

Declassified Case: NW 52969 Date:
0-22-2018

MONTONEROS

1977 MATERIAL



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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MCT

31 JAN 1977

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Coordinator
Deputy Coordinator
Assistant Coordinator
Intern

PAGE 01 BUENOS 00675 272136Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 OPR-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-08 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 AID-05 MCT-01 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04
SIL-01 /095 W

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R 271738Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8772
INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 0675

DEPT FOR ARA/ECA/PANAMA FOR RSS

F.O. 11552: N/A

TAGS: ASEC, AR

SUBJECT: MONTONERO ATTACK ON GOODYEAR HOUSE

1. FRED ADEN, GOODYEAR CO. GENERAL MANAGER IN ARGENTINA, REPORTED THE FOLLOWING TO THE RSO: ON THE EVENING 25 JAN 77 IN HURLINGHAM (BUENOS AIRES SUBURB), THE MONTONEROS SPRAYED THE VACANT HOUSE OF GOODYEAR'S PRODUCTION MANAGER WITH 9 MM SUBMACHINEGUN FIRE AND DETONATED A TYPE OF PIPE BOMB. THE MONTONEROS LEFT LEAFLETS AT THE HOUSE, THE GOODYEAR PLANT, AND IN THE TOWN OF HURLINGHAM VOICING SUPPORT FOR THE WORKERS IN THEIR STRUGGLES AGAINST THE CURRENT GOVT. THE PROPAGANDA DID NOT MENTION GOODYEAR SPECIFICALLY.

2. RSO COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST INCIDENT INVOLVING A MAJOR U.S. COMPANY SINCE THE SEPT.-DEC. 1976 INCIDENTS AT CHRYSLER. ADEN ADVISED THE RSO THAT THE COMPANY HAS BEEN EXPERIENCING LABOR PROBLEMS OF LATE AND FELT THE INCIDENT MAY BE CONNECTED TO THEM. POST WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR SITUATION TO SEE IF GOODYEAR HAS POSSIBLY BEEN TARGETED

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PAGE 02

BUENOS AIRES 272136Z

BY THE MONTONEROS,
HILL

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OCT - 6 1976

Montoneros Leader Escapes Police Raid

Reuter

BUENOS AIRES, Oct. 2—Mario Firmenich, leader of Argentina's Montoneros guerrilla movement, escaped from a police raid here that ended with the deaths of five of his men, sources close to the security forces said last night.

They said Firmenich slipped out of the besieged house last Wednesday shortly before a gun battle broke out between the guerrillas and members of the security forces.

An army communique said five top members of the Peronist guerrilla movement were killed and four were captured. Two security men were wounded.

- Coordinator
- ~~Deputy Coordinator~~
- ~~Assistant Coordinator~~
- Intern

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SEP 2 1975

Argentine Sabotage

BUENOS AIRES— Leftist guerrillas packed about 80 pounds of dynamite into a drainage ditch under an airport runway in Tucuman Thursday, then exploded it by cable from a nearby shanty as a plane load of border guards was taking off, unofficial sources said.

According to latest casualty figures, four of the 114 soldiers aboard the C-130 transport were killed and 25 were injured.

Anonymous phone calls to local reporters said the attack was the work of the Montoneros, a radical Peronist group that also took credit for an explosion that damaged a destroyer in La Plata last week.

~~Major
Deputy Coordinator
Staff Assistant
Intern~~

Coordinator
Deputy Coordinator
Staff Assistant
Intern

Montoneros

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

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Department of State

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PAGE 01
ACTION ARA-14

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BUENOS 09763 221649Z

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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HA-05 SY-05 MCT-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3849
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 5158

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 9763

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS SHUM, AR
SUBJECT MOTHERS GROUP DISAPPEARANCES : "MONTONERO" DOCUMENT
BECOMING INOPERATIVE

REF: BUENOS AIRES 9715

1. WE SEE EVIDENCE THAT THE "MONTONERO PLOY" DESCRIBED REFTEL IS TO BE TREATED NOW BY GOA AS AN "INOPERATIVE" EXPLANATION OF THE FRENCH NUNS' DISAPPEARANCE.
2. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT ON TUESDAY (12/20) THE PAPAL NUNCIO RECEIVED A FORMAL REPLY FROM THE PRESIDENTS OFFICE TO THE NUNCIO'S EARLIER INQUIRY REGARDING THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE MISSING NUNS. THE HAND DELIVERED RESPONSE (WE WERE NOT TOLD WHO SIGNED), REITERATED THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERN REGARDING THE NUNS DISAPPEARANCE AND PROMISED THAT EFFORTS WERE UNDER WAY TO LOCATE THEM. NO MENTION WAS MADE OF MONTONERO INVOLVEMENT, THOUGH THE LETTER WAS DELIVERED THREE DAYS AFTER THE FIRST CORPS COMMUNIQUE.
3. THE PAPAL NUNCIO, MSGR. PIO LAGHI, CALLED ON TUESDAY AFTERNOON ON FOREIGN MINISTER MONTES. THE NUNCIO, REPORTEDLY, GEGAN HIS CONVERSATION BY STRONGLY QUESTIONING THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE "MONTONERO" LETTER WHICH MONTES DID NOT REBUT. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING THE NUNCIO STATED THAT HE COULD NOT SEND A REPORT TO ROME, ASSERTING THAT THE MONTONEROS WERE HOLDING THE NUNS FOR RANSOM, BASED ON NEWS STORIES; HE HAD TO RECEIVE AN OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION REGARDING THAT EVEN FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. ADMIRAL MONTES DID NOT AFFIRM HIS INTENTION TO SEND A NOTE.
4. WEDNESDAY'S (12/21) ARMY CONTROLLED DAILY LA OPINION FRONT PAGED A STORY THAT MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR HARGUINDEGUY HAD TOLD THE VISITING REPRESENTATIVE (A MR GADOT) OF MR EDGARD FAURE, PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH HOUSE OF DEPUTIES, THAT HE WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT THE KIDNAPPING OF THE FRENCH NUNS WOULD HAV A "HAPPY ENDING." AGAIN A HIGH OFFICIAL SEEMS TO HAVE DENIED HIMSELF AN OPPORTUNITY TO CITE MONTONERO INVOLVEMENT.
5. OTHER EMBASSY CONTACTS -- INCLUDING ESPECHE GIL AT THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTRY'S NORTH AMERICAN DESK AND RICARDO YOFRE, SENIOR CIVILIAN AT THE PRESIDENCY, HAVE SIMPLY CLAIMED UP WHEN WE RAISED THE RECENT ABDUCTIONS, RATHER THAN TAKING GOA OFF THE HOOK BY REPEATING THE FIRST CORPS' ALLEGATION.
6. MEANWHILE THE FRENCH EMBASSY HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN POINTING OUT A DISCREPANCY BETWEEN KIDNAPPED SISTER ALICIA'S LETTER AND THE MONTONERO'S DOCUMENT, BOTH OF WHICH WERE DELIVERED TO AGENCE FRANCE PRESS ON DECEMBER 17. SISTER ALICIA'S

LETTER STATES THAT SHE IS BEING HELD BY A DISSIDENT GROUP OF THE GOVERNMENT -- "UNGRUPE DISCIDANT AU GOUVERNEMENT ACTUEL". EMBASSY OFFICIALS POINT OUT THAT THIS IS NOT A DEFINITION THAT WOULD PRECISELY FIT THE MONTONEROS. IN ADDITION, THE SYNTAX OF THE FRENCH AND THE SUBSEQUENT USE OF THE WORD "AQUI" ALONGSIDE THE FRENCH WORD "ICI" INDICATE TO FRENCH EMBASSY OFFICIALS THAT THE SISTER TRANSLATED THE LETTER INTO FRENCH FROM A SPANISH ORIGINAL.

7. COMMENT: WE ARE ENCOURAGED THAT THE CONSIDERED REACTION HERE BY THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN TO IGNORE THE "MONTONERO LETTER. IF BY TACIT UNDERSTANDING THE MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUE TO REGARD THE MONTONERO LETTER AS "INOPERATIVE", IT WILL ENHANCE THE CHANCES OF LOCATING AND RELEASING OF THE DISAPPEARED NUNS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE MOTHER'S OF THE PLAZA DE MAYO.
CASTRO

Montoneros

Declassified Case: 174- 82363 Date: 10-22-2013

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• Seven persons connected with David Gravier, Argentine banker who reportedly administered the finances of the Montonero terrorist group, were sentenced in Buenos Aires to prison terms ranging from four to 15 years.

Montoneros

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ACTION ARA-14

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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R 251227Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8723
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

DEMOCRACY IN ARGENTINA. HE EMPHASIZED THAT MONTONEROS HAVE NOT AND WILL NEVER UNDERTAKE ARMED ACTIONS OUTSIDE ARGENTINA; THAT THEY HAVE NOT AND WILL NEVER HAVE CONTACTS WITH TERRORIST GROUPS IN EUROPE OR ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD. THE MONTONEROS ARE NOW OFFERING A PLAN OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AND ARE INVITING OPPOSITION FORCES TO JOIN IN A "FRONT OF NATIONAL LIBERATION". ACCORDING TO SPOKESMAN, SINCE APRIL A NUMBER OF ARGENTINE POLITICIANS OF DIVERSE POLITICAL ORIENTATION HAVE JOINED MONTONEROS INCLUDING HECTOR MARTINEZ BORELLI, FORMER SECRETARY OF THE ARGENTINE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY. NO ANSWER HAS AS YET BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE ARGENTINE COMMUNIST PARTY TO THE MONTONEROS' INVITATION TO UNITE FORCES. RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY ARMY OF ARGENTINA ARE "FRATERNAL" DESPITE DIFFERENCES OVER OBJECTIVES AND METHODS OF STRUGGLE. GARDNER

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ ROME 19304

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: MONTONEROS ACTIVITIES

REF: STATE 254716

Montoneros

Declassified Case: 100-82963 Date: 10-22-2013

1. SUMMARY: REPRESENTATIVES OF MONTONEROS HELD LLESS CONFERENCE IN ROME NOV. 22 DURING WHICH THEY SPOKE OF UTILITY OF FORTHCOMING WORLD FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP FOR THEIR CAUSE, DISCUSSED POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION IN ARGENTINA, EXPLAINED THEIR STRATEGY, DENIED CONNECTIONS WITH FOREIGN TERRORIST GROUPS, AND DENOUNCED CURRENT MILITARY REGIME IN ARGENTINA. END-SUMMARY.

2. REPRESENTATIVES OF MONTONEROS, LED BY "VICE-COMMANDER" VACA NARVAJA, HELD PRESS CONFERENCE ON OUTSKIRTS OF ROME NOV. 22. JOURNALISTS COVERING CONFERENCE WERE INVITED TO AN OFFICE IN ROME, HAD THEIR CREDENTIALS CHECKED, AND WERE TRANSFERRED BY BUS TO MORE REMOTE HALL FOR "SECURITY REASONS". IN ADDITION TO MEMBERS OF MONTONEROS "HIGH COUNCIL", SEVERAL LEFTWING ITALIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS PARTICIPATED IN PRESS CONFERENCE. ITEMS COVERED WERE FOLLOWING:

3. WORLD FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS: MONTONEROS SPOKESMAN DESCRIBED WORLD FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP TO BE HELD IN BUENOS AIRES IN 1978 AS OPPORTUNITY FOR OPPOSITION GROUPS BECAUSE JOURNALISTS COVERING GAMES WOULD SEE TRUE NATURE OF RULING MILITARY JUNTA. AT TIME OF SCHEDULING, MEMBERS OF JUNTA HAD EXPECTED THAT ALL OPPOSITION WOULD BE CRUSHED BY TIME GAMES TOOK PLACE. NOW, THEY ARE SEARCHING FOR PRETEXT TO CANCEL THEM AND ARE ALREADY DRAWING UP LISTS OF "UNDESIRABLE" JOURNALISTS WHO WILL BE DENIED VISAS.

3. SITUATION IN ARGENTINA: SPOKESMAN DESCRIBED SITUATION IN ARGENTINA AS CRITICAL, CLAIMING THAT UNDER CURRENT REGIME 8,000 HAVE DIED, 5,000 DISAPPEARED AND 10,000 UNDER ARREST. INFLATION IS RUINING AT RATE OF 170 PERCENT; 2,000 SMALL ENTERPRISES HAVE BEEN RUINED, AND PLANS ARE TO DISMISS HALF A MILLION WORKERS IN 1978. MONTONEROS CLAIM TO HAVE CARRIED OUT 300 "MILITARY ACTIONS" DURING FIRST HALF OF 1977. THERE HAVE BEEN STRIKES IN ALL INDUSTRIAL SECTORS INCLUDING A RAILWAY STRIKE WHICH HAS SEVERELY AFFECTED ALL TRANSPORT SERVICES, ESPECIALLY IN BUENOS AIRES. IN RESPONSE, THE JUNTA HAS TRIED TO REPRESS OPPONENTS THROUGH SHOOTINGS, ARREST, AND TORTURE. WORKERS HAVE ALLEGEDLY BEEN FIRED FOR "SUBVERSIVE STRIKES OR OTHER UNION ACTION.

4. MONTONEROS STRATEGY: SPOKESMAN SAID THAT MONTONEROS HAVE HAD TO CARRY OUT AN ARMED STRUGGLE BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF ANY

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Department of State

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

PAGE 01 STATE 272206
ORIGIN AF-10

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 MCT-01 SS-15 INR-07 SY-05
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APPROVED BY AF/E: RPOST
ARA/ECA: JBUMPUS
M/CT: JEKARKASHIAN

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INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, TZ, US, AR

SUBJECT: MONTONEROS' REQUEST TO OPEN OFFICE IN TANZANIA

1. TANZANIAN EMBASSY OFFICIAL HERE CALLED ON DESK OFFICER NOVEMBER 10 TO REPORT THAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BY HIS GOVERNMENT TO GET A READING ON THE ARGENTINE GUERRILLA MOVEMENT, MONTONEROS. OFFICIAL CLAIMED THAT MONTONEROS' REPS HAD CONTACTED PARTY IN DAR AND ASKED TO OPEN AN OFFICE THERE. EMBASSY OFFICIAL HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO REPORT US REACTION ON POSSIBLE OPENING OF OFFICE.
2. BOTH EMBASSY HERE AND MFA IN DAR WERE UNHAPPY THAT THE PARTY HAD BEGUN CONTACTS WITH THE MONTONEROS. THEY FEAR FOR TANZANIA'S INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION: TANZANIA WOULD OF COURSE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT BLACK LIBERATION GROUPS IN THEIR STRUGGLES AGAINST THE MINORITY WHITE REGIMES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, BUT TANZANIA DID NOT CARE TO BECOME A HAVEN FOR VARIOUS RADICAL TERRORIST GROUPS "AS LIBYA HAS DONE."
3. TANZANIA DESK OFFICER CONTACTED ARGENTINE DESK AND ON NOVEMBER 11 PASSED UNCLASSIFIED MATERIALS TO THE TANZANIAN EMBASSY REGARDING THE MONTONEROS. HE ALSO STATED THAT THE US CURRENTLY ENJOYS NORMAL RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA AND REGARDED MONTONEROS AS A RADICAL TERRORIST GROUP. EMBASSY OFFICIAL EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE FOR OUR OPINION AND STATED THAT HE EXPECTED TANZANIA WOULD NOT PERMIT SUCH AN OFFICETO OPEN.
4. EMBASSY OFFICIAL STRESSED THAT CONTACTS WITH DEPARTMENT MUST REMAIN IN STRICT CONFIDENCE. HE ALSO STATED THAT BOTH THE EMBASSY AND THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD DETERMINED THAT TANZANIA SHOULD NOT MAKE ANY DECISIONS WHICH MIGHT HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON ITS CURRENT EXCELLENT RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US. VANCE

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
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INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY MADRID

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 4262

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, AR, SW
SUBJECT: MONTONEROS LEADER VISITS SWEDEN

REF: STOCKHOLM 4214 (NOTAL)

1. MONTONEROS GUERRILLA LEADER MARIO FIRMENICH MET WITH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN OLOF PALME ON OCTOBER 4 TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION IN ARGENTINA. THE MEETING WAS ARRANGED ON THE EVE OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN MADRID, WHERE THE ARGENTINE SITUATION WILL BE ON THE AGENDA. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, FIRMENICH ALSO HAD THE SPECIFIC GOAL OF ENLISTING SUPPORT FOR FORMER ARGENTINE PRESIDENT HECTOR CAMPORA, WHO HAS BEEN STAYING AT THE MEXICAN EMBASSY IN BUENOS AIRES FOR ONE-AND-A-HALF YEARS AWAITING PERMISSION TO DEPART FOR MEXICO. PALME STATED THAT THE SWEDISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WOULD SEND TELEGRAMS TO THE UN AND THE ARGENTINE REGIME URGING RESOLUTION OF THIS CASE. HE SAID OTHER SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATIONS WERE DOING THE SAME AND WAS OPTIMISTIC OVER CHANCES OF INFLUENCING ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT IN THIS MATTER.
2. REGARDING DAGEMAR HAGELIN CASE (REFTEL), FIRMENICH SAID HE WAS ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN SHE WAS NOT A MEMBER OF ANY GUERRILLA ORGANIZATION, POINTING OUT THAT THOUSANDS OF ARGENTINIANS WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED WERE NOT INVOLVED IN POLITICS. DISCUSSING NEXT YEAR'S PLANNED WORLD FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP IN ARGENTINA, HE STATED THE HOPE THAT GAMES WOULD BE TRANSFORMED INTO A "PLATFORM AGAINST THE DICTATORSHIP," WHILE EXPRESSING HIS UNDERSTANDING WITH THOSE WHO DECIDE TO BOYCOTT THE SERIES AS A SIGN OF SOLIDARITY.
3. FIRMENICH STATED HIS ORGANIZATION DOES NOT INTEND TO CRUSH THE MILITARY REGIME IN A MIGHTY BLOW OR THROUGH CLASSIC GUERRILLA "LIBERATION" TACTICS. INSTEAD, IT INTENDS TO CONCENTRATE STRIKES ON THE REGIME AT ITS WEAK POINTS IN ORDER TO "TIRE, WEAR OUT AND SPLIT" ITS MEMBERS.
KENNEDY-MINOTT

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Department of State

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

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ORIGIN ARA-14

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INFO OCT-01 10-13 ISO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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APPROVED BY ARA/ECA: RWZIMMERMANN
IO/HR: WHEWITT (PHONE)
INR/RAR: JBUCHANAN (PHONE)
M/CT: JJOHNSON (PHONE)

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
USMISSION GENEVA

Montoneros

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ STATE 224833

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AR, PINT, SHUM, PINS

SUBJECT: PERONIST-MONTONERO MOVEMENT CONVERSATION WITH US

CHURCH LEADER
REF: USUN 2979

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATED REFTEL INFORMATION.
2. WE DO NOT WISH TO ENCOURAGE ANY CONTACT WITH THE MONTONEROS. HOWEVER, BECAUSE IT IS A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION THAT HAS OPENLY ADVOCATED, AND VERY OFTEN ENGAGED IN, ASSASSINATIONS, KIDNAPPINGS AND OTHER ACTS OF VIOLENCE SINCE THE EARLY 1970S TO FURTHER THEIR POLITICAL OBJECTIVES. VANCE

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Department of State

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INFO OCT-01 10-13 ISO-00 DHA-05 MCT-01 PH-05 NSC-05
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RULE IN ARGENTINA, TO WORK FOR THE "POLITICAL SOVEREIGNTY,
ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE" OF ARGENTINA,
AND THE PACIFICATION OF THE COUNTRY AND THE RETURN
TO DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT. THE MPM LEADERS INSISTED
REPEATEDLY TO THOMPSON THAT THEY FAVOR FREE ELECTIONS, THAT
THEY RECOGNIZE THAT ALL POLITICAL PARTIES MUST BE FREE
TO PARTICIPATE, AND THAT THEY ARE ONLY ONE (THOUGH THEY
FEEL THEY ARE THE LARGEST) OF THE PARTIES. THEY TOLD
THOMPSON THEY FEEL THAT THE YSG DOES NOT UNDERSTAND THEM
THIS WAY, WHILE THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS--TO WHOM THEY
EVIDENTLY FEEL CLOSE--DO. THEY INSISTED THAT "THERE
IS NO MILITARY SOLUTION TO ARGENTINA'S PROBLEMS; FREE
ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRACY ARE THE ONLY SOLUTIONS." THEY
DENIED WANTING TO DESTROY THE ARGENTINE ARMY, BUT SAID
THEY HAD TRIED SEVERAL TIMES, INCLUDING THROUGH THE
GOOD OFFICES OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, TO
DIALOGUE WITH THE ARMY, BUT HAD BEEN REBUFFED.
IN SPITE OF THIS, THEY CLAIM THAT THERE ARE "MANY
OFFICERS, ESPECIALLY JUNIOR OFFICERS" WHO DISAGREE
WITH THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES, AND MAINTAIN
CONTACT WITH THEM.

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INFO ANEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
USMISSION GENEVA

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 2979

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AR, PINT, SHUM, PINS
SUBJECT: PERONIST-MONTONERO MOVEMENT CONVERSATION WITH US
CHURCH LEADER

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF
U.S. REPORTS TWO LONG, "INFORMAL, NON-OFFICIAL, PRIVATE"
CONVERSATIONS, WITH KEY LEADERS OF MONTONERO PERONIST
MOVEMENT (MRM). LEADERS CLAIM INTEREST IN OPENING
DIALOGUE WITH USG, INSIST ON THEIR WILLINGNESS AND CAPACITY
TO CEASE ARMED STRUGGLE ONCE FREE ELECTIONS AND OTHER
CONDITIONS ARE MET AND PROFESS BELIEF IN MULTI-PARTY
SYSTEM. END SUMMARY.

2. WILLIAM THOMPSON, STATED CLERK OF THE UNITED PRES-
BYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE USA, AND PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL
COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF THE U.S.A., CONTACTED MISOFF
(AN OLD FRIEND) AND MET WITH MISOFF ON SEPTEMBER 8
AT FORMER'S REQUEST. HE INFORMED MISOFF OF HIS IMPRESSIONS
AND SUMMARY OF TWO MEETINGS THAT HE HAD IN GENEVA ON AUGUST
6 AND 7 OF THIS YEAR WITH THREE LEADERS OF THE MPM:
JUAN GELMAN, FERNANDO VACA NARVAJA, AND OSCAR RAUL
BIDEGAIN (OFFICIAL MPM BIO SKETCHES OF THREE CONTAINED
IN PAMPHLET POUCHED TO SCHIELE 10P SEPTEMBER 8:
"RESISTER C'EST VINCERE: MOUVEMENT PERONISTE MONTONERO.")
THOMPSON ASKED THAT, INsofar AS POSSIBLE, THE FACT OF
THESE MEETINGS AND THE NAMES OF THE PARTICIPANTS
BE PROTECTED. ALSO PARTICIPATING IN THE MEETINGS, AND
THE KEY INTERMEDIARY, WAS THE REV. CHARLES HARPER,
(AMCIT, PRESBYTERIAN MINISTER) AN OFFICIAL OF THE WORLD
COUNCIL OF CHURCHES.

3. THERE THREE MEMBERS OF THE MPM ARE MEMBERS OF THE
"SUPERIOR COMMAND" OF THAT PARTY, WHICH THEY CLAIM TO BE
THE RESULT OF THE MERGER OF THE "AUTHENTIC PERONIST PARTY"
AND THE MONTONEROS, AND WHOSE AIMS ARE SET FORTH IN THE
PAMPHLET MENTIONED ABOVE, REFERRED TO AS THE "ROME
DECLARATION". GELMAN AND BIDEGAIN ARE EXILES, AND
EVIDENTLY NARVAJA LIVES MOST OF THE TIME CLANDESTINELY
IN ARGENTINA. HE WAS INTRODUCED TO THOMPSON AS "SECOND
IN COMMAND OF THE MONTONERO ARMY, AND SECRETARY FOR
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF THE SUPREME COMMAND." THE
THREE CLAIMED TO BE SPEAKING INFORMALLY WITHIN THE GUIDE-
LINES OF THE SUPREME COMMAND.

4. THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE MEETING IT APPEARS FROM
THOMPSON'S REPORT WAS TO PROBE FOR MORE CONTACTS WITH
THE USG, TO OFFER MPM'S VIEW OF THE PROCESS OF TRANS-
ITION TO DEMOCRATIC RULE AND TO SUGGEST POLICIES
AND ACTIONS TO THE USG THAT COULD PROMOTE THIS PROCESS.
THE MPM IS NOT, ACCORDING TO THE THREE A "CLASSIC
GUERRILLA MOVEMENT", BUT RATHER A PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT
THAT HAS RESORTED TO VIOLENCE ONLY AS A MEANS OF
SELF-DEFENSE AND BECAUSE ALL OTHER MEANS OF POLITICAL
ACTIVITY WERE BANNED. THE AIMS OF THE MPM ARE:
TO GATHER TOGETHER ALL THE OPPOSITION TO MILITARY

5. THEY CRITICIZED THE IMMEDIATE PREVIOUS US AMBASSADOR
AND AMBASSADOR BRADEN AS FAVORING A POLICY OF PATIENCE
WITH AUTHORITARIAN RULE, AND EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT
PRESIDENT CARTER'S SPEECHES DURING THE CAMPAIGN AND
SINCE THE ELECTION, AS WELL AS THE PLATFORM OF THE
DEMOCRATIC PARTY, ALL SEEM TO THEM TO INDICATE A NEW
POLICY. THE ESPECIALLY NOTED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD
CALLED FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PEOPLE IN
THE FOREIGN POLICY PROCESS, AND THAT DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN
POLICY SHOULD BE RELATED. IF THIS WERE SO, THEY CLAIMED,
THE USG COULD SPEED UP THE PROCESS OF RE-DEMOCRATIZING
ARGENTINA. BUT THEY EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT THE "OLD POLICY"
OF "GIVING MORE TIME TO THE JUHTA" WAS REALLY COMPLETELY
REVERSED, AND EXPRESSED AN EAGERNESS TO BE A PART OF
SOME DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING WHAT US POLICY TOWARDS
ARGENTINA SHOULD BE.

*JK
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13 SEP 1977

Montoneros

Declassified Case: LW- 82363 Date:
03-22-2012

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Department of State

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA-14

2608

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-05 MCT-01 PM-05 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 L-03
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5300
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
USMISSION GENEVA

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 2 OF 2 USUN 2979

6. WHEN THOMPSON ASKED WHAT SPECIFICALLY US SHOULD DO, THEY REPLIED THAT US SHOULD MOVE TOWARDS ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AS WELL AS CUT-OFFS OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE. THEY ALSO SAID THAT US NEEDS A CONSISTENT POLICY TOWARDS ALL DICTATORS, AND MENTIONED THAT THE US WAS MORE FOCUSED ON CHILE, IN THEIR OPINION, THAN ON ARGENTINA.
7. WHEN THOMPSON ASKED IF THEY WOULD CEASE GUERRILLA ACTIVITY IF THEIR CONDITIONS (SPELLED OUT IN THE AMPHLET) WERE MET, THEY RESPONDED, YES. WHEN ASKED IF THEY WERE ABLE TO ENFORCE THIS, THEY SAID YES, BUT THEY COULD NOT SPEAK FOR THE ERP, WITH WHOM THEY DO NOT YET HAVE "A TOTAL POLITICAL AGREEMENT." THEY ALSO SAID THEY DOUBTED THAT THE PRESENT MEMBERS OF THE JUNTA WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE, AND THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE REPLACED BY THE MILITARY WITH OTHER MILITARY LEADERS BEFORE DIALOGUES COULD GET VERY FAR.
8. AS AN IMPORTANT ITEM THEY SUGGESTED THAT THE US SHOULD INCREASE PUBLIC PRESSURE FOR THE RELEASE OF FORMER PRESIDENT CAMPORA, WHICH THEY BELIEVE WOULD BE A GREAT STEP FORWARD TO CREATING A CLIMATE IN WHICH SOME SORT OF CIVILIAN-DOMINATED TRANSITION PROCESS COULD PROCEED.
9. THE THREE MPM LEADERS EMPHASIZED THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO CONTACT WITH RESPONSIBLE USG OFFICIALS, " ANY PLACE IN THE WORLD, ANY TIME," AND SAID THEY WOULD COME TO THE US IF INVITED." THEY WOULD LIKE THE FIRST MEETINGS TO BE RELATIVELY SECRET, THEY SAID.
10. THOMPSON OFFERED THE OPINION THAT THE THREE WERE SINCERE AND DEVOTED TO THEIR CAUSE. MAYBE THEY EXAGGERATE SOME TIME THEIR PARTY'S STRENGTH AND UNITY, BUT I WAS IMPRESSED WITH THEM AS MEN AND AS LEADERS". THOMPSON VOLUNTEERED TO MEET FOR A LONGER BRIEFING ON THESE CONVERSATIONS WITH OFFICIALS IN THE DEPARTMENT AT A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME, IF THERE IS INTEREST. (HE TRAVELS FREQUENTLY TO WASHINGTON.)
11. COMMENT: CHARLES HARPER IN GENEVA IS PROBABLY MUCH MORE KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT ARGENTINE AFFAIRS, AND MUCH CLOSER TO THE MPM, IF FURTHER CONTACTS WITH MPM ARE DESIRED. HE IS CLOSE TO THOMPSON. END COMMENT.
LEONARD

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

AUGUST 31, 1977

80D64
8014655
MCT Montoneros

Going Out With a Bang

A violent explosion which occurred in Buenos Aires on 25 August was caused by disillusioned Montoneros blowing up their weapons and supplies, according to the Argentine police. Leaflets found at the scene of the early morning blast stated that because the Montonero leadership had fled the country some of the remaining members had decided to abandon the struggle and destroy their armaments. The police were not able to apprehend those responsible for the explosion.

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MONTONEROS

1975 MATERIAL

MONTONEROS.

1976 MATERIAL

~~SECRET~~ (When Filled In)

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BY 14655

● ROUTINE
IN 133361

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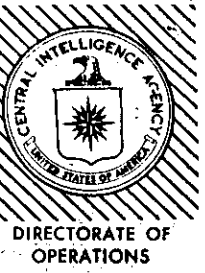
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CITE [Redacted]

DIST 17 DECEMBER 1976

REPORT CLASS ~~SECRET~~-WARNING NOTICE-SENSITIVE
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COUNTRY: ARGENTINA

✓ Coordinator
Deputy Coordinator
Assistant Coordinator
Intern

SUBJECT: CREATION OF THE MONTONERO PARTY ON 17 OCTOBER 1976; RECENT TERRORIST INCIDENTS

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MONTONERO

DOCUMENT "EL MONTONERO", NUMBER 12, DATED 17 OCTOBER 1976.
THE MONTONERO DOCUMENT STATES THAT THE "MONTONERO PARTY"

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o (classification)

WAS OFFICIALLY FOUNDED 17 OCTOBER 1976, PERONIST "LOYALTY DAY", AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PARTY IS MARIO F I R M E N I C H. THE PARTY IS TO BE THE CHANNEL FOR THE POLITICAL EXPRESSION OF THE MONTONEROS' CONCEPT OF PERONISM, AS WELL AS THE FOCAL POINT FOR THE CREATION OF THE NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT (MLN) TO BE COMPRISED OF ALL ARGENTINE SECTORS WHICH ARE SEEKING A SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT. WHILE THE MONTONERO PARTY AND THE MONTONERO MOVEMENT ARE TO REPRESENT THE POLITICAL ELEMENT OF THE MONTONEROS, THE MONTONERO ARYM AND THE POPULAR MILITIAS ARE TO SERVE AS THE MONTONEROS' MILITARY ORGANIZATION. THE MONTONEROS POINT OUT THAT WHAT WAS FORMALLY KNOWN AS "PERONIST RESISTANCE" IS NOW REFERRED TO AS "MONTONERO RESISTANCE".

2. THE DOCUMENT STATES THAT ONCE THE POPULAR LIBERATION IS ACHIEVED IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO CONVERT THE SOCIETY IMMEDIATELY FROM A CAPITALIST SYSTEM TO SOCIALISM AS THIS WOULD RESULT IN ECONOMIC CHAOS. A TRANSITION PERIOD WILL THEREFORE BE REQUIRED, AND THE MONTONERO DOCUMENT LISTS TWENTY-SIX STEPS WHICH WILL BE TAKEN DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD. THE G-2 IN SYNTHESIZING THE

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DOCUMENT ONLY MENTIONS ITEM NUMBER NINETEEN WHICH REFERS TO THE ARMED FORCES AND STATES THE FOLLOWING: "WE WILL TRANSFORM THE PRESENT ARMED FORCES INTO THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PEOPLE WHICH WILL SERVE TO DEFEND THE POPULAR REVOLUTION. WE WILL ELIMINATE THE PRESENT DIFFERENCES OF SOCIAL CLASS WHICH PRESENTLY EXIST BETWEEN THE TOP MILITARY OFFICIALS, SUB-OFFICIALS AND THE TROOPS. THOSE NOW IN THE ARMED FORCES WHO ARE NOT GUILTY OF CRIMES AGAINST THE PEOPLE OR OF TORTURE WILL BE ABLE TO SERVE WITH THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PEOPLE." THE MONTONERO DOCUMENT IS SIGNED "FIRMENICH, MENDIZABAL AND VACA NARVAJA".  COMMENT: THE LATTER TWO ARE PROBABLY HORACIO M E N D I Z A B A L AND FERNANDO V A C A N A R V A J A.)

E025x1

3.  VARIOUS TERRORIST INCIDENTS WHICH HAVE RECENTLY OCCURRED BY UNKNOWN PERPETRATORS. SOME OF THE INCIDENTS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL ARE THE FOLLOWING:

A. ON 21 NOVEMBER A BOMB WAS FOUND AT ONE OF THE SIDE ENTRANCES OF THE COLON THEATER. WHILE BEING

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DETONATED BY THE SECURITY FORCES AN INDIVIDUAL WAS INJURED.

B. ON 23 NOVEMBER THE CHIEF OF REPAIR SERVICES FOR THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENTERPRISE (ENTEL) WAS SHOT AT BY AN UNKNOWN GROUP AND WAS SERIOUSLY WOUNDED.

C. ON 25 NOVEMBER TWENTY-EIGHT CENTRAL TELEPHONE CABLES WERE CUT.

D. ON 26 NOVEMBER A GROUP IN A PASSING CAR SHOT AT THE FEDERAL POLICE SUPERIOR SCHOOL.

E. ON 29 NOVEMBER A BOMB FOUND AT A FIAT AGENCY WAS DETONATED BY THE SECURITY FORCES.

F. ON 24 NOVEMBER A BOMB FOUND AT THE HOME OF A POLICE OFFICIAL WAS DETONATED BY SECURITY OFFICIALS.

G. ON 24 NOVEMBER TWO TUBES EACH CONTAINING 500 GRAMS OF GUNPOWDER WERE FOUND IN THE DOWNTOWN SHOPPING AREA.

H. ON 22 NOVEMBER A BOMB WAS DETONATED BY THE SECURITY FORCES WHICH HAD BEEN FOUND AT THE HOME OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE POSTAL SERVICE AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS.



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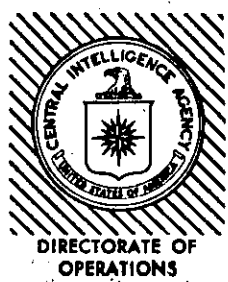
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DIST 11 NOVEMBER 1976

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[Redacted]

Coordinator
~~Deputy Coordinator~~
~~Assistant Coordinator~~
~~Intern~~

COUNTRY: ARGENTINA

[Redacted]

SUBJECT: OBJECTIVES OF THE MONTONEROS IN THEIR TERRORIST CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE ECONOMIC SECTOR

EO25x1

[Large redacted area]

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE MONTONEROS IN THEIR CURRENT FOURTH MILITARY CAMPAIGN WITH

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RESPECT TO THE ECONOMIC SECTOR ARE THE FOLLOWING: (1) SABOTAGE THE AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY; (2) SABOTAGE THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY; (3) SABOTAGE THE ADMINISTRATIVE APPARATUS OF THE GOVERNMENT; (4) ENGAGE IN "RECOVERY" OPERATIONS TO OBTAIN WEAPONS AND SUPPLIES; (5) CARRY OUT PROPAGANDA ACTIONS DIRECTED AT THE BUSINESS/LABOR SECTOR.

2. THE MONTONEROS STATE THAT SABOTAGE IS TO CONSTITUTE THE CENTRAL ASPECT OF THE MILITARY CAMPAIGN IN THE ECONOMIC AREA. ACCORDING TO THE MONTONEROS, SABOTAGE OPERATIONS PRESENT THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO STRIKE BLOWS AT THE ENEMY AND CAN BE CARRIED OUT BY AN INSIDER IN A CALNDESTINE MANNER WITH A MINIMUM OF RISK. IN THE VIEW OF THE MONTONEROS, SABOTAGE OPERATIONS ARE ADVANTAGEOUS FROM A POLITICAL STANDPOINT AS THEY HELP PROVIDE PUBLIC PROOF THAT CONTRARY TO THE GOVERNMENT'S ASSERTION, THERE STILL EXISTS A VIABLE AND POTENT OPPOSITION MOVEMENT. ECONOMICALLY, SABOTAGE OPERATIONS ARE BENEFICIAL BECAUSE THEY STRIKE DIRECTLY AT THE ENEMY'S INTERESTS. MILITARILY, SABOTAGE OPERATIONS FORCE THE ENEMY TO DISPERSE THEIR TROOPS AND THUS WEAKEN THEIR POSITION. FURTHERMORE, THE MONTONEROS NOTE

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THAT AS THE COUNTERSUBVERSIVE CAMPAIGN CONTINUES THE MILITARY AND POLICE HAVE TO MAINTAIN THEIR RECRUITMENT WHICH ALLOWS THE MONTONEROS GREATER OPPORTUNITY FOR INFILTRATING THESE SECTORS.

3.  THAT WITH RESPECT

E025x1

TO THE SABOTAGE OF LARGE INDUSTRIES, THE PRINCIPAL TARGETS SHOULD BE MONOPOLISTIC ENTERPRISES WHICH HAVE BEEN DISMISSING OR SUSPENDING WORKERS WITHOUT PAYING WAGES. THE SABOTAGE ACTS THEMSELVES SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT WITH PRIMARILY THREE OBJECTIVES IN MIND. (1) DESTROYING GOODS PRODUCED, SUCH AS STOCK ON HAND; (2) SLOWING DOWN OVERALL PRODUCTION; (3) CAUSING SERIOUS DAMAGE TO THE FINAL STAGES OF PRODUCTION, INCLUDING RETAIL ASPECTS. THE MONTONEROS CAUTION AGAINST SABOTAGE OPERATIONS AT EARLIER PHASES OF PRODUCTION TO AVOID PUTTING PEOPLE OUT OF WORK WHO ARE EMPLOYED AT LATER PRODUCTION STAGES.

4. IN SABOTAGING THE ADMINISTRATIVE APPARATUS OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE MONTONEROS STRESS THAT THE TARGETS SHOULD BE COMPUTERS, FILES, RECORDS, ETC. WHICH WILL CAUSE MATERIAL DAMAGE YET WILL NOT HARM EMPLOYEES OR ALIENATE

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THE POPULATION. "RECOVERY" OPERATIONS SHOULD BE DESIGNED TO OBTAIN A LARGE SUPPLY OF WEAPONS AND SUPPLIES AT ONE TIME, AND PROPAGANDA ACTIONS SHOULD BE RELATIVELY EASY AND LOW RISK OPERATIONS ENTAILING A MINIMUM OF TECHNICAL AND MILITARY INSTRUCTION FOR THE PARTICIPANTS INVOLVED.

5.



THE MONTONERO PLAN AGAINST ARGENTINE

MILITARY PERSONNEL.



THE PRIMARY

TARGETS ARE TO BE ACTIVE MILITARY OFFICERS AND THEIR IMMEDIATE RELATIVES, RETIRED PERSONNEL, MILITARY UNITS, MILITARY CLUBS AND MILITARY SOCIAL ACTION PROJECTS. THE OPERATIONS ARE TO INCLUDE BOTH KILLING AND HARASSMENT WITH THE LATTER INCLUDING THREATENING TELEPHONE CALLS AND LETTERS, THREATENING PACKAGES, SOME ACTUALLY WITH BOMBS, SOME WITHOUT, EXPLOSIVE DEVICES IN GIFTS OF FLOWERS, ETC. THE OVERALL OBJECTIVE IS TO PROVOKE FEAR AND CONFUSION AMONG THE MILITARY WITH LITTLE COST TO THE MONTONEROS.

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COMMENT:



THE MONTONERO

FOURTH MILITARY CAMPAIGN,



THE PRINCIPA

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TARGETS WOULD BE THE ARGENTINE SECURITY FORCES AND
BUSINESS SECTOR

6.

COMMENT:

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A PRINCIPAL

FEATURE OF CURRENT MONTONERO EFFORTS IS TO BRING ABOUT THE
PARTICIPATION OF THE COMMON MAN IN TERRORIST AND DISRUPTIVE
OPERATIONS. THE MONTONEROS STRESS THAT THESE OPERATIONS
SHOULD BE IN ACCORD WITH WHAT IS FEASIBLE AND SECURE FOR AN
INDIVIDUAL TO CARRY OUT, SUCH AS ACTS OF SABOTAGE AT ONE'S
PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT, CALLING IN FALSE ALARMS TO CONFUSE AND
DISPERSE THE SECURITY FORCES, SETTING FIRES, PLACING OBSTACLES
IN ROADS, ENGAGING IN KILLINGS AND BOMBINGS IF POSSIBLE, ETC.
THIS TACTIC OF INVOLVING THE PUBLIC IN TERRORISM AND
HARASSMENT ACTIVITIES CONTRASTS WITH THE MONTONEROS' APPROACH
BEFORE THE 24 MARCH 1976 COUP D'ETAT OF UTILIZING SPECIALLY
TRAINED AND COMPARTMENTED MONTONERO UNITS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF TERRORIST OPERATIONS. THE PRESENT EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE
THE AVERAGE MAN WHO, FOR EXAMPLE, MAY BE SUFFERING FROM THE

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ECONOMIC SITUATION, TO VENT HIS COMPLAINTS THROUGH AN ILLEGAL ACT OF TERRORISM OR HARASSMENT, WILL, FROM THE MONTONEROS VIEWPOINT, SERVE TO GENERATE GREATER POPULAR SUPPORT FOR AN ORGANIZED RESISTANCE MOVEMENT TO THE GOVERNMENT. IT HAS LONG BEEN THE MONTONEROS OBJECTIVE TO FIRST PROVIDE THROUGH ACTS OF TERRORISM THE ASSUMPTION OF A REPRESSIVE MILITARY REGIME WHICH, THROUGH ITS COUNTERSUBVERSIVE ACTIONS, WOULD GENERATE A POLARIZED SOCIETY FAVORING THE LEFT. THEN WITH CONTINUED PROVOCATION FROM THE RADICAL LEFT TO BOTH KEEP THE REGIME REPRESSIVE AND TO WEAKEN THE MORALE AND POTENCY OF THE SECURITY FORCES, THE MONTONEROS REASON THAT WITH TIME THE GOVERNMENT WILL BECOME SUFFICIENTLY DEBILITATED MILITARILY AND DISCREDITED POLITICALLY TO ALLOW THE MONTONEROS TO LEAD

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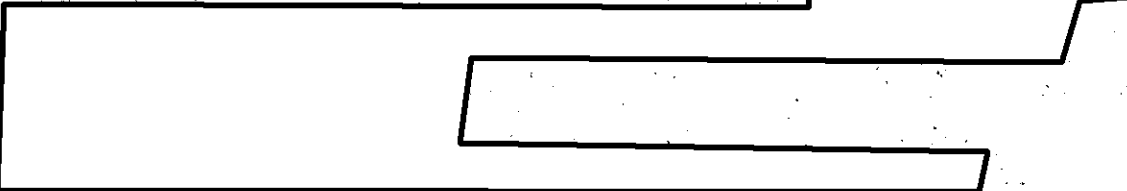
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THE LEFTIST SECTOR TO POWER. WHILE THE MONTONEROS AND
RADICAL LEFT IN GENERAL ARE NOWHERE NEAR TO ACHIEVING
THEIR GOAL OF TAKING CONTROL OF THE COUNTRY, IT SHOULD BE
KEPT IN MIND THAT THE ATTAINMENT OF POWER IS THEIR ULTIMATE
OBJECTIVE, AND THEY HAVE BEEN, AND APPARENTLY WILL CONTINUE,
STADILY PURSUING THIS OBJECTIVE THROUGH POLICIES AND
ACTIONS WHICH THEY CONSIDER TACTICALLY APPROPRIATE AT ANY
GIVEN TIME.)

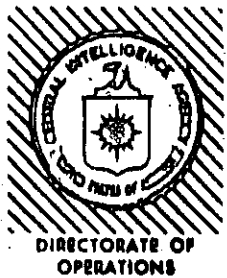


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COUNTRY ARGENTINA

○ Coordinator
Deputy Coordinator
Assistant Coordinator
Intern - Hollander

SUBJECT CAPTURE [REDACTED] OF ROBERTO QUIETO, A TOP LEADER OF THE MONTONEROS

d. Montenegro

UNCODED

SUMMARY: ON 28 DECEMBER 1975 [REDACTED] OFFICIALS

CAPTURED ROBERTO QUIETO, ONE OF THE TWO TOP LEADERS OF THE MONTONEROS. WHILE THE FACT THAT QUIETO IS BEING HELD BY THE AUTHORITIES IS BEING TIGHTLY HELD, THE MONTONEROS REPORTEDLY ARE CONVINCED OF THE GOVERNMENT'S INVOLVEMENT AND ARE MAKING

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PLANS TO DEMAND QUIETO'S RELEASE. QUIETO IDENTIFIED THE LOCATION OF THE MONTONEROS MOST IMPORTANT WEAPONS CACHE WHICH WAS SUBSEQUENTLY RAIDED, CONSTITUTING THE LARGEST AMOUNT OF WEAPONS YET CONFISCATED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN ITS ANTISUBVERSIVE PROGRAM.

QUIETO [REDACTED] IS THE MONTONEROS' POLITICAL CHIEF AND [REDACTED] MARIO FIRMENICH, THE MONTONERO COMMANDER, IS CHIEF OF THE MILITARY APPARATUS AND IS HEADQUARTERED IN CORDOBA. ACCORDING TO QUIETO, THE ORGANIZATION HAS 150 MILLION DOLLARS (SIC) IN A SWISS BANK ACCOUNT AND 50 MILLION DOLLARS DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT ARGENTINA. QUIETO CLAIMED THAT AS OF THE TIME OF HIS CAPTURE THE MONTONEROS HAD NO PLANS TO ASSASSINATE OR KIDNAP ANYONE AND THAT THE MAIN EFFORT OF THE MONTONEROS IS TO PREPARE FOR THE LATE 1976 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. QUIETO SAID THAT THE MONTONEROS HAVE MEMBERS AND CONTACTS THROUGHOUT THE GOVERNMENT AND THE MILITARY. HE DOWNPLAYED THE TIES BETWEEN THE MONTONEROS AND THE PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY ARMY (ERP), STATING THEY ARE MINOR. END SUMMARY.

1. ON 28 DECEMBER 1975 [REDACTED] OFFICIALS CAPTURED ROBERTO QUIETO, ONE OF THE TWO TOP LEADERS OF THE MONTONEROS. QUIETO WAS PICKED UP WHILE ON A BEACH IN MARTINEZ, AN EXCLUSIVE BUENOS AIRES SUBURB. WHILE THERE HAS

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BEEN PUBLIC SPECULATION THAT THE AUTHORITIES ARE HOLDING QUIETO, HIS DETENTION HAS NOT BEEN OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

THE MONTONEROS ARE CONVINCED THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS HOLDING QUIETO AND ARE MAKING PLANS TO DEMAND QUIETO'S RELEASE.

2. QUIETO HAS BEEN WELL TREATED AND HAS COOPERATED IN PROVIDING INFORMATION ON THE MONTONERO ORGANIZATION. OF SIGNIFICANCE WAS HIS IDENTIFICATION OF THE MONTONEROS' LARGEST AND MOST IMPORTANT ARMS CACHE LOCATED IN A WAREHOUSE IN VILLA BALLESTER, A SUBURB SLIGHTLY NORTHWEST OF BUENOS AIRES. QUIETO SAID THIS WAS ALSO WHERE THE MONTONEROS HELD JUAN AND JORGE BORN OF THE BUNGE AND BORN COMPANY WHO WERE KIDNAPPED BY THE MONTONEROS IN SEPTEMBER 1974 AND RELEASED IN JUNE 1975 FOR AN AMOUNT BELIEVED TO RANGE BETWEEN 30-60 MILLION DOLLARS. [Redacted]

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OFFICIALS SUBSEQUENTLY RAIDED THIS WAREHOUSE AND CONFISCATED THE FOLLOWING [Redacted]

[Redacted] 150 "HALCON" SUBMACHINE GUNS MADE IN ARGENTINA; NEW AUTOMATIC SHOTGUNS OF ITALIAN MANUFACTURE; FIVE "COLT" HEAVY

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MACHINEGUNS; APPROXIMATELY 100 HAND GUNS, INCLUDING SOME U.S. MODELS; "FAL" RIFLES; HAND GRENADES; THREE MILLION ROUNDS OF SMALL ARMS AMMUNITION; ONE THOUSAND BARRELS FOR A TYPE OF SUBMACHINE GUN BEING MANUFACTURED BY THE MONTONEROS; A LARGE QUANTITY OF EQUIPMENT FOR CLEANING AND MAINTAINING SMALL ARMS; MONTONERO UNIFORMS AND A DETAILED FIELD MANUAL PROVIDING INSTRUCTION ON SMALL ARMS HANDLING, EXPLOSIVES AND GUERRILLA TACTICS.



3. QUIETO

IS THE MONTONEROS POLITICAL CHIEF

AND  MARIO F I R M E N I C H, THE MONTONERO COMMANDER, IS CHIEF OF THE MILITARY APPARATUS, MAINTAINING HIS HEADQUARTERS IN CORDOBA. BERNARDO M O L I N A S, ANOTHER TOP LEADER, IS IN ROSARIO AND IS IN CHARGE OF PROPAGANDA. QUIETO STATED THAT THE MONTONEROS HAVE BETWEEN 7,000-10,000 ACTIVE MEMBERS AND ABOUT 300,000 SUPPORTERS. THE ORGANIZATION MAINTAINS A SWISS BANK ACCOUNT CONTAINING 150 MILLION DOLLARS (SIC) WITH AN ADDITIONAL FIFTY MILLION DOLLARS DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT ARGENTINA.  COMMENT:

B025x1

~~SECRET~~

