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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 H-01 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-01 /043 W
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R 231219Z JAN 79
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9189
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - (TEXT, PARAGRAPH 2)

E.O. 12065: GDS 1/22/85 (HARRIS, F. ALLEN) OR-P
TAGS: SHUM AR
SUBJ: (U) MOTHERS OF THE PLAZA DE MAYO

REF: BUENOS AIRES 350 (NOTAL)

1. ENTIRE TEXT CONFIDENTIAL.

2. MOTHERS WITHDRAW FROM PLAZA-----
THE MOTHERS OF THE PLAZA DE MAYO, AFTER THREE THURSDAYS
OF POLICE HARASSMENT AND BRIEF DETENTIONS (REFTEL), HAVE DECIDED TO
ABANDON TEMPORARILY THEIR DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE PLAZA
DE MAYO. SEVERAL MOTHERS CALLED AT THE EMBASSY ON JANUARY 17TH
AND 19TH TO EXPLAIN THAT THEY HAD DECIDED TO
MEET ON THURSDAY AFTERNOONS DURING JANUARY AT SELECTED
CHURCHES INSTEAD OF DEMONSTRATING IN THE PLAZA. THEY
STATED FRANKLY THEIR FEAR OF BEING ARRESTED, NOTING
THEIR ONGOING RESPONSIBILITIES TO THEIR FAMILIES. THE
MOTHERS STATED THAT THEY PLAN TO HOLD A DEMONSTRATION
ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST IN THE PLAZA DE FLORES IN

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CENTRAL BUENOS AIRES.

3. MOTHERS' GROUP MEMBERS TRAVELING TO PUEBLA CONFERENCE -
FOUR OF THE MOTHERS' GROUP--MARIA GARD DE ANTOKOLETZ,

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CARMEN LAPACO, MARTA OCAMPO DE VAZQUEZ AND NORA MORALEZ DE CORTINAS--LEFT ARGENTINA ON JANUARY 20 FOR THE LATIN AMERICAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE IN PUEBLA. THE MOTHERS PLAN TO MEET WITH AS MANY CHURCH OFFICIALS AS POSSIBLE DURING THE PUEBLA MEETING TO URGE THE BISHOPS TO RECOGNIZE THE "DESAPARECIDO PROBLEM" IN ARGENTINA. THE MOTHERS WILL BE CARRYING WITH THEM THE LIST OF 4,381 DISAPPEARANCE CASES RECENTLY ISSUED BY THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. SOME OF THE MOTHERS SAY THEY PLAN TO CONTINUE TO WASHINGTON AFTER THE PUEBLA CONFERENCE TO MEET WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS WHO WERE NOT IN TOWN WHEN SEVERAL MOTHERS VISITED WASHINGTON IN DECEMBER. THE MOTHERS MAY NOTIFY AMEMBASSY MEXICO OF THEIR WASHINGTON TRAVEL PLANS.

4. EMBASSY COMMENT: AS WE EXPECTED, THE POLICE ACTION IN CLOSING THE PLAZA DE MAYO AND ARRESTING AND THREATENING THE MOTHERS WITH IMPRISONMENT HAS FORCED THE LOOSELY STRUCTURED GROUP TO SEEK NEW WAYS TO EXPRESS THEIR CONCERNS.
CASTRO

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