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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 301432Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5127
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652 XGDS 2 & 4
TAGS SHUM, AR
SUBJECT REPORT OF NUNS DEATH

REF: BUENOS AIRES 1919 (NOTAL)

1. A.F.P. MARCH 28 STORY FILED FROM PARIS REPORTS THAT THE BODIES OF THE TWO FRENCH NUNS (ALICIA DOMAN AND RENEE DUGUET) WHO WERE ABDUCTED IN MID DECEMBER WITH ELEVEN OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS WERE IDENTIFIED AMONG CORPSES NEAR BAHIA BLANCA.
2. BUENOS AIRES WAS FILLED WITH SUCH RUMORS OVER A MONTH AGO BASED ON ACCOUNTS OF THE DISCOVERY OF A NUMBER OF CADAVERS BEACHED BY UNUSUAL STRONG WINDS ALONG ATLANTIC SEA POINTS CLOSER TO THE MOUTH OF LA PLATA RIVER-- SOME 300-350 MILES TO THE NORTH OF BAHIA BLANCA (SEE BUENOS AIRES 1919 FOR DETAILED ACCOUNT.)
3. THE FRENCH EMBASSY, WHICH HAS BEEN TRYING TO TRACK DOWN THESE RUMORS, HAS CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION THAT THE NUNS WERE ABDUCTED BY ARGENTINE SECURITY AGENTS AND AT

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SOME POINT WERE TRANSFERRED TO A PRISON LOCATED IN THE TOWN OF JUNIN, WHICH IS ABOUT 150 MILES WEST OF BUENOS AIRES.

4. EMBASSY ALSO HAS CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION OBTAINED THROUGH AN ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT SOURCE (PROTECT) THAT SEVEN BODIES WERE DISCOVERED SOME WEEKS AGO ON THE ATLANTIC BEACH NEAR MAR DEL PLATA. ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE, THE BODIES WERE THOSE OF THE TWO NUNS AND FIVE MOTHERS WHO DISAPPEARED BETWEEN DECEMBER 8 AND DECEMBER 10, 1977. OUR SOURCE CONFIRMED THAT THESE INDIVIDUALS WERE ORIGINALLY SEQUESTERED BY MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY FORCES ACTING UNDER THEIR BROAD MANDATE AGAINST TERRORISTS AND SUBVERSIVES. SOURCE FURTHER STATED THAT FEW INDIVIDUALS IN GOA WERE AWARE OF THIS INFORMATION.

5. THIS SOURCE HAS REPORTED RELIABLY IN THE PAST AND WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT HE IS KNOWLEDGEABLE CONCERNING DISAPPEARANCE QUESTIONS. EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT HIS REPORT BE PROTECTED IN ORDER TO AVOID COMPROMISING A SOURCE WHO HAS PROVEN HELPFUL IN REPORTING INFORMATION CONCERNING MISSING AND DISAPPEARED INDIVIDUALS. FRENCH AMBASSADORS INFORMATION WAS ALSO PASSED TO AMBASSADOR

~~Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP~~

Change to:

Release () Excise () Deny () Declassify

Exemptions b () () E.O. 13526 25x () ()

Declassify after _____

With concurrence of: _____

IPS by LA obtained _____ not obt. _____

Date 11-30-16

Declassified Case: 17X-87067 Date: 06-08-2013

ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS AND SHOULD BE PROTECTED.
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