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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 DHA-02 H-01 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00
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O 040136Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2569
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO BY POUCH

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S/S FOR BODINE AND FOR TODMAN
E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, AR, MX
SUBJECT: ARIZONA GOVERNOR CASTRO QUOTED AS STATING HUMAN
RIGHTS NOT VIOLATED IN ARGENTINA
REF: STATE 128009

1. FOLLOWING IS AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE TEXT OF THE SUBJECT NEWSPAPER ARTICLE, WHICH APPEARED IN MEXICAN DAILY EXCELSIOR ON MAY 28.
2. "HEADLINE: GOVERNOR OF ARIZONA DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ARE VIOLATED IN ARGENTINA. DATELINE: HERMOSILLO, SONORA, 27 MAY.
3. SURPRISED BY THE QUESTION OF WHAT WOULD BE HIS REACTION IF SENT AS AMBASSADOR TO A COUNTRY WHERE HUMAN RIGHTS ARE VIOLATED, ARIZONA GOVERNOR RAUL CASTRO STATED 'I HAVE BEEN IN ARGENTINA MANY TIMES, I KNOW IT WELL, AND IN MY VERY PERSONAL OPINION, SUCH A VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS HAS NOT EXISTED.' CASTRO, INVITED FOR THE INAUGURATION OF THE XVII US-MEXICO

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INTERPARLIAMENTARY MEETING, INDICATED THAT ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT CARTER HAS GIVEN SPECIAL IMPORTANCE TO THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ARGENTINA, THIS DOES NO INJURY TO THE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND TIES OF FRIENDSHIP

Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP
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WITH THE UNITED STATES. THE SOUTHERN GOVERNOR SAID THAT HE HOPES IN SHORT TIME HIS DESIGNATION AS AMBASSADOR TO ARGENTINA WILL BE APPROVED SINCE PRESIDENT CARTER HAS INDICATED HIS INTEREST THAT CASTRO RETURN TO THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE, AND, BECAUSE OF THIS, HAS PRESENTED CASTRO'S CANDIDACY TO THE CONGRESS.

4. QUESTION: HAVE YOU NOT HEARD ABOUT THE TORTURE CAMPS IN CHILE, BOLIVIA AND ARGENTINA? CASTRO'S ANSWER: I HAVE NOT BEEN IN BOLIVIA IN 7 YEARS, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE OTHERS. AND BESIDES, WE MUST RESPECT THE MODALITIES OF EVERY SOVEREIGN NATION. PRESIDENT CARTER HAS SHOWN INTEREST IN THE RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, BUT THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT HE IMPOSES HIS CRITERIA ON FREE AND SOVEREIGN COUNTRIES. THE RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGNTY MUST BE MAINTAINED.

5. QUESTION: ARE THERE POSSIBILITIES THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD RENEW ITS MILITARY AID TO ARGENTINA? CASTOR'S ANSWER: I DON'T HAVE OFFICIAL INFORMATION IN THAT RESPECT, BUT I SEE A GREAT EMPHASIS IN FRIENDSHIP AND RELATIONS OF ALL TYPES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ARGENTINA.

6. HE MINIMIZED THE PRESS CAMPAIGN OF CRITICISM IN ARIZONA AGAINST HIM AND QUALIFIED IT AS 'PURE RUMOR WHICH HAS PASSED, THE CAMPAIGN HAS DIED FOR LACK OF FACTS.' IN CLOSING HE INDICATED THAT A BORDER COMMITTEE HAS BEEN FORMED JOINING ARIZONA AND SONORA TO COMBAT DRUG TRAF-FICKING AND WHICH HAS PERMITTED REDUCTION OF DRUG USE IN VARIOUS COUNTIES."

7. NO OTHER NEWSPAPER IN MEXICO CITY PICKED UP THIS NEWS

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ITEM AND WE HAVE SEEN NO EDITORIAL COMMENT ON GOVERNOR CASTRO'S ALLEGED STATEMENTS. WE ARE CHECKING WITH CONSULATE HERMOSILLO FOR ANY LOCAL REACTION IN THAT AREA.
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