington fully informed of events in this fast breaking incident. Although I have personally thanked you, I would hope that you would accept this letter as a token of my appreciation for your contribution during this time.

With warm personal regard,

Robert C. Hill  
Ambassador

SA-N: EBRosenthal/mip.-  
X 166, 4-4-75

Clearance: DCM: J. J. Montalor

Buenos Aires, Argentina  
April 4, 1975

Edward B. Rosenthal, Esq.  
Special Assistant on Narcotics  
American Embassy  
Buenos Aires

I wish to thank you for your very helpful assistance at the Embassy Control Center during the recent and tragic kidnapping and assassination of Consular Agent John Patrick Egan.

The long hours you put in at the Control Center were of invaluable service during this hectic time. Although I thanked you personally, I would hope you would accept this letter as a token of my appreciation for your contribution in this joint effort.

With warm personal regard,

Robert C. Hill  
Ambassador

SA-N: EBRosenthal/mip.-  
X 166, 4-4-75

Clearance: DCM: JJMontllor

Buenos Aires, Argentina  
April 9, 1975

Mr. Sidney Reitman  
Metaphorist  
Georgetown Square (A-2)  
Poughkeepsie, New York  
12603

Dear Mr. Reitman :

Thank you for your letter of March 2, giving us  
your metaphorical analysis report of the letter  
allegedly written by Consular Agent John P. Egan.  
It is a very interesting analysis.

Your efforts to provide assistance to the Embassy  
are appreciated during these trying times.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Hill  
Ambassador

SY:GSEBeckett:ac  
X 148 4-9-75

DCM:JMontllor

Georgetown Square (A-2)  
Poughkeepsie, New York 12603

**AIR MAIL**  
**Special Delivery**

Ambassador Robert C. Hill  
U. S. Embassy  
Buenos Aires  
Argentina

Confidential  
Special Delivery-Air Mail

MAR 18 1975



M E T A - metaphorical analysis by the creator of the method.  
Georgetown Square (A-2) Poughkeepsie, New York 12603 (914) 454-8980

March 2, 197

META (Metaphorical Analysis): REPORT

To: Ambassador Robert C. Hill  
U. S. Embassy  
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Dear Ambassador Hill:

I have subjected to metaphorical analysis the word train allegedly written by the late John Patrick Egan, that is, the note found in a bar in Cordoba at the time he had been executed by the Marxist Montoneros. The note was published in today's N. Y. Times. META Analysis is a linguistic discipline I have created in 1969 which analyzes for the supra-meaning of word trains (written or spoken). Here are my findings:

- (1) Egan did not compose the word train which appears over his signature.
- (2) The word train was written by an educated American within the Marxist Montoneros group.
- (3) The note should be construed as a warning that further terrorist actions and killings are being planned by the Montoneros.

#### THE KEY METAPHORS

Egan, who was not a Marxist, would not have used the noun phrase "a people's prison". That modifying adjective is an exclusively Marxist term. And most certainly he would not have written the fourth sentence (as I derive its supra-meaning). The supra-meaning states:

- (A) I, writer = (B) give Ambassador a feeling of guilt and complicity in Egan's execution.

I do not believe that a person like Egan would have used such a supra-meaning against you. That is the thinking of the executioner, not the victim. The potential victim

could have chosen any number of other supra-meanings, but he would not have come to his benefactor with an implied charge of guilt in his portending death. So the note was composed by the killers.

WHY THE TRUE NOTE WRITER WAS AN EDUCATED AMERICAN

Only an educated American could have devised a series of metaphors like: a life of uncertainty, perfectly well, enough power, to comply, your influence, my life is in your hands, and other metaphors of a like nature. These metaphors are the mark of a highly literate American undoubtedly trained in a U. S. university or college. This man is also a good writer.

PROGNOSIS

The note was displayed in a bar (to be found by the police) roughly at the same time Egan's execution took place. Hence, the terrorists were not looking to negotiate. Their desire was to deliver a fait accompli -- a death in the form of a warning. Unfortunately, the prognosis in such a situation is most dire. These are vicious, amoral men who will most probably strike again.

SUGGESTION

Look for a well-educated American in sympathy with (and close to) the Marxist Montoneros. He is a good writer. I suspect we are dealing with a man, not a woman.



SIDNEY REITMAN, Metaphorist  
Written at: Poughkeepsie, New York

For The Ambassador

Per your request file  
there is attached a list of Egan  
Ministers — Senior Argentine  
Officers and Foreign Ambassadors  
who signed the Condolence Book.

Adams<sup>3</sup>/<sub>10</sub>

There were others — Australian  
etc. — probably signatures  
illegible

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship  
Embajador Alberto J. Vignes

Minister of National Defense  
Adolfo Mario Savino

Commanding General of the Navy  
Almirante Emilio Eduardo Massera

Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs and Worship ad interim  
Embajador Francisco Molina Salas

Chief of Protocol of State  
Embajador Jorge A. Giraldes

Foreign Ambassadors

Ambassador of Chile  
Ambassador of the Dominican Republic  
Ambassador of Portugal  
Ambassador of Iran  
Ambassador of Brazil  
Ambassador of Norway  
Ambassador of Ireland  
The Nuncio  
Ambassador of Indonesia  
Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany  
Ambassador of Sweden  
Ambassador of South Africa  
Ambassador of Italy  
Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of Spain  
Ambassador of Perú  
Director of the Commercial Office of Taiwan  
Ambassador of Yugoslavia  
Ambassador of Panama  
Ambassador of Honduras  
Representative of the Ambassador of Venezuela

Buenos Aires, Argentina

March 26, 1975

Mrs. John Patrick Egan  
Gral. Paz 3399  
Arguello  
Cordoba, Argentina

*My dear Mrs Egan*

Your very thoughtful note of March 20 was very much appreciated. I sincerely hope that your visit to the United States and the time spent with your family and friends there has helped ease the pain.

When you return to Argentina, perhaps you will come through Buenos Aires and have a moment to come by the office.

With all best wishes.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Hill  
Ambassador

March 20, 1975

The Honorable Robert C. Hill  
The Ambassador of the United States  
Buenos Aires, Argentina

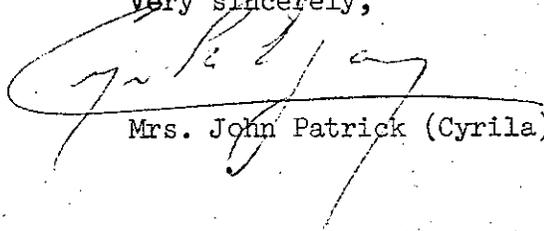
Dear Mr. Ambassador:

Thank you for your expression of sympathy about the loss of my husband, John Patrick Egan, Consular Agent of the U.S.A. in Cordoba.

I am, of course, filled with grief over the tragic death of my husband. It is some consolation to remember John as a dedicated American citizen who had chosen to live in South America and who gave his life for his country.

Thank you again, Mr. Ambassador, for your compassionate words in this time of our sorrow.

Very sincerely,



Mrs. John Patrick (Cyrila) Egan

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

Buenos Aires, Argentina

March 21, 1975

OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

Mr. Robert D. Barber  
Assistant Director (Security)  
U. S. Information Agency  
Washington

*file*

Dear Bob,

Two reported actions of a Mr. Frank Chiancone leave me more than a little annoyed. I quote from Frank Ortiz's letter of March 10 to Ambassador Hill concerning a State/USIA meeting that had taken place on March 7: "USIA also felt perhaps more could have been done for Mr. Egan. Mr. Chiancone seemed to believe that the Embassy was opposed to any negotiations."

Now I am sure you have read all the cable traffic on the case and know of the Ambassador's repeated visits to the Foreign Minister, the immediate dispatch of the Embassy team to Cordoba, where they were in continuous contact with the police - in short, the fact that this Embassy focussed on nothing but Egan from the time it learned of his abduction until his death. Just what more could have been done? As for Mr. Chiancone's apparent belief, let's face it, Egan was dead from the moment they picked him up. The Montenero's demands were impossible to meet and they knew it. There was nothing to negotiate. Anyone who helps spread the base canard that the Embassy was opposed to negotiations is doing a disservice not only to this Embassy but the U. S. Government.

The other irritation is based on a Memcom of the same meeting which states, in part, that "Mr. Chiancone volunteered that in light of events there may be a reduction in force of USIA personnel." On whose authority did Mr. Chiancone volunteer this statement in front of a group of State Department officers? I, sure as hell, have never been consulted. Bob, I am fully aware of your responsibilities in IOS and I definitely appreciate IOS's interest in not only my security but that of my family.

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

and staff. However, I am just as aware that, if USIS stops programming in Argentina, we will have ceded a sizable victory to the terrorists at the expense of our future relations with this country. Clearly, we have to have the optimum sized staff under the present security conditions and I feel we have this now with a T/O of eight Americans. Believe me, all the "fat" is gone; we are not only down to lean but some nerve ends as well. Cut us any more and we cease to function as an effective Post.

Sincerely,

Hugh McL. Woodward  
Public Affairs Officer

cc:ILA:Dr. Dillon

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : THE AMBASSADOR

THRU : DCM - Mr. Montllor *gm*

FROM : CONS - George O. Huey *GA*

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPING AND MURDER OF JOHN P. EGAN

DATE: March 18, 1975

There follows a brief report on the activities of the "team" sent by the Ambassador to Cordoba in connection with the kidnapping of the Consular Agent. The report has been reduced to summary form, as the principal record of regular daily reporting is contained in the files of the Embassy Control Center.

The team sent to Cordoba consisted of the Consul General George Huey as the Principal, Art Diggle (USIS), George Beckett (RSO) and Inspector Eduardo Parra, Federal Police Liaison with the Embassy.

The team departed Buenos Aires aboard the attaché plane at 0155 hours on January 29th and arrived in Cordoba at 0350 hours. Included on the plane to Cordoba was Mrs. Egan's sister, Mrs. Maybelle Comparach.

Upon arrival in Cordoba we were met by a contingent of 5 Provincial police with only one vehicle, a Sedan. Conversation indicated they were only expecting the Consul General and had instructions to stay with him at all times. After much telephoning, 2 more Provincial police vehicles arrived and we departed the Airport at 0450 hours for the Egan residence, arriving at 0500. Among those present were Mrs. Egan's mother and father, another sister, a family friend and Mrs. Comparach's daughter, Nancy. If I recall correctly, there were 4 Provincial police guards on duty outside the home.

As may be imagined, the atmosphere was quite emotional over the kidnapping and over our arrival, which I am sure raised hopes that Egan might be safely returned. During this time, Inspector Parra was delegated to contact the Federal Police Delegation and arrange an appointment for the Consul General to see the chief of the Federal Police Delegation at the earliest possible moment. The arrangements were made and as we prepared to leave the Egan residence it was discovered that the Provincial police who had brought us had deposited all our baggage in the hallway and had taken the vehicles and departed. The Federal Police were then contacted and they sent a Sedan. We left the Egan house at 0630 and arrived at the Federal Police station at 0700 hours. We were escorted to the office of the Comisario Principal Granata where we made contact and arrangements for future activities. Granata was somewhat disturbed initially that we might be there to "make a commotion" in the press, etc., and I told him he

..



needn't worry on that score, that I was there to express the serious concern of my Government over the kidnapping, to seek his cooperation in obtaining Egan's safe return and to offer our own cooperation and such facilities as were available to us. Granata became completely cordial and we got down to the business of establishing liaison facilities with his office.

The Federal Police had no cars available for our use, however, they agreed to provide a guard and a driver for each of the 2 cars we proposed to rent. Granata also agreed to make appointments for me to see the National Interventor Lacabanne and the chief of the Federal Police, Inspector General Americo Argüello.

We departed the Federal Police station at 0730 hours and proceeded to the Hotels where we checked in; Huey and Diggle at the Crillon and Beckett and Parra at the Sussex.

After checking in we met at the Crillon which we established as our control center for reporting. Beckett and Parra were despatched to rent 2 cars and at 0830 hours the first of a continuing series of reports was phoned to the control center in Buenos Aires.

At 1100 hours Comisario Granata phoned to advise me that appointments had been made with the National Interventor at 1630 hours and with the chief of the Provincial police at 1800 hours on February 27.

At 1620 hours we arrived at the Lacabanne's office. He was out and did not return to receive us until 1700 hours. (Huey and Diggle).

I explained the nature and purpose of our presence in Cordoba and he pledged full cooperation. We requested a name from his office whom we could contact day or night for communicating with him, and Lacabanne designated his private secretary Vice-Comodoro Aristides Benavente Peron.

As we were leaving the building at 1730 hours, Benavente ran up to us outside and gave us the names of the 4 terrorists whom the Montoneros had requested be "presented" for Egan's release. He said the Gov. had arrived late for our meeting from the bar where he had gone to retrieve the paper containing the names.

The entire team then proceeded to the Provincial police headquarters to meet the chief, arriving at 1800 hours. This meeting with Inspector General Argüello was very cordial and had the additional

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ambiente of Art Diggle knowing personally one of the deputy inspectors present as the result of his earlier visit to Cordoba during the Laun episode.

After leaving Argüello's office we returned to the Egan home to report and to advise that the kidnapers had made contact with the "Governor's" office but that no demands had yet been made. We returned to the hotel around 2300 hours with a view towards a little rest as none of us had slept for nearly 42 hours.

February 28 (morning): Beckett proceeded to Egan's house to be present while Mrs. Egan was being interviewed by "Identi-kit" team from Federal Police. Later in the morning we received notice that "montoneros" had set a deadline of 1900 hours today for the production of 4 terrorists by the GOA or Egan would be killed. This was reported to Control in Buenos Aires to get high level response if possible from GOA. Went to Egan's home and obtained available medical data on Egan and returned to hotel to report. Contacted Interventor's office and provided medical data and asked Interventor to use whatever means available to delay deadline.

At 1630 hours proceeded to Egan's home arriving at 1700 hours to stay with family through deadline. As Mrs. Egan had not been informed of "deadline" I did so, and attempted to be positive by noting that in previous kidnap cases terrorists had often extended leadline. Watched local TV news program which carried a short item on Egan saying only that he was a very sick man which was a weak effort to delay deadline of terrorists.

At 2130 hours proceeded to hotel arriving at 2200 hours. Shortly after arrival at hotel, press contingent made hasty exit advising they had received information that body had been found. Contacted Beckett and Parra who departed for area where body reported found. At 2235 chief of Provincial police Argüello phoned to verify Body found was Egan. As I hung up phone from his call, I received call from Mrs. Comparach who said a patrol car had been by the Egan home and had reported Egan had been found but had not advised that he was dead. I told Mrs. Comparach that he was dead and that we would be out to the house as soon as Beckett and Parra returned. Reported info to Ambassador at 2245 hours.

At about approximately 2300 hours we left for Egan's home arriving at about 2330. We were using one car at this point with a Federal police driver.

Upon arrival we found family quite distraught, however, no one had yet told Mrs. Egan her husband was dead.

....

I found Mrs. Egan sleeping on the living room sofa and unfortunately she apparently believed Egan had been found alive. I broke the bad news to her as gently as possible, however, she became quite hysterical. I had earlier told the family it might be advisable to have a doctor in attendance and there was one. He was not however particularly helpful, and it was not until after an hour of trauma that he was able to get her to take a tranquilizer. She refused to take a sedative by needle.

At 0115 hours we received a call that the Interventor was at the hotel waiting to see me. We departed the Egan's home at 0130 hours and approximately 2 blocks later passed a car parked in the dark with 4 men. We turned right at this dirt road intersection and a bit later it became apparent that a car was following us. We picked up speed and so did the car behind and at one point we were moving at 120 km. per hour. According to Beckett we were about 15 seconds from opening pistol fire on the car when we came to a main road intersection with a parked red jeep containing 4 provincial police. We made a left turn towards town and upon seeing the jeep, the car following us made a right turn and sped off in the opposite direction. We arrived at the hotel at 0200 hours where I was met by Lacabanne, Dr. Guillermo Abid, Provincial Minister of Bienestar Social, and Benavente. As the press was beginning to set up T.V. cameras in the lobby, George Beckett moved the entire group to a private dining room where we could talk. Lacabanne and Abid expressed their condolences and then talked nearly half an hour on the problems of dealing with activists on so many fronts with so little equipment and man power.

At 0230 hours the ~~se~~ officials departed and I went to my room to report to Buenos Aires Control. At 0330 went to bed agreeing to meet at 0700 hours for breakfast.

March 1st at 0700 we met and Parra assigned to coordinate with a judge and police for early release of Body to funeral home. At 1040 hours Lacabanne phoned to say an agreement had been reached at Vignes office with the Ambassador that body was to be interred not later than 10;00 A.M. tomorrow, Sunday, March 2nd.

George Beckett assigned to advise Mrs. Egan that Body had to be interned tomorrow, Art assigned to buy flowers; I remained at telephone to coordinate and report.

Family decides to have wake and will arrive at funeral home at 1900 hours. George will take Mrs. Comparach to Airport to meet her husband and will then accompany family to funeral home. Asked George to bring in Consular Flag when he returns with family.

.....

At 1900 hours Art goes to funeral home to greet family on arrival. At 1930 hours George and Comparach have not returned to Egan's home. At 2000 hours another call and they have all just left for wake. Parra returns and we proceed to wake where we stay until 2200 hours. As Interventor has not arrived at wake and as Mrs. Egan has decided to return home for a little rest, we return to hotel for dinner and to coordinate plans for receiving delegations from Buenos Aires.

March 2nd; at 0700 hours meet at breakfast to coordinate plans for the day.

At 0800 hours leave for Airport to meet plane due at 0900. At 0900 hours plane arrives and group proceed to funeral home arriving at 0920 and to find that services had started early and were in progress. At 1000 hours cortege departs from funeral home to cemetery. Just prior to departure George and I remove and fold Consular Flag which we had placed on casket at wake and present it to Mrs. Egan. Cortege arrives at cemetery and casket placed in a crypt temporarily. Delegation and team then proceed to Egan's home. Delegations say final thanks and goodbye to Interventor and chief of Federal Police, departs and team remains another half hour to wind up some consular business. Team returns to hotel, pay bills, turn in cars, lunch and depart for Airport. Federal Police car take us.

At 1630 hours we take off for Buenos Aires, arriving at 1840 hours. Thank crew and head for home arriving at about 1940 hours.

CONS:GOHuey:mg  
3/19/75

cc R50



Declassified Case: NW 52968 Date:  
10-24-2013

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SUBJECT: Consular Agent, Mr. John Patrick EGAN, assassinated in Cordoba

Mr. John Patrick EGAN fulfilled the role of a Consular Agent and was not a career diplomat. He acted as advisor to people who had problems with visas to the United States. He was an Honorary Consul and the U.S. Embassy only paid him a few household expenses and the expenses derived from the transactions handled in the issuing of visas.

By references from the members of the U.S. Embassy and of the Consul General which attended the funeral, Mr. Egan was a consul without actually being a member of the diplomatic corps.

On the day following the kidnapping, the newspapers of this city received the Communique issued by the "Montoneros" which demanded before 1900 hours the surfacing of four guerrillas. Given the shortness of the time period, one had the feeling that Mr. Egan would be killed. In the same communique the Montoneros clarified that Mr. Egan had been condemned to be shot.

Starting from the moment in which it was learned that Mr. Egan had been kidnapped, the Federal Police in cooperation with the Police of Cordoba carried out roadblock operations over all the different routes of escape from the city and at the same time carried out innumerable operations to detect the kidnapers.

The police are trying to trying to locate a cream colored Ford pick-up truck, in which Mr. Egan was carried away and a Renault 12 which was used as a support vehicle.

With the cooperation of personnel from the Office of Criminology of the Police of the Province of Cordoba, drawings were made of the faces of the two men and the woman who had entered the house of Mr. Egan in order to kidnap him.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

These drawings were published in all the daily newspapers and shown during the television news programs.

Almost simultaneously, Identification personnel from the Federal Police composed a foto of one of the kidnapers which Mrs. Egan remembered, using the "Foto Pick". This too was distributed and published by all means of media so that in some way, shape or fashion, even anonymously, someone might identify the person or his whereabouts.

*Friday* ? Saturday\* February 28 at 2100 hours, when the police were trying intensely to locate Mr. Egan, confirming the presumption that the kidnapers were not really trying to obtain an exchange, it was learned that Egan had been thrown dead from an unidentified automobile in a deserted place. Egan was found covered with brush behind a bicycle track about 300 meters from Jesus Meria Road.

The kidnapers, (by abandonning Egan wrapped in a Montonero flag, with the fotos of Baretta and Figueroa, two extremists killed days before by the provincial police,) tried to provoke a social and political commotion at an international level.

After finding the body, the police combed the city and the surrounding area in a thorough and drastic manner. At the same time the first reports by the experts were being published and together raised some clues and other points of interests.

The police identified the body, removed his shoes and clothes and the Chief of Criminal Pathologists performed the Legal Medical Report and the first thing the following day the autopsy was performed which determined that Mr. Egan had been shot only shortly before being found around 2000 hours. Egan was killed with a shot from a 9 mm caliber gun with a hollow projectile.

CONFIDENTIAL

\*Should read Friday February 28

CONFIDENTIAL

The barrel of the gun was placed on the right eyelid. There was an entrance but not an exit wound since the projectile lodged in the mastoid bone in the cranial cavity.

The bullet was sent to a ballistic's expert; in the final preparations the police are accumulating all the legal proofs from the point of view of a police technician which will act as evidence against the kidnappers.

State of the investigations: In the operations and searches carried out with the cooperation of the provincial police, two individuals were detained for having high-powered weapons and ammunition in their possession. They were arrested for breaking the Federal Arms law and were turned over to the Federal courts to await trial.

It is supposed that they are linked to the extremists Baretta and Figueroa who had apparently been designated to kidnap the American consul. Because of the killing of Baretta and Figueroa the kidnapping was postponed or delayed 48 hours.

The two extremists detained were being interrogated to establish if they knew who carried out the kidnapping of Mr. Egan, but the Federal Judge, Dr. Zamboni Ledesma ordered the two sent to the penitentiary of the City of Cordoba.

If the police can confirm the clues which are being investigated, the results of the inquiries will be broadened.

CONFIDENTIAL

Buenos Aires, Argentina  
March 14, 1975

UNCLASSIFIED  
OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

*file  
Egan*

Frank V. Ortiz, Esquire  
Country Director, ARA/APU  
Department of State  
Washington, D.C. 20520

*My dear Frank*

Because of the security precautions and arrangements that would have been necessary, it was decided not to have formal memorial services for Consul Agent Egan.

However, enclosed is a list of the churches in Buenos Aires that were contacted and which offered prayers for Mr. Egan during their March 9 services. I thought you would like to know what was done here.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Hill  
Ambassador

Buenos Aires, Argentina  
March 13, 1975

Mr. Joseph L. Benham  
U.S. News & World Report  
Casilla de Correo 4714  
Buenos Aires

Thank you very much for your letter of March 10 concerning the March 9 service at the United Community Church, downtown Buenos Aires. All of us at the Embassy, who are friends of the late John Patrick Egan, appreciate the prayers offered in Consular Egan's behalf.

I have sent a photostat of your letter and a copy of my reply to you to Mrs. Egan.

With warm personal regard.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Hill  
Ambassador

# U. S. News & World Report

WASHINGTON  
OFICINA PARA AMERICA DEL SUR  
CASILLA DE CORREO 4714  
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

PERSONAL

March 10, 1975

The Hon. Robert Hill  
U. S. Embassy  
Buenos Aires

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

FYI, the following was read at yesterday morning's service at the United Community Church (the American Church) downtown:

"John Patrick Egan was kidnapped on February 26 and murdered on February 28.

"He had been serving his native land and this, his adopted country, for the past two years as the consular agent of the United States in Córdoba.

"I should like ~~to~~<sup>to</sup> read the following passages from the Gospel of John, in his memory:

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live; and whoever ~~lives~~ lives and believes in me shall never die."

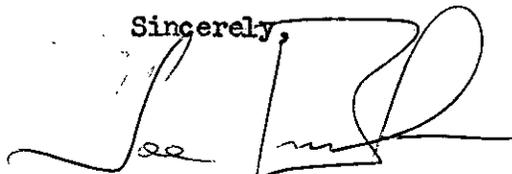
For God so ~~loved~~<sup>loved</sup> the world that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life.

"You believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am, you may be also."

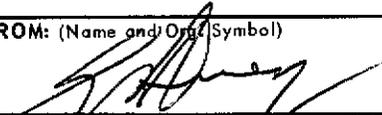
"Now shall we pray:

Our Father, there are so many things which we do not understand, and one of them is death. Since wisdom as we know it here on earth cannot explain death to us, wilt Thou give us the faith to carry us through until we can understand. Now wilt Thou comfort and bless the family of Mr. Egan, and all of the others who mourn him. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen."

Sincerely,



Joseph L. Benham

DEPARTMENT OF STATE REFERENCE SLIP				DATE		
				3/17/75		
TO:	Name or Title	Organ. Symbol	Room No.	Bldg.	Initials	Date
1.	The Ambassador					
2.						
3.						
4.						
5.						
<input type="checkbox"/>	Approval		Initial for Clearance		Per Conversation	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	As Requested		Necessary Action		Prepare Reply	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Comment		Note and Forward		See Me	
<input type="checkbox"/>	For Your Information		Note and Return		Signature	
REMARKS OR ADDITIONAL ROUTING						
						
FROM: (Name and Org. Symbol)				ROOM NO. & BLDG:	PHONE NO.	
						

*Conden*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : The Ambassador  
Thru : *DCM - JPM*  
FROM : George S. Beckett, RSO *GB*  
SUBJECT: Note from Mrs. Comporach

DATE: March 12, 1975

*Conden*  
*see below*

On March 11, 1975, the attached note was received from Mrs. Comporach, sister-in-law of deceased Consular Agent Egan. Consular General Huey was contacted and asked if he felt he should contact Mrs. Comporach instead of the Security Office. Mr. Huey stated he had concluded his business with her and felt that the item probably was one of a security nature.

*see below*

At 17:00 hours, 11 March, 1975, I contacted Mrs. Comporach telephonically. She advised me that the provincial police were continuing to guard the house of the Consular Agency and that Mr. Huey had informed her that the guard would be on the establishment as long as the agency remained. She requested that the agency be kept in place for security reasons until her sister returned from Peru which could be three to four weeks. I advised her that this was not a matter falling within the jurisdiction of my office and that I would pass the information to the Consular General. She further stated that the Consular General had advised her that the furnishings for the Consular Agency, U.S. Government property, would be left in place until Mrs. Egan's return. In addition, she stated that the gun (.32 cal. revolver) which had been issued to Egan by the Embassy could not be located. I informed her this weapon had been turned over to me by Mrs. Egan and I had given Mrs. Egan a receipt for the weapon and the weapon had been returned to Buenos Aires.

Mrs. Comporach stated she would contact the Embassy in the event of any security problems at the Consular Agency.

*3/17/75*

*The above relates to my memo of March 10, attached, in which it is agreed to retain the office equipment in Cordoba until Mrs. Egan returns.*



... so sorry I was not able to  
say good bye & thank you as much  
as I would for all you did for us before  
you all left back to G. B. Really  
I don't recall the amount you  
all left after the funeral. Please  
accept my be. called & most  
beautiful thanks. ; your  
performance, emotional support  
will be remembered for ever!!!

I guess you are aware thru  
George Reilly that it has been  
requested that the Consulate be  
left as it is, until my sister's  
return. I personally see super  
with a guard since I am  
staying in the house.

Please call me if possible  
tomorrow Tuesday - Orignello  
91-0796 - as I do have

Mr. & Mrs. Victor Compara

a question to make you  
awaiting to hear from you  
& once again deeply grateful

Sincerely  
Biddy Compara

Ps: Please try & call from 5/11m.  
to 8 p.m.

Mr: George S. Beckett  
Chief Security Officer  
U. S. Embassy  
Quero Aires

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

*ConGen*

TO : The Ambassador *gm*  
Thru : ~~DCM Mr. Montllor~~  
FROM : ConGen G. Huey *GH*

DATE: Mar. 10, 1975

SUBJECT: Consular Agency

I am attaching a memo received from Mrs. Egan which was delivered to Bill Hitchcock Friday night Mar. 7, 1975 by a Mr. N. Woodgate, who is a friend of the Egans.

I recommend that we ~~comply~~ <sup>comply</sup> with the request and not remove such equipment we have in Cordoba until Mrs. Egan returns.

Copies of the memo have been sent to SY and ADMIN.

*27/11*  
*27/11*

*Boque*  
*3/10/75*  
*ll*

AMERICAN EMBASSY  
CONSULAR SECTION  
MAR 12 1975

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

COPY TO 54  
COPY TO ADMIN

TO : Consul General United States of America

DATE: March 7, 1975

FROM : Mrs. John P. Egan *J. Egan*

SUBJECT: SPECIAL REQUEST

The Provincial Police has promised me that until such time as the Embassy takes away the furniture from the Consular Office, I will have permanent 24 hour guard. My sister and my young maid will be staying at my home and my sister will feel much safer with guards.

Would you be so kind as to postpone the removal of the Consular Office's furniture for about three weeks when I will return to Cordoba then the decision is up to the U.S.Embassy.

Best personal regards and many thanks.,



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

2 copies  
1 ADM  
1. Sec

To The Consul General United States of America

Mr. George Huey

BUENOS AIRES

Rec'd  
at Home  
12:20 PM  
3/8

Rec'd from Wm. Wright  
10:45 pm  
Fri 3/7/75  
WMT

Seen by SA & Keckberg 3/8

AMERICAN EMBASSY  
CONSULAR SECTION

The Ambassador

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

March 12, 1975

George S. Beckett, RSO

Note from Mrs. Comporach

On March 11, 1975, the attached note was received from Mrs. Comporach, sister-in-law of deceased Consular Agent Egan. Consular General Huey was contacted and asked if he felt he should contact Mrs. Comporach instead of the Security Office. Mr. Huey stated he had concluded his business with her and felt that the item probably was one of a security nature.

At 17:00 hours, 11 March, 1975, I contacted Mrs. Comporach telephonically. She advised me that the provincial police were continuing to guard the house of the Consular Agency and that Mr. Huey had informed her that the guard would be on the establishment as long as the agency remained. She requested that the agency be kept in place for security reasons until her sister returned from Peru which could be three to four weeks. I advised her that this was not a matter falling within the jurisdiction of my office and that I would pass the information to the Consular General. She further stated that the Consular General had advised her that the furnishings for the Consular Agency, U.S. Government property, would be left in place until Mrs. Egan's return. In addition, she stated that the gun (.32 cal. revolver) which had been issued to Egan by the Embassy could not be located. I informed her this weapon had been turned over to me by Mrs. Egan and I had given Mrs. Egan a receipt for the weapon and the weapon had been returned to Buenos Aires.

Mrs. Comporach stated she would contact the Embassy in the event of any security problems at the Consular Agency.

cc: Consular General Huey (w/o attachment)

See my memo  
3/10/75  
+ amb  
response



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

OFFICIAL-INFORMAL  
~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

March 10, 1975

Reg no. 2335034  
Rec'd 3/19/75

*Answered 3/21 by USIA*

Honorable Robert C. Hill  
American Ambassador  
Buenos Aires

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

On March 5 a large (50 persons) inter-agency meeting was held at which various aspects of the Egan incident were discussed. I did not attend that particular meeting but Bob Felder who did tells me it went fairly well, given the strong feelings such cases generally arouse. On March 7 at the insistence of USIA we had another discussion of the Egan case. USIA felt that some important policy questions had not been adequately faced up to.

The memorandum, a copy of which I enclose, was drafted by a young, new officer who missed some of our points. However, it does give you a flavor for the discussions here.

In trying to give USIA something to be constructive about I observed the Task Force was hampered by not having good radio with which to monitor broadcasts by American radio correspondents who were on the scene in Cordoba. On my car radio I picked up a number of broadcasts direct from Cordoba that gave me some very good and very current information on developments.

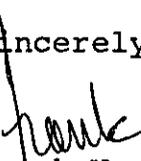
USIA also felt perhaps more could have been done for Mr. Egan. Mr. Chiancone seemed to believe that the Embassy was opposed to any negotiations. I think from our discussion with him he understood the Embassy's position (which was also the Department's) more clearly.

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

There were words of praise for the way you and the members of the Embassy staff handled this difficult situation. As is usual, the record does not reflect them.

All of us here still feel depressed and let down by the Egan murder. It was really a very sad event which must not be repeated.

Sincerely,

  
Frank V. Ortiz

Enclosure:

Memorandum

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Participants: ARA/LA - Mr. Frank Ortiz  
EUR/IB - Mr. Jack Smith  
ARA/LA/APU - Mr. Robert Felder  
USIA - Mr. Frank Chiancone  
S/CCT - Mr. John Gatch  
S/CCT - Ms. Carol Willett  
S/CCT - Mr. Jeff Browne

Date: March 7, 1975

Place: ARA/LA - Mr. Frank Ortiz's office

Subject: Postmortem of the Egan Case

The following points were raised during the post-mortem of the Egan kidnapping/murder.

It was generally agreed that the technical support of the Task Force was good and that the WTF did all that could have been done to support American Embassy Buenos Aires and seek the safe release of John Egan.

Mr. Ortiz raised the point that he knew more about the kidnapping from listening to his car radio on the way down than he learned after arriving at the Operations Center. It was suggested that there is a definite demonstratable need for a radio (tuned to a news station) in the Task Force area. Moreover, it would be a good idea for a short wave set to be installed in the Ops Center so that Task Forces could tune into the radio stations in the cities involved. Mr. Chiancone confirmed that this would pick up any station in Latin America and Mr. Ortiz further suggested that such a set would be valuable for monitoring any point on the globe.

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

It was agreed that liaison activities were handled well. One remaining matter is the request by Egan's son-in-law, Mr. Sirockman, for a chronology of the affair. Senator Mansfield's office also requested a chronology. S/CCT will handle this.

Other personal matters include the financial situation of Mrs. Egan. Mr. Gatch volunteered that she may receive a yearly pension consisting of 45% of Egan's salary. Egan as a Consular Agent was exempt from the Hays Bill covering dependents of slain US diplomats. AFSA has been contacted on this matter, and are satisfied that all appropriate measures have been taken. ARA/LA is currently coordinating an effort to schedule Secretary's award and engraving of Egan's name on the Department memorial plaque to coincide with Mrs. Egan's arrival this next week. Mr. Grover and Mr. John Thomas are handling this.

It was agreed that US policy was adequately conveyed both publicly and privately. There was some discussion however over Embassy understanding of our policy. In A-775 it does state that the US will accede to negotiations. It was agreed that a message to all posts clarifying this point was in order.

The point was raised that in this instance, the US really had no assets with which to negotiate. Owing to the nature of the demands, the government ban on media coverage of the terrorists, the communication problems between Cordoba and Buenos Aires and the Argentine refusal to consider any of the proffered US alternatives, there was little that the US could have done to mediate. US policy specifies that the US will not negotiate in place of the host government. In similar circumstances, however, it was suggested that we reserve to ourselves the right to try and contact the terrorists on our own. This would be an extreme measure but one that might be justified in terms of the need to pass the first critical terrorist deadline. It might constitute no more than an appeal to "take no action and let's talk."

Mr. Ortiz noted that an investigation of the guard situation at the consulate and of the actions taken by GOA prior to the kidnapping are currently under way.

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

- 3 -

Mr. Chiancone volunteered that in light of events there may be a reduction in force of USIA personnel.

cc: ARA/LA/APU - Mr. Ortiz  
ARA - Amb. Bowdler  
S/S-O - Mr. Ealum  
A/SY - Mr. Dikeos  
A - Mr. Thomas  
M - Mr. Bouchard  
M/DG - Amb. Davis  
American Embassy Buenos Aires

S/CCT:CWillett:nwh

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

Minister Montllor:

3/7

I called all the Churches in the directory. Most of all of them will make some reference on Sunday's Service or Mass. Some of them will add Mr. John P. Egan's name to their list of reminded people, others will have a special prayer. Here is the detail:

ANGLICAN

St. John's Cathedral The Bishop will have a special prayer.

Martínez Church Hall They will have a special prayer.

St. Saviours They will have a special prayer.

BAPTIST

Fist Baptist Church On Prayer Period they will have a reference.

CATHOLIC

Nuestra Señora de las Victorias Sunday at 8:00 p.m. Mass they will have him on the list of reminded people.

Holy Cross In one of the Masses he will be on the list of reminded people.

San Gabriel At the "Misa Comunitaria" they will pray.

JEWISH

Synagogue Mr. Laventman explained that is not customary to have any reference. They have not had this for other people either. For example late President Aramburo.

METHODIST CHURCH AND AMERICAN CHURCH

The United Community Church  
Main Branch

A prayer will be said.

The United Community Church  
City Branch

A prayer will be said.

MORMON

Mr. Lovergreen said they preech  
for argentinians, and they will have  
a prayer only among the Missioners.

LUTHERAN  
Reformative Lutheran Church

During recordation moment they will  
have Mr. Egan in mind.

PRESBYTERIAN

St. Andrews

A reference will be made.

*Ernestina*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

9

TO : THE AMBASSADOR  
THRU : DCM: J. J. Montllor  
FROM : CONS: George O. Huey  
SUBJECT: DEATH OF JOHN P. EGAN

DATE: March 6, 1975

For your information, the following persons called on me yesterday morning, March 5, 1975, to extend condolences regarding the death of John Egan.

1. Dr. Ricardo Tawil, President of the Consular Association of Buenos Aires.
2. Giuseppe Casali, Consul General of Italy
3. Chuji Okawa, First Secretary, Japanese Embassy

The latter, number 3, questioned me on what negotiations had transpired with GOA for release of Egan and I told him to take matter up at Ambassadorial level for such information.

CONS:GOHuey:mg  
X-110 / 3/6/75



Return SA/N

The Ambassador

March 3, 1975

George S. Beckett, RSO

Conversation with Mrs. Mabelle Comarach

At 14:20 hours March 3, 1975 the writer was contacted telephonically by Mrs. Mabelle Comarach who called the Embassy from the Egan residence in Cordoba. Mrs. Comarach asked the following questions:

- A) Who would make arrangements for a death certificate.

On advice from Sub-Inspector Parra, FPA, she was informed that the Argentine Civil Court in Cordoba was responsible for this document and that the funeral home responsible for the services should be contacted in connection with obtaining the certificate.

- B) Has the Department of State made a decision about paying for Mrs. Egan's trip to the United States.

She was informed that the writer could not answer this question since it was of an administrative nature. In addition she was advised that her question would be made available to the Consular for Administrative Affairs who would contact her at a later date.

- C) She requested the procedure for having the Department deposit the \$500 which was awarded by the Department in connection with funeral expenses to a checking account in the United States.

She was advised that Mrs. Egan should prepare a letter to the Consular for Administration requesting that the check be deposited in her checking account in the United States and identify the bank and account number.

In addition Mrs. Comarach stated that her family had been in contact with the interventor (Lacabanne) who informed the family that his office would pay routine funeral expenses. She stated that the \$500.00, from the Department, would be needed to help in covering other

expenses relating to the funeral.

Mrs. Comarach advised that Mrs. Egan would be departing Cordoba on Friday March 7 in the accompaniment of Mr. Comarach and that they would travel to Peru where her husband is employed. Mrs. Egan will remain there for a short period of time.

Mr. Comarach stated she would remain in Cordoba for the purpose of family business. In addition, all materials belonging to the Embassy in connection with the Consular Agency will be prepared for shipment to the Embassy. Mrs. Comarach was advised that arrangements would be made locally for the returning of this property.

cc: DCM  
Consul General  
Administrative Officer  
Control Officer

Mar 1, 1975

TELCON with Peter Jones and George Huey at 1645 local time

Official Argentine plane with delegation will arrive at 0900 in Cordoba at the Escuela Aeronautica. The body is being released at approximately 0600PM this evening from the mortuary and taken to funeral home Bespontin, Avenida General Paz 377, where there will be a wake. The family will leave the Egan home around 0730PM and pass the night at the funeral home. Arrangements were established for that here. Casket and party will depart approximately 1000 tomorrow for cemetery San Geronimo. Upon arrival services will be held at cemetery chapel at around 1020 - 1030. At the conclusion of the services, casket will be interred. We do not know yet who will meet the delegation from the local authorities but that problem for their protocol office.

LaCabani(sp.) has been informed by me (Huey) that Ambassador is not coming and assume likewise has been informed by Vignes.

Flower arrangements at funeral home - We ordered flowers in accordance with Ambassador's directions, put notes on them and sent them to the home as directed, but that is not the way things are done here. Family realized our error and sent them to the funeral home herself. We have ordered some more (4 in fact) in addition to other flowers with Ambassador's messages as indicated. One for Pres. Ford; one for Sec. Kissinger; one for Ambassador and one for colleagues of the embassy.

Ques.#1-where is delegation planning to go first - straight to the cemetery? Advise them to go to funeral home. Should arrive at 0900 according to Gov. office.

Ques.#2- any info on how much the Dept. of State is going to pick up for Egan? No. We are not authorized to spend anything. We are sending you 5,000 pesos and \$500 with the Minister tomorrow. But not sure how we will cover expenses eventually.

TELCON - Hitchcock and Huey

Reminder about seals, and discussion about closeup of office.

TELCON - O'Brien and Diggle

Discussion about statements by persons in Cordoba.

March 1, 1975

TELCON With Frank Ortiz and Ambassador Bowdler at 1353 local time

1. Mr. Ortiz advised Duty Officer that Department had been in contact with Egan family who had indicated none were able to attend funeral in Argentina. One or more members of the family had expressed desire that Egan be buried in United States but recognized that Mrs. Egan's desires would be ~~xxxx~~ overriding.

2. The Department is sending a cable to remain closed on Monday if the Ambassador so ~~xxxx~~ desired.

3. Ambassador Bowdler reported that a Reuters story from Cordoba dated March 1 had the following statement in it: Cordoba police found Egan body only hours after Argentine Government and U. S. Embassy had indicated they would not negotiate his release. Ambassador Bowdler asked Mr. O'Brien whether Reuters had contacted the Embassy on this subject. Mr. O'Brien advised Ambassador Bowdler that the Embasssy had made no such statement. Ambassador Bowdler asked that this information be put in a cable to Washington.

---

Peter E. Jones

Duty Officer:PEJones:db

*Con Gen Huey advised of above at  
1430 local March 1. BJ*

TelCon with Diggle and Beckett, Córdoba, 3-1-75, 12:40 am:

DIGGLE: ~~XXX~~ George gas told her, highly hysterical and emotional, =  
Doctor giving her medicine to calm her down. Being held down by  
~~XXXXXX~~ Beckett and the doctor. Body in the morgue. (Amb - is there  
refrigeration?; Diggle - yes have refrigeration). ~~De~~ details of  
shooting. Amb: What are conditions at site? Diggleñ One  
of the Sisters is in the room, told her to leave. A newspaper  
got a letter in Spanish, another paper got one in English. Both  
letters from the body. Papers first to know. "We surmise the  
letter in English is the last letter that he wrote to his wife  
and family". Paper refused to give letter to police until trans-  
lated into Spanish for publication in morning papers. Modus  
vivendi of extremists & is to let papers/journalists to know  
first. LA VOZ DEL INTERIOR and LOS PRINCIPOS informed exactly  
where body to be located. Was found on a dirt road 100 meters  
off Route 9 in the north of the city. Shot through the left  
eye, no other shots visible, to be determined by autopsy.  
Autopsy to be performed this date (March 1). Parra tells me  
that indication was shot in the ~~XXXXXX~~ eye and his body was  
found with a banner which read "Montoneros, Viva Perón".  
Also there was a copy of one of last week's Cordoba newspapers  
which had pictures of slain members of the Montoneros (two, I  
believe). Shot in vengeance for the shooting of the Montoneros.  
Newspapers placed fown the middle of his bodyñ lying on his back,  
face up. (AMB: What time was he shot?) Between 7 and 9 pm.  
The letters were delivered to papers at 10 pm' Parra, on assumption  
of long experience agreed. (AMB: Keep copious notes - reply:  
Yes, Beckett, Huey and he (Diggle) were doing so).

2.

Amb: Please tell sister of the widow she will be receiving at the present time a letter from the President of the United States and Dr. Kissinger expressing their profound regrets and sympathy will be released tomorrow in Washington. AMB will personally bring letters to Cordoba if funeral to take place shortly.

Funeral to take place Sunday, March 2. Depends on Judge Ledesma, who may want to make a more thorough autopsy. Logical thing in Cordoba is funeral to take place next day. They lived there 20 years. (Amb Tell sister that ~~SUNDAY~~ ~~XXXX~~ Senator Mansfield has expressed his regret and the Governor of Montana. AMB will see FonMin tomorrow at 9:15 am).

Conversation turned to transportation and question of plane (USDÁO) whether it should return to BA or remain there. Ambassador Hill replied he would fly up with Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Huey and ~~XXXX~~ Col. and Mrs. Stapleton, presumably on Argentine FonMin plane. Rosenthal asked was body found within city limits - Diggle replied not known, but assuredly the outskirts, 25 minutes from downtown Cordoba.

Beckett queried re AMB's security if he goes to Córdoba. AMB replied he would take his security with him. D.C. being informed. Huey with Mrs. Egan = so broken up, can;t leave her.

Montllor: Condolence book, portrait available other than "mug" shot here? Diggle will try to find suitable portrait there.

Again, AMB coming to Cordoba with Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Huey, Col. and Mrs. Stapleton - Stapleton in uniform, AMB in dark clothes and tie.

3.

Beckett: Bring a <sup>number</sup>~~number~~ of people with you. Real sticky.  
Mrs. Egan

~~MMXX~~ Taking it rough. Saw deceased. May have happened in  
place - B. had to stay away from newsreels, NBC, CBS, <sup>flood</sup>~~fixed~~ lights.

No examination of the body because cameras would pick him up.

AMB: Tell Arthur letters from President Ford and

Kissinger just arrived, will be presented to the widow Sunday.

Montllor: What religion? Roman Catholic, have priest on way over.

x ETA: No idea.



March 1, 1975 - 10: 15 a.m.

George Huey, Congen, telephoned from Cordoba:

Huey - We believe here that it would be a very good thing if Hedberg and/or Baxendale from Administrative Office could be down here. I don't know what commitments we are able to make with regard to funeral expenses and embalming, etc.

We need to know what commitments we can make.

Montllor - I think a lot can be done by telephoning us.

Whatever you need to know of this type just ask us. We are only as far/a telephone call away.

Huey= Can somebody give a reading today on whether Government will pick up expenses for embalming, burial and incidentals. Need to know as soon as possible what is status of the family who are coming and if Department is picking up tab.

~~XXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXX~~

Montllor - We have sent message to family and next of kin. We indicated funeral might be on Sunday.

Huey - Can't see funeral tomorrow. The body is ready, I think, for whatever action.

Montllor - Better if can delay 4 or 5 days.

Huey - Working on final deadline latest possible date, then ~~g~~ going to Egan's and hope she will be in condition to make decision.

Montllor - The Ambassador has not yet returned from meeting at Foreign Ministry. As soon as he comes back we will answer a lot of your other questions (who will be coming up, etc.)

Huey - We are making no announcement that he (Amb. Hill) is

coming so far.

(2)

Huey -

I told Governor Ambassador would be coming down--got good reaction.

The family received one letter in English and one in Spanish. It appears to be a printed letter prepared for his signature.

*from Congen Huey*

Telcon to Michael O'Brien from Ambassador at 8:30 a.m. March 1, 1975  
Ambassador received following message from approx. 7:30 a.m. to ~~xx~~  
7:45 a.m. this morning:

At 2 a.m. this morning CongGen Huey, Beckett  
returned to their hotel. The lady was still in hysterical condition.  
When CG Huey returned to his hotel the Governor was there to  
express condolences of the Government for the horrible ~~assassination~~ <sup>assassination.</sup>

~~Lacabanne~~ Lacabanne cancelled his trip to San Francisco. CongGen said  
they were definitely followed by a car from the Egan residence~~x~~ to  
the hotel. They had lots of protection provided by Lacabanne.

Mrs. Egan is definite that body be buried in Cordoba and wants to delay  
funeral until Egan's four brothers arrive from the States as well as the  
son. She wants their wives to be present. She wants complete  
arrangements to be financed by U.S. Government. Governor Lacabanne told  
the Congen that the reason they didn't have any police at the <sup>Egan</sup> residence  
was because a policeman had been killed on Sunday and as he was from the  
same ~~precinct~~ precinct where the guards were serving he pulled the  
guards off the residence to find his murderer. Lacabanne said  
yesterday that they had pretty much blocked off a 20 block radius  
where they thought Egan was being held. There was considerable shooting (?)

they got the news that he was dead. ~~Body not~~ Body not. They hope they can  
get the body embalmed today. There are ~~xxx~~ refrigeration facilities  
in Cordoba. Autopsy this morning. Inspector Parr <sup>who</sup> ~~Federal Police~~  
~~working with~~ <sup>with</sup> us, is trying to get body released. CongGen is very concerned  
about my coming to funeral that he would rather have Beckett discuss this  
matter with me later this morning. The feeling is they are trying to  
sucker as many of us there and have a shootout at the church. ~~This~~ <sup>they</sup>

~~but~~ CongGen said under no circumstances should any wives come if de-  
cision made to go. ~~Flag~~ to be flown at half mast at Chancery.

Telcon GHuey-Gamble - March 1, ~~00~~ 0400 hours

I want to give you a fairly short report which I will call the Ambassador later in the morning and give him the rest.

We returned from the Egan house at ~~about 2:00 a.m.~~

We left there at 1:30 this morning. We arrived at the hotel at 2:00, and the Governor was here, along with Guillermo Canilo Abid who is the Ministro de Bienestar Social here. We went back to a private room. Their purpose was to express their sincere condolences for what has happened and to assure us of every possible assistance that we might need. Frankly, we talked for so long about the political and economic fields and activities in the "guerrilleros" field, etc. They stated they were very short of personnel to handle all these problems they were confronted with. He wanted to make certain that it was not against the United States but <sup>an</sup> ~~their~~ internal structure, and that he had suspended his travel to the U.S. later today for anything we needed. Mr. Huey asked if two cables were sent - the one about notifying all the relatives, etc., and that she expects or insists that the USG pay for their transportation. We are going to have to know this because of the legal deadline for the funeral. Not until she calms down, she will not be able to make a decision. She is not in a position to make a decision, and she still insists on these conditions. We have a call in to the Governor's

to ascertain the final deadline.

The Governor or they have send four guards over here and more to the Egan residence. She is in no position to make any decisions.

George Beckett would like to know where Boyle is.

Mr. Gamble said probably at the residence or at home.

Beckett said he didn't need to know any more exact location.

CC:ema

Telcon Diggle/Gamble - March 1, 0240 hours

Mrs. Egan is extremely agitated. She is hysterical, heavily sedated. She insists that the body be embalmed. She insists that there be no funeral until his family arrives from the States - his three brothers and one daughter arrive from the States. She insists that the Department of State pay for their transportation. She insists there be no funeral soon until further notice. Regardless of that, a cable needs to be sent to Washington to inform the following relatives of the death of Egan. They are as follows:

Suzann Sirokman who lives in Valier, Montana. She is his daughter. Telephone: Area Code 406 - 279-3238; a brother James Egan - Area Code 209 - AD 37075; another brother Eugene Egan - Area Code 406 - 279 3555; another brother Morris Egan, 14820 Pampa Ruaz, Pacific Palisades, California, Zip Code 90272.

The Embassy should send a cable to the Embassy in Lima to please inform the brother-in-law, Mr. Vitorio Comparach, Hotel Riviera, Garcilaso De La Vega, telephone - Lima 289 460.

Mrs. Egan is adamant about the funeral being held up until they arrive. She is adamant that the Department of State pay their transportation down here. This may call for the efforts of the Ambassador with Rogers, if he sees so fit to do so.

2.

Re Mr. Montllor's request for a photograph. I don't know how he is going to get it until after the funeral.

CC: ema

Minister Montllor

3/1/75

CC: Peter Jones

We had a call last night (2145) from George Gowen, who is manning the Department's control center. Gowen informed us that Mr. Thomas, Assistant Secretary for Administration, had authorized an expenditure for Egan's funeral expenses up to the sum of \$500. George said this was the maximum they could authorize at present, but they were checking to see if they could come up with additional funds.

Enclosed is a telegram which conveys messages for Mrs. Egan from the Egan family in the United States. I thought it would be appropriate for you to convey the messages personally to Mrs. Egan. I did not try to reach her as I was told she will be spending the night at the funeral home.

CC: PJones:epb

1975 MAR 1 11 9 41

NIACT

*Copies given to DCMG Lake to Cordoba*

**IMMEDIATE ACTION**  
**UNCLASSIFIED**

NNNNVV ESA640BRA663  
OO RUESBA  
DE RUEHC 6686 0610030  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
O 020002Z MAR 75 ZFF4  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES NIACT IMMEDIATE 8964  
BT  
UNCLAS STATE 046686

TO	ACT.	INT.	TO	ACT.	INF.
AMB		✓	DAO		✓
DCM		✓	LEGATT		✓
EA/H		✓	DEA		
FCL		✓	FAS		
ECOM			AID		
<del>POL/S</del>		✓	IMLGP		✓
CONS			PER		
ADM		✓	GSO		
USIS		✓	E&F		
SCI			CHRON		✓
CE	✓				✓

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PJNS, PFOR, AR

SUBJECT: EGAN MURDER (MESSAGES FOR MRS; EGAN) ;

1. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO PASS MESSAGES FROM EGAN'S FAMILY HERE TO MRS. EGAN IN CORDOBA; MESSAGE TEXTS FOLLOWS:  
BEGIN QUOTE: MRS. EGAN: MAY YOU SOON DISCOVER THAT THROUGH THE MEMORIES IN YOUR HEART YOU AND THOSE YOU DEEPLY LOVE NEVER REALLY PART. MAY IT MAKE YOUR HOUR OF SORROW LESS DIFFICULT TO BEAR KNOWING OUR HEARTS REACH OUT TO YOU IN SYMPATHY AND PRAYER. SUSAN, DICK, MICHAEL JOHN, CYNTHIA AND CHARLENE.
2. DEAR SIS: YOU ARE IN OUR PRAYERS. TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOUR MOTHER AND DAD AND ALL YOUR FAMILY. THEY NEED YOUR HELP NOW. CYRILA, TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF. WE ARE WAITING WITH OPEN ARMS UNTIL YOU GET UP HERE. ALL OUR LOVE, JIM AND MARTHA.
3. MRS. CYRILA EGAN: NO WORDS CAN CONVEY OUR SORROW. OUR WARMEST PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU. UPON ADVICE OF THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT FOR SECURITY REASONS WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE FUNERAL. MAURICE, HELEN, PATRICK, MIKE AND GENE.

1. DEAR CYRILA: WE HERE IN MONTANA ARE STILL DEEPLY SHOCKED AND SO TERRIBLY SORRY FOR WHAT YOU MUST HAVE GONE

THROUGH THESE PAST FEW DAYS. TOMORROW WHILE YOU ARE HAVING THE FUNERAL WE WILL BE ATTENDING A MASS AND ROSARY SAID FOR HIM HERE. IT SEEMS A SHAME THAT SUCH A GRAND PERSON SHOULD HAVE BEEN CUT DOWN LIKE THAT. WITH ALL OUR HEARTFELT SORROW. GENE, GRACE AND DON. INGERSOLL

BT

6686

**UNCLASSIFIED**

NNNN

# TELEGRAM

X

1975 MAR 1 PM 10 37

UNCLASSIFIED

**IMMEDIATE ACTION**

BVV ESA643BRA671  
 OO RUESBA  
 DE RUEHC 6691 0610130  
 ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
 O 020113Z MAR 75 ZFF4  
 FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
 TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES NIACT IMMEDIATE 8965  
 BT  
 UNCLAS STATE 046691

TO	ACT	INT	TO	ACT	INF
AMB		✓	DAO		✓
BCM			LEGATT		
FIN		✓	DEA		✓
FDC			FAS		
ESOM			AID		
POL/r		✓	MILGP		✓
OWS		✓	PEH		
ADM		✓	GSO		
USIS		✓	B&F		
SCI			CHKON		
VE	W		SY		

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, AR

SUBJECT:EGAN MURDER:MESSAGE FOR MRS. EGAN

1. PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO MRS. EGAN, FROM HER NIECE, MRS. RICHARD DOOLITTLE: BEGIN QUOTE: DEAREST AUNT CYRILA: THE CHILDREN, DICK AND I ARE HEARTBROKEN ABOUT UNCLE JOHN. OUR LOVE AND PRAYERS AND THOUGHTS ARE WITH YOU. LOVE, PAT UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

BT  
6691

UNCLASSIFIED

NNNN

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
**TELEGRAM**



1975 MAR 1 PM 10 54

NIACT

**IMMEDIATE ACTION**

**UNCLASSIFIED**

TO	ACT.	INT.	TO	ACT.	INF.
AMB		✓	DAO		✓
DCM		✓	LEGATT		✓
GA/		✓	DEA		
POL		✓	FAS		
ECON			AID		
POL/R		✓	MILGP		✓
CONR			PER		
ADM		✓	GSO		
UEID		✓	B&F		
BCI			CHKON		✓
ST	✓		ST		✓

VV ESA646BRA674  
 OO RUESBA  
 DE RUEHC 6696 0610148  
 ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
 O 020142Z MAR 75 ZFF4  
 FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
 TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES NIACT IMMEDIATE 8967  
 BT  
 UNCLAS STATE 046696

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, AR

SUBJECT: EGAN MURDER: MESSAGE FOR MRS. EGAN

EMBASSY REQUESTED TO PASS MESSAGE TO MRS. EGAN FROM  
 NEPHEW, JAMES EGAN, JR.: BEGIN QUOTE: AUNT CYRILA. WE  
 ARE DEEPLY GRIEVED OVER LOSS OF UNCLE JOHN. PRAYERS ARE  
 BEING SENT BY ALL. LOVE, JIM JR. AND FAMILY UNQUOTE  
 INGERSOLL

BT  
 6696

**UNCLASSIFIED**

NNNN

c

In addition to the items covered in SitRep #17, the following was discussed:

Mr. Diggle called to insist on speaking only to AMB or DCM, but when advised there was absolutely no way of transferring or "patching" call as DCM was in suburbs and AMB was at FonOff, Diggle discussed the press situation and how hard the CBS and NBC people were pushing to get permission for a TV interview with Mrs. EGAN. Diggle said he was quite positive the interview could be controlled. The TV people wanted Mrs. EGAN to answer only two questions which they would present beforehand for her and Embassy team approvals. Diggle assured Mrs. EGAN would be well briefed as to what to say.

1. Mrs. EGAN, can you tell us what happened?
2. Tell us what are your plans now?

Rosenthal pointed out that it was his understanding that Mrs. EGAN was unaware of the 7:00 pm deadline and in view of this, how could the second question be asked. Mr. Diggle said the interview would not be taped until after 7:00 pm, and most ~~likely~~ likely, not until tomorrow morning. Mr. Rosenthal asked what was the advantage of the TV interview other than to get the press off Diggle's back. Diggle insisted that AMB be asked re this interview, ergo Rosenthal contacted FonOff and spoke with Wayne Smith relaying questions, etc. The answer was a definite no from Ambassador Hill. Diggle said he would call again later when the AMB was back in the office. He repeated his confidence in the two network people, remarking that they were under fire to get "something" and this would satisfy

the network home office, as well as get us off the hook. He emphasized that he had talked with these "two boys", that they will accept any two questions that Mrs. Egan will accept to answer and would ask her nothing else. Diggle had sounded out Mrs. Egan and she would not mind saying how it happened. Lived in Argentina since 1955, it is her home, loves Argentina.....etc. Rosenthal again asked how Diggle think she would answer if the results at 7:00 pm were of a negative nature. Diggle again brought up the fact that the EGANs were building a new home only five blocks away from the present site, they considered Argentina their home, etc. It was then decided that Diggle would call Ambassador Hill later this date, when the AMB had returned to the Embassy.

Rosenthal brought up question of lack of guards and whether or not Huey/Beckett had any further information re this question. Both reiterated they did not want to raise the question at this moment so as not to upset the applecart. Getting excellent cooperation from Federal Police Delegation, <sup>re lack of protection</sup> ~~furthermore, Police should have letter.~~ Only Chief of Provincial Police could make any comment re this, and he only to Minister of Interior Rocamora. Only person who can release official police report on the abduction is the Federal Judge in ~~XXX~~ Córdoba.

Ambassador's instructions to Diggle were explicit - Definite no at this time until sometime after 7 pm. Do not proceed with any taping or anything else.

Beckett mentioned that re police report, that if and when Parra can "casually" work it in in his conversations with police, he will try to do so.

1) <sup>Consul General</sup> ~~TelCon with George Huey, Cordoba, 11:30 am, February 28:~~ <sup>Telephone</sup>

<sup>and</sup> ~~Mr Huey~~ spoke directly with ~~AMB~~ <sup>ambassador Hill</sup>, ~~saying~~ <sup>Huey stated</sup> immediately that there <sup>CS at 11:11</sup> was nothing new to report since midnight last night! The Federal

Police with <sup>still</sup> Identi-Kit man are speaking with Mrs. Egan, <sup>attempting</sup> and ~~getting~~ <sup>to gather</sup> all the information available, ~~according to~~ Mrs. Egan. <sup>fully</sup> ~~cooperating~~ -

<sup>2)</sup> ~~George and PANPA are on way to Egan's~~ Both Federal and Provincial <sup>heavily involved in</sup> police are working ~~on~~ case.

<sup>Cordoba</sup> 2) Newspapers hitting case ~~pretty~~ heavily, in ~~Cordoba~~. CBS and NBC

<sup>They make a request to have</sup> correspondents STREITHORST and Mc CRORY are most ~~persistent~~. ~~Want~~ to have ZMrs. EGAN speak on TV for a few minutes this afternoon. ~~was~~

Ambassador requested this be avoided.

Plans: Diggle and Huey are going to sit and wait with Mrs. Egan this afternoon and evening. Phone of Mrs. Egan: 91-0796, Arguello.

<sup>4) Embassy request</sup> Rosenthal requested detailed, scientific medical information for

Dept. task force. Told Huey to check with Dr. Allende in Cordoba <sup>and obtain medical mans response to department's</sup> (whom he thought attended Laun) 2-0395, and ~~replied~~ <sup>quartz</sup> the task force

questions.

<sup>APAO</sup> 5) ~~Mr~~ Diggle then spoke with ~~AMB~~ <sup>Ambassador Hill</sup> ~~re~~ Press and TV ~~represent~~ people

pressing hard for information and for getting Mrs. EGAN on TV.

<sup>stated</sup> ~~Told~~ them he was doing all he could, <sup>to avoid this</sup> but ~~privately~~ <sup>Consul General</sup> ~~He and George~~

feel that it would be grave error, Mrs. EGAN still waiting for 7:00 pm.

<sup>as apparent result, she</sup> Now on ~~xx~~ pills! Feels courageous, likely to burble and babble; she <sup>she was in Cordoba</sup> might be asked why ~~they were~~ still there after what happened to

<sup>April 1st</sup> Laun) ~~then~~ ~~DANCO!~~ ~~AMB~~ said do everything ~~to~~ keep her off the tube. <sup>possible to avoid TV interview</sup> Diggle had nothing else to report.

Minist r Montllor spoke with Mr. Huey requesting a definite way to contact him at moment's notice. Advised Huey that Dept. plans "open line". Huey replied only way was hotel this morning and Mrs. Egan's

6 *Council General* *Federal Intervention.*  
in the pm. Huey also mentioned that LACABANNE was planning to  
*March 1. To visit his*  
go to San Francisco, ~~USA~~ on Saturday, ~~while he has~~ a child there.  
*In response to question*  
~~Montalvo~~ "despite the local situation," and Huey replied  
{ yes. }

Telecon (0810) 28 Feb 75 with Chuck Brown, Ambassador Holfacher's Assistant in Washington

Two suggestions to gain more time from the Montoneros in the proposed execution.

1. If Ambassador Hill gets <sup>any</sup> official information <sup>from the GOA.</sup> on the state of the prisoner, we should consider advising the GOA that they should publish <sup>the information. This would</sup> it to force the Montoneros to provide more information on the list of people. Hopefully this would give us more time while they provide more information. Stress fact that ~~we~~ <sup>GOA.</sup> do not know who these people are. That the gov't nor the police can identify them.

2. Advertise fact that the two men killed earlier in the week in Buenos Aires had false identity papers. Stress fact to Montoneros. Were the people they are demanding to have released (or surfaced) arrested in true name? Could they have been arrested under false docs thereby true names not known to officials. Hopefully these processes would give us more time while the Montoneros provide us with more information on the listed people.

*Both plays for more time.*

Mr. Rosenthal reported that as of 0615 today that the Ambassador had had no further word from the GOA.

Mr. Brown said that there was very little publicity on the kidnapping in the press in the States.

0100 -  
2/28/75

MEMORANDUM TO THE FILES:

FROM ED Rosenthal

SUBJECT: Security in Cordoba

1. In addition to the information in SITREP #11, <sup>(P)</sup> and from minor details about the kidnapping, the ~~subject~~ of lack of security was also discussed.
2. RSO Beckett stated that the agreement with the Ministry of Interior covered Cordoba and he had twice discussed this matter with Molina Salas. In the SY files there is a copy of the agreement covering the assignment of guards to Egan.
3. Beckett said he talked to Mrs. Egan this morning (in the presence of witnesses). Mrs. Egan said that when the guards absences were first noticed they (or she) talked to four different people in the provincial government of this. Beckett will bring their names. She discussed the matter with her husband, who said it was not a problem. Beckett told her that in accordance with instructions w she should have called the Embassy. She replied that her husband had said it was not necessary.
4. The Consul General stated that <sup>earlier tdy.</sup> as he and I had agreed/he had not raised the subject with the local authorities lest it somehow hender the whole operation, however, Inspector Para will call the Chief of Police on Feb 28 and make inquiries.

Sit rep has rest of Wla

# Task Force

AMB  
DCM  
CONS  
USIS  
SY

SA/N  
POL-R  
POL

on Fri

no guard for 3 days  
on Carnival sat. 7:15pm.

1 woman scarf

2 men ask for info  
5 min.

pull out guns "away"  
To bedroom left ether at  
face. Painted "Montoneros."

67 yrs old.

Comando Puro electrico.

Ran out back door  
over ledge to neighbor.

"Money" - "money" I'll  
give you all I have.

Please have ~~some~~<sup>body</sup>  
come up.

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : All Personnel

DATE: 2/27/75

FROM : Ed. Rosenthal



SUBJECT: Use of Telephone - Minimize

Given the problem with the phone system, all personnel are ~~in~~ requested to minimize outgoing telephone calls until such time as Mr. Egan status is clarified. It is important that Embassy lines be kept clear for incoming calls.

SA/N:ERosenthal:epb

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Rosenthal

DATE: Feb. 27, 1975

FROM : John DeWitt - PRESS *D*

SUBJECT: John Patrick Egan

February 27: at 1545 DeWitt and O'Brien spoke to Diggle at his hotel about various USIS matters. Diggle said there were no new developments in Córdoba.



From The Ambassador.  
To: Duty Officer on Kidnapp Case

Wednesday February 27, 1975 2330 hours

Any press inquiries should be answered as follows:

Concerning the reported kidnapping of the US consular agent in Cordoba,  
US Embassy officers

" The Embassy has sent appropriate/officers to cooperate with the the appropriate  
government of Argentina authorities in Cordoba concerning this matter. The Embassy  
has no further comment at this time."

20:50

Notes from telecon between Mr. George Huey, ConGen, Buenos Aires, and Mrs. Egan, Cordoba--

At 7:15 PM <sup>two</sup> ~~three~~ men and a woman arrived at the house and began asking questions about going to the States began asking for money, money, money. After about 5 minutes they pulled guns and wanted John. The woman wanted me and took me into the bedroom and even wanted our little maid.

They kept shouting for money.

I asked them please not to take my husband, that they could have anything they wanted, then they started throwing ether in my face. When I realized what was happening I put my head down and they must have thought I was out.

The men had taken my husband and I got up and ran out <sup>the back</sup> of the house to the neighbors to call police.

"Montonero" all over the house with spray paint. They painted ~~our house all over with "Montonero"~~

Federal police are all around and on top of the house but they had no guard for last three days despite repeated calls for one. Also did not have guard during Carnaval.

They just wanted John. They did not cut lights or telephone lines. Mrs. Egan offered everything they had but all they wanted was her husband.

Two ~~six~~ persons remained outside the house.

Mrs. Egan asked if someone would be arriving in Cordoba tomorrow. She hoped so. Mr. Huey said we were doing all we could here and that as soon as the Ambassador arrived at the Chancery we would proceed under his direction.

She kept begging for help.

Mr. Huey asked her if she could go ~~to~~ to the home of a neighbor or friend but she said she ~~is~~ could not as her father was coming and she had to be home since he was recovering from a cancer operation.

She apologized for breaking down. Then asked if she could go as the Police wanted to take her to look ~~at someone they had caught~~. She said she would never forget their faces.

*at my shots.*

TelCon with George Huey, Cordoba, 2/27/75 at 6:15 p.m.

Huey had just recently departed Interventor LACABANNE's office and was in office of Chief of Provincial Police at time of telcon. Lacabanne most cooperative, very subdued, very unhappy. A note was given to Huey by a source within Interventor's office just before leaving addressed to the Government from the Fuerzas Armadas Guerrillas citing four individuals:

  
Stanford G. Natalio Buenos Aires  
Luis Silva Buenos Aires  
Chango Diez Tucuman, taken by Army  
Pedro Medina " " " "

These four must be released before 1900 February 28, 1975, or EGAN will be killed, signed MONTONEROS.

Message was found in a Cordoba bar LA RECOBA at 1620 hours. this afternoon. Presume press was notified as to where to find it. Nothing more at the moment.

Interventor takes threat very seriously. Great problems, lots of mountains and backroads, but everything being done. Most unhappy with situation.

EBR asked following questions: Get EGAN's medical history, etc.

Letter that EGAN's sister had, where is it?

Reply: Boyle can get it in my safe.

Any official explanation re withdrawal of the guards.

Didn't want to press for answer, short period of time to get all cooperation, prefers to raise this question later.

Photos and Press interview by Mrs. EGAN:

Tell her to avoid making statements, etc. Did she identify three captors?

Reply:

Mrs. EGAN was to see police identikit man at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow to describe persons.

To whom have you spoken?

Reply:

Chief of Comisaria Delegacion  
Policial GRENATE

Interventor LACABANNE

Chief of Provincial Police ARGUELLO

Mrs. Egan

Further conversation with George Beckett:

Beckett did not open letter from sister. Montonero message was handwritten, but Huey/Beckett did not see it--info was given them by source in Interventor's office. They interpret that some media had been called to find the message. Governmental authorities have EmbOffs verbal information only.

EmbOffs saw Lacabanne at 5:00 p.m. and received information at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Telephone conversation with Art Diggle(Cordoba) 2-27-75 at 10:20 am

2) Mr. Diggle read an article from the newspaper PRINCIPIOS which appeared this a.m.: "A few hours after the event, a person identifying himself as a member of a ~~PRINCIPIOS~~ subscribed group got in touch with the newspaper PRINCIPIOS to say that the commandos Hugo Baretta and Hugo Figarello were ordered to carry out the abduction of the American Consul. The unidentified person added that EGAN would be released when the forces of repression make known the whereabouts of the six comrades who disappeared in Tucuman."

Mr. Huey requested that the group's various wives were kept informed of their safety, at least once a day. He ~~also~~ <sup>3) He</sup> stated ~~they were billeted~~ <sup>to be at</sup> in the Crillon Hotel, <sup>Cordoba</sup> (tel: 196-093) in the following rooms -

Art Diggle	Room 411
George Huey	" 412

4) <sup>Consul General</sup>

Huey is trying to set up appointment to see Governor this afternoon and then will broach subject of why there were no guards for the three days previously or during "Carnaval". Mrs. EGAN much better, less nervous, has family with her and her mother is expected to come down. She also mentioned how grateful she was for the group's presence and assistance, as well as her sister being permitted to fly to Cordoba with the group.

5) Mr. Huey also mentioned having seen various press people and asked for guidance in what to say. Ministr Montllor said, rather agreed with Mr. Huey's decision to remark there was no comment as yet, until after he sees the Governor and Provincial Police. The EmbOffs are trying to avoid the press people, but they were recognized and recognized themselves a member of the NBC television network, Tom <sup>Streithorst</sup> [redacted] at the hotel.

DCM"JJMontllor!cp

2-27-75

0810

Feb 27,

*Huey*

Notes from telecon between Mr. ~~Beckett~~, Mr. Diggle and Ed Rosenthal

Mr. ~~Beckett~~ <sup>*Huey*</sup> called from Federal Police Station - arrived Cordoba 0400 - met by "inadequate cars" - wasted hour at airport getting two more cars. They have no security. Drove to Egan's home about 0500AM. Mrs. Egan with two sisters - one was on aircraft with team. Stayed at Egan's home until 0630. Telephoned for appointment with Chief of Police-scheduled for 0700.

~~Beckett leaving Egan's~~. Had Federal Police car - Provincial Police disappeared. Federal Police Liaison Officer is Comisaria Principal Grinate.

*Each of guards at Egan residence Huey*  
Subject of ~~guards~~ has not been raised yet. Nothing but driver for security. Road blocks have proven negative. Trying to make appointment to pay courtesy call on Interventor thru police to explain situation.

*Investigation started*  
Telephone # for contact: Beckett & Diggle at Hotel Creon  
~~Current contact~~ Others at Hotel Plaza  
65600 Cordoba ~~(?)~~ - *Federal Police*

*Huey* Will call on Provincial Police Guittierez after appointment with Interventor. Federal Judge ~~is~~ Camboni Ledesma *has charge of case.*

Difficult to keep time schedule for telephones. *will call when he has something to report.*  
Attitude of ~~lady~~ - not hysterical; her father is with her with two sisters  
*Ms. Egan*

4 guards in front of house

Provincial Police arrive will talk with her at 0900.

0810 2/27/75

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Had Federal Police car - Provincial Police disappeared. Federal Police Liaison Officer is Comisaria Principal Grinate.

Subject of lack of guards at Egan residence has not been raised yet. Nothing but driver for security. Investigation started - road blocks have proven negative. Huey trying to make appointment to pay courtesy call on Interventor thru police to explain situation.

Telephone # for contact: Beckett & Diggle at Hotel Green *CR:llon*  
Others at Hotel Plaza

Current contact:  
65600 Cordoba - Federal Police

Huey will call on Provincial Police Guittierez after appointment with Interventor. Federal Judge Camboni Ledesma has charge of case.

Difficult to keep time schedule for telephones. Will call when he has something to report.

Attitude of Mrs. Egan - not hysterical; her father is with her with two sisters

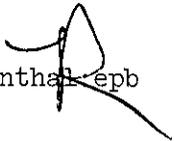
4 guards in front of house

Provincial Police will talk to her at 0900.

To The Files

2/27/75 0800

Telephone contact made with Military Duty Officer at Cordoba Airfield. Connection miserable. However, as understood, USDAO aircraft arrived Cordoba 0400 today. Both crew and Cordoba control team (Messrs. Huey, Beckett and Diggle) now resting Argentine Air Force Field. Plane has been refueled.

SA/N:ERosenthal epb

February 27. 1315

Phone Call from Mike O'Brien. Telam had just telephoned him and stated that the Monteneros are taking credit for the kidnapping by painting this notice "en todas partes" of Cordoba

EBR