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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 HA-05 SS-15  
SP-02 INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EUR-12 MCT-01  
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 4296

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FOR ARA/ECA - RONDON

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SHUM, AR  
SUBJECT: DISCUSSIONS OF DISAPPEARED NUNS--AND THEIR  
ASSOCIATES--WITH GOA OFFICIALS

REF: BUENOS AIRES 0482

1. FOLLOWING UP ON REFTTEL, BELIEVE IT IS  
USEFUL TO RECAPITULATE STEPS TAKEN BY THE  
EMBASSY--PRINCIPALLY THE AMBASSADOR--TO  
EXPRESS TO RANKING MEMBERS OF ARGENTINE  
GOVERNMENT OUR CONCERN OVER THE FATE OF  
THE TWO ABDUCTED FRENCH NUNS AND OTHERS  
ABDUCTED DURING DECEMBER 8-11:

A. AMBASSADOR SAW ADMIRAL MASSERA  
EVENING DECEMBER 12--THE MONDAY AFTER NEWS  
OF THE DISAPPEARANCES BROKE OVER THE WEEKEND.  
MASSERA PROFESSED NOT TO HAVE KNOWN OF EVENT  
AND ATTEMPTED TO PLACE BLAME FOR IT ON ARMY  
SECURITY SERVICES (SEE BUENOS AIRES 9523 OF  
DEC. 14, 1977).

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B. AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED ABDUCTIONS WITH ARMY  
CHIEF OF STAFF VIOLA DECEMBER 13 TO DEMONSTRATE US  
CONCERN, SO VIOLA COULD PASS MESSAGE TO VIDELA.

~~Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP  
Change to \_\_\_\_\_  
( ) Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny (X) Declassify  
Exemptions b ( ) ( ) E.O. 13526 25x ( ) ( ) ( )  
Declassify after \_\_\_\_\_  
With concurrence of: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ obtained \_\_\_\_\_ not obt.  
IPS by SD Date 11-30-16~~

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C. SUBJECT OF DISAPPEARED HUMAN RIGHT ACTIVISTS  
RAISED WITH MINISTER OF ECONOMY MINISTER DE HOZ  
DECEMBER 12.

D. SAME SUBJECT RAISED WITH DEFENSE MINISTER KLIX  
AT SOCIAL OCCASION DECEMBER 13.

2. SUBJECT OF THE DISAPPEARED NUNS HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN  
VIRTUALLY EVERY OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL CONVERSATION  
AMBASSADOR HAS HELD SUBSEQUENTLY. IT ALSO IS OFTEN  
DISCUSSED--OFFICIALLY AND UNOFFICIALLY--BY OTHER EMBASSY  
OFFICERS (SEE, FOR EXAMPLE, BUENOS AIRES 9598 OF DEC. 15,  
1977).

3. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WITH WHOM WE TALK-- TO A MAN  
READY TO DEFEND ALL OF GOA'S REPRESSIVE POLICIES--  
ARE FRANKLY PUZZLED AND DISMAYED BY DISAPPEARANCES OF THE  
FRENCH NUNS AND THE RELATED ABDUCTIONS. PRIVATE ARGENTINES  
WITH WHOM WE TALK, WHOSE OPINIONS RANGE FROM THOSE OF THE  
PERMANENT ASSEMBLY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS TO THE RIGHTIST  
VIEW OF OLIGARCHS, SIMILARLY DECRY THE ABDUCTIONS WITHOUT  
BEING ABLE TO ADD ANYTHING BY WAY OF HARD INFORMATION AS  
TO WHAT MAY HAVE BEEN THEIR FATE.  
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