



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

19

February 1, 1979

MEMORANDUM

TO: HA - Ms. Patricia M. Derian

THROUGH: HA - Mark L. Schneider

FROM: HA/HR - Charles B. Salmon, Jr.

SUBJECT: Your Meeting on Argentina
Thursday, February 1 at 9:30

Attached for your use at the meeting are:

- A. Your Memo of January 26 to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary on the situation in Argentina. The memorandum may be used as a talking paper.
- B. Cable backup and memoranda of conversation which the memo digested.
- C. Recent Embassy traffic on the human rights situation.
- D. Ambassador Castro's recent discussion with General Viola on the HR situation.
- E. Recent digests of HR situation in Argentina including AI Board Member Tom Jones speech to Open Forum.
- F. An HR strategy paper on how we might proceed in Argentina drafted by Pat Flood.

You also have a copy of the latest AI report on Argentina.

You might mention the invitation you have to speak to the Trustees of the Council of Hemispheric Affairs (February 6) at which time they will give you a long list of disappeared, tortured, etc. in Argentina.

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

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Date 12-5-16



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

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Date 1-25-79 (6)

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January 26, 1979

TO: The Secretary
The Deputy Secretary

FROM: HA - Patricia M. Derian

SUBJECT: Next Steps in Argentina

The increasing magnitude and brutality of Argentine human rights violations convince me that it is time for us to take additional measures to underscore our concerns and bring pressure to bear on the Junta to make improvements. Only substantial pressure across a broad front is likely to have any real effect, and there are a number of things we can and should do.

The situation is clearly deteriorating:

-- 38 bodies, many of them without heads or hands, were recently washed ashore on one of Argentina's Atlantic beaches. A Buenos Aires newspaper which had investigated the report killed the story at the direction of the Presidential Press Office.

-- Our Embassy estimates that about 55 disappearances a month take place in Argentina. The International Red Cross representative in Buenos Aires recently characterized the disappearances as "a calculated policy" of the Argentine authorities.

-- For the past three weeks, security forces have arrested and threatened to imprison mothers of the disappeared who have held weekly silent demonstrations in the capital's main square for the past two years. This heavy-handed police intimidation follows by only a few weeks the soothing promises given the mothers by a Presidential Palace spokesman at Christmas.

-- An officer of the Argentine Permanent Assembly for Human Rights told our Embassy in December that security forces simply murdered a couple in their own home without bothering to take them to a detention center. The same source said he had received other recent reports of such killings.

~~SECRET~~

(RDS-4 01/26/94, DERIAN, Patricia M.)

~~SECRET~~

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-- We continue to receive numerous highly credible reports that torture is used routinely in the interrogation of detainees. The electric "picana," something like a supercharged cattle prod, is still apparently a favorite tool, as is the "submarine" treatment (immersion of the head in a tub of water, urine, excrement, blood, or a combination of these).

-- Prison treatment of the 3,200 acknowledged political detainees has deteriorated sharply in recent months, according to the International Red Cross representative in Argentina. Torture, beatings, and dietary neglect are common for them and for the unacknowledged detainees held in secret military facilities. Another source reported that fifty female detainees recently transferred between prisons "have not been exposed to the sun for so long that their skin color is greenish...Some have lost their eyesight. Many are mentally deranged."

These developments illustrate the reasons why I believe we should, at a minimum, take these actions:

-- Vote "No" on all IFI loans to Argentina which do not clearly meet the basic human needs criteria, and at least invite other donor countries to take similar action.

-- Switch from "Yes" to "Abstain" on IFI loans which meet the basic human needs criteria.

-- Instruct our Delegate to the UN Human Rights Commission to make a strong statement condemning Argentine human rights violations.

-- Begin to deny commercial licenses of military-related equipment destined to the Argentine Armed Forces, as we now do with equipment for the police.

-- Deny or delay Export-Import Bank financing for new projects in Argentina. If necessary, we should seek a Presidential determination under the Chaffee Amendment that denial would advance U. S. human rights objectives.

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-- Mount major new diplomatic effort to persuade foreign arms suppliers to stop selling military and police equipment to Argentina.

-- Give careful consideration to suspending or halting entirely the pipeline of U. S. - origin military equipment purchased by Argentina under earlier programs.

-- In connection with, and explanation of, the above measures, issue a strong public statement condemning the continuing deterioration of Argentine human rights practices.

We simply have to begin to take measures like these if we expect to see any meaningful improvements. There is no longer any doubt that Argentina has the worst human rights record in South America. We cannot wait for the Inter-American Human Rights Commission visit at the end of May. While we hope that Argentine Government preparations for the visit, and the visit itself, will result in some improvements, we should not rely exclusively on this event. A high-ranking Foreign Ministry official recently said his government plans to stonewall the Commission on the disappearance issue.

We would not be alone in taking more forceful measures. I understand that both Canada and the UK share the view that the situation is worsening. Canada, as a result, has halted transfers--not just of arms--to the Argentine military. Both countries, as well as some Scandinavian countries, are seriously considering opposing IFI loans to Argentina.

~~SECRET~~

DATE: December 27, 1978
 REPLY TO: POL - F. Allen Harris
 ATTN OF:
 SUBJECT: Disappearance Numbers
 TO: FILE

memorandum

PF
~~PF~~
~~AUS-FYL~~
Red PF

E025x1
E025x6

On December 22nd, [redacted] stated at an informal meeting of local Embassy "human rights officers" that a senior army official had informed [redacted] that the armed services had been forced to "take care of" 15,000 persons in its anti-subversion campaign.

E025x1
E025x6

In late November during Brian Blood's farewell call on Ministry of Interior Assistant Secretary for Internal Security, Col. San Roman noted that he was preparing charts showing that the number of disappearances reported to the Ministry of Interior had declined dramatically. In mid-December the FOWG desk officer Martin Saravia, made the same observation. Martin stated that the Ministry of Interior had received approximately 2,500 reports of persons who disappeared in 1976, about 1,500 such reports for 1977 and only 780 reports of disappearances through September, 1978. Martin stated that this was concrete evidence of Argentina's improving performance in the human rights area.

NOTE: The FOWG desk officer's total of reported disappearances from 1976 to November, 1978 is 4,780. This total parallels the number reported to other organizations. For example, the Permanent Assembly has over 3,100 documented disappearance cases in which habeas corpus petitions have been filed. Plus the Assembly has over 1,000 cases in which reports have been made, but habeas corpus proceedings have not been pursued.

Copies To:
 ARA/ECA - Mr. Bumpus
 HA/HR - Mr. Flood
 AMB/DCM
 POL: FAHarris:sz 12/28/78

~~Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP~~
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INCOMING
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1-19-79

PAGE 01 BUENOS 08530 210114Z
ACTION ARA-15

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 0530

E.O. 12065 1-17-85 (HARRIS, F. ALLEN) OR-P
TAGS SHUM, AR
SUBJECT BEACHED CADAVERS TRIGGER JUDICIAL INQUIRY

REF: 78 BUENOS AIRES 1519

1. (U) PRESS COVERAGE -- LOCAL PRESS AND WIRE SERVICES
CARRIED STORIES ON DECEMBER 20 AND 22 OF BODIES BEING
WASHED ASHORE ON ARGENTINE ATLANTIC RESORT BEACHES.
THESE ACCOUNTS REPORTED THAT BETWEEN 11 AND 15 BODIES HAD
BEEN FOUND IN ADVANCED STATE OF DECOMPOSITION OVER A
16 MILE STRETCH OF BEACH, 218 MILES SOUTHEAST OF BUENOS
AIRES.

2. (C) A REPORTER FROM CLARIN WAS SENT TO THE AREA
TO WRITE A STORY ON THE REPORTS. ACCORDING TO A COLLEAGUE,
HE RETURNED AGHAST AT WHAT HE SAW AND HEARD.
THROUGH INTERVIEWS WITH FIREMEN, POLICEMEN, AND LOCAL
RESIDENTS HE ACCUMULATED REPORTS OF 38 BODIES WASHED ASHORE.
IMMEDIATELY UPON HIS RETURN, THE EDITOR OF CLARIN
RECEIVED A CALL FROM THE PRESIDENCY'S PRESS OFFICE
INDICATING THAT IT WOULD BE INCONVENIENT TO RUN ANY
MORE STORIES REGARDING THE BODIES. THE REPORTER
DID AN INTERNAL MEMO AND THE STORY WAS DROPPED.

3. (U) MOTHERS INVESTIGATE -- IN RESPONSE TO THE
PRESS STORIES, THREE MOTHERS OF THE PAZA DE MAYO
VISITED THE BEACH AREA ON DECEMBER 16. THERE THEY
MET WITH THE CRIMINAL JUDGE OF DOLGUES DISTRICT, A
DR. FACIO, WHO INFORMED THEM THAT HE HAD OPENED A
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION INTO THE PRESUMED HOMICIDES.
DR. FACIO REPORTED THAT A TOTAL OF 17 BODIES HAD
BEEN FOUND, MOSTLY OF MALES. JUDGE FACIO SAID THAT
REMAINS APPEARED TO BE OF YOUNG PERSONS WHO WERE
BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN IN THE WATER FOR UP TO TWO
MONTHS. FACIO REPORTED THAT MANY OF THE BODIES
WERE FOUND WITHOUT HANDS, AND A NUMBER WITHOUT
HEADS. HE SAID THAT LOCAL POLICE HAD REMOVED
THE AVAILABLE HANDS FROM THE BODIES AND SENT THEM
TO THE PROVINCIAL POLICE LABORATORY AT LA PLATA
FOR IDENTIFICATION. NO REPORTS HAVE YET BEEN
RECEIVED BY THE JUDGE.

4. (U) THE MOTHERS RETURNED TO DOLGUES ON
JANUARY 5 TO FOLLOW UP ON THE JUDICIAL AND POLICE
INVESTIGATION. THEY WERE TOLD THAT THE BODIES
HAD BEEN BURIED. AFTER
INITIALLY REFUSING, THE LOCAL JUDICIAL OFFICIALS
ACCEPTED HABEAS CORPUS PETITIONS FROM THE MOTHERS.

5. (U) THESE REAPPEARANCES HAVE LED A NUMBER OF
PLAZA DE MAYO MOTHERS TO PRESENT HABEAS CORPUS
PETITIONS REQUESTING THAT THE JUDICIARY VERIFY THAT--
A. THE BODIES WASHED UP ON THE ATLANTIC BEACHES,

B. THE ALLEGED TERRORISTS REPORTED KILLED IN
SHOOT OUTS IN ROSARIO AND IN MAR DEL PLATA,
C. PERSONS REPORTED TO HAVE DIED MYSTERIOUSLY IN
THE ONTIVEROS PSYCHIATRIC FACILITY, D. THE TWO
PRISONERS REPORTED POISONED AT AN UNNAMED POLICE
STATIONS, AND E. THREE BODIES BURNED AT LA SALADA
ARE NOT THEIR MISSING CHILDREN.
THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY HAS REPEATED THESE POINTS GENERALLY
IN PETITIONS PRESENTED TO THE SUPREME COURT AND
TO PRESIDENT VIDELA.

6. (U) OTHER REPORTS -- NAVY SOURCES RESPONDED
TO AN EMBASSY INQUIRY WHEN THE NEWS STORIES FIRST
APPEARED WITH INFORMATION THAT THE BODIES WERE
MEMBERS OF THE CREW OF THE URUGUAYAN VESSEL WHICH
HAD SUNK IN MID-DECEMBER 1978.

7. (U) A COLLEAGUE OF AN EMBASSY CONTACT REPORTED
HAVING SEEN ONE OF THE CADAVERS WHILE VACATIONING
IN THE AREA. THIS SOURCE DESCRIBED THE MALE CADAVER
HE SAW AS BEING "FRESH" IN APPEARANCE.

8. (C) PERMANENT ASSEMBLY SOURCES HAVE INFORMED US
THAT THEY BELIEVE THAT THE BODIES WERE DROPPED INTO
THE OCEAN FROM AIRCRAFT OPERATING FROM THE NAVAL
AIR STATION AT NEARBY PUNTO INDIO. THE EMBASSY HAS
RECEIVED A NUMBER OF REPORTS OF "PACKAGES" BEING
DROPPED INTO THE OCEAN OFF THE COAST BY MILITARY
AIRCRAFT.

9. (C) EMBASSY COMMENT: THERE WERE SIMILAR REPORTS OF
BEACHED CADAVERS DURING FEBRUARY-
MARCH OF LAST YEAR.
(SEE REFTEL.) NONE OF LAST YEAR'S CADAVERS WERE EVER
PUBLICLY OR (TO OUR KNOWLEDGE) PRIVATELY IDENTIFIED.

10. (C) THE LACK OF IDENTIFICATION HAS NOW BECOME AN ISSUE
FOR THE HUMAN
RIGHTS GROUPS HERE. THEY ARE NOW INSISTING THAT THE
GOVERNMENT NOTONLY EXPLAIN THE FATE OF THE MANY DISAPPEARED,
BUT THAT THE EXECUTIVE AND JUDICIAL BRANCHES PUBLICLY
IDENTIFY THOSE FEW VICTIMS WHOSE BODIES DO, IN FACT,
REAPPEAR. END COMMENT.
CASTRO

~~Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP~~
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INCOMING
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PAGE 01
ACTION ARA-15

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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E. O. 12065 N/A
TAGS SHUM, AR
SUBJECT POLICE ROUNDUP 43 MOTHERS NEAR PLAZA DE MAYO

REF: BUENOS AIRES 148

1. FEDERAL POLICE AGAIN CLOSED THE PLAZA DE MAYO ON JANUARY 11TH TO PREVENT THE MOTHERS FROM CONDUCTING THEIR USUAL THURSDAY AFTERNOON DEMONSTRATION. THE MOTHERS WERE PHYSICALLY PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING THE PLAZA DE MAYO, CONSEQUENTLY THERE WAS NO DEMONSTRATION. FORTY-THREE PERSONS WERE IDENTIFIED AND ARRESTED BY PLAINCLOTHESMEN ON STREETS AROUND THE PLAZA AND IN NEARBY COFFEE SHOPS. ALL WERE TAKEN TO THE SECOND PRECINCT AND QUESTIONED ABOUT WHO ORGANIZED THE MOTHERS' DEMONSTRATIONS, THEIR REASONS FOR ATTENDING THE PLAZA DEMONSTRATIONS, ETC. THE GROUP WAS NOT PHYSICALLY HARMED BUT ITS MEMBERS WERE AGHAST TO BE PUT IN A ROOM WITH A

DEAD MOTORCYCLIST VICTIM OF AN ACCIDENT HOSRTLY BEFORE. MOST GROUP MEMBERS WERE RELEASED EARLY FRIDAY MORNING WITH THE WARNING THAT IF THEY WERE ARRESTED AGAIN THEY WOULD BE SENTENCED TO THIRTY DAYS TO BE SERVED IN VILLA DEVOTO PRISON.

2. EIGHT OF THE MOTHERS' GROUP CALLED ON AMBASSADOR CASTRO IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE POLICE'S ACTION ASKING THE USG'S INTERVENTION ON BEHALF OF THE ARRESTED MOTHERS AND FOR THE MOTHERS TO BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE THEIR DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE PLAZA DE MAYO. EMBOFFS CONTACTED POLICE AND MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OFFICIALS AND WERE TOLD THAT THE ARRESTED MOTHERS HAD EITHER BEEN RELEASED OR WOULD BE FREED SHORTLY.

3. COMMENT: THURSDAY'S ACTION SHOWED THE GOA'S DETERMINATION TO PUT A STOP TO THE WEEKLY MOTHERS' DEMONSTRATIONS, WHICH HAD RECENTLY BECOME LARGER AND MORE VOCAL. CASTRO

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Date 12-5-16

Declassified Case: IIR# 87067 Date: 06-06-2013

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THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

March 27, 1979

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MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Cyrus Vance^{cy}

1. Meeting with the Cranston Group: I had lunch today with Alan Cranston and a group of 15 senators interested in SALT II. I first brought them generally up to date and then outlined the foreign policy consequences of a failure of the Senate to ratify. John Glenn read a long list of items which he said we would not be able to verify as a result of the closing of the Iran installations. I assured the group that we would not sign a treaty that was not adequately verifiable and described in general terms the intelligence community's proposals for dealing with the Iran loss. John Culver expressed concern that members of the Senate Armed Services Committee were planning to push us to decide prematurely on a basing mode for the MX. Ted Kennedy asked whether we were contemplating other agreements with the Soviets that would create a more positive atmosphere for the consideration of SALT and suggested the possibility of an improvement in the human rights climate in the Soviet Union, e. g. , the release of some of the dissidents.

2. PRC: Warren met with Ambassador Chai today and they discussed the Taiwan legislation for more than an hour. They went over the Chinese objections point-by-point, and Warren also handed over a paper responding to the Chinese points. Warren thinks he may have made some progress, especially in pointing out that some of the PRC's objections pertain to provisions which did not survive the Conference Committee. Warren also told Chai that we might wish to have a US Navy ship visit a Chinese port and that, while not ready to make definite plans, we would like a reaction as to whether such a visit would be welcomed. Chai promised an early answer. Chai was also told that we are prepared to exchange military attaches.

RDS - 2/3 3/27/99 (Vance, Cyrus)

NSC Declassification Review [EO 13526]

DECLASSIFY IN FULL

by John Powers on 2/20/2018

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

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3. Shah's Travel: Preparations for the Shah's onward travel concentrated today on the Bahamas. Dave Newsom has worked closely with David Rockefeller's office and Robert Armao, a New York public relations consultant who will meet with Bahamian Foreign Minister Adderley Wednesday. We have helped to arrange this meeting, and our Chargé in Nassau was scheduled to see Adderley late this afternoon. He will inform him of the Shah's wish to arrive this Friday. In two recent soundings by our Embassy, Adderley did not close the door to the Shah, but his government has still not reached a final decision. Assuming the answer is positive, the Shah and his party would stay on the secluded island of Eleuthera. We understand that the Shah regards the Bahamas as a temporary stop. His principal interest remains Mexico, although his representatives have decided not to approach the Mexicans until after arrangements to move to Eleuthera are complete.

Good

4. Uganda: Nyerere has told us that over the weekend Quadafi sent him an ultimatum giving Tanzania 24 hours to withdraw from Uganda. Nyerere ignored this threat and is continuing to pursue his military campaign against Amin, but he has expressed his concern to us and other Western representatives and has asked us for our assessment of Libyan involvement in Uganda. We will give him our intelligence on Libya's military capability. Our initial estimate is that the Libyan threat contains a large element of bluff.

I agree

Ugandan exile leaders meeting in Tanzania have elected an 11-member council as a provisional government. The council, which is representative of the regional and ethnic groups of Uganda, plans to establish itself in southern Uganda.

5. OPEC Price Increase: OPEC decided today to raise the price of "marker crude" by about 9 percent to \$14.54 per barrel -- the price originally supposed to take effect October 1. Each OPEC member, however, is free to set the price of its own crudes independently from the marker price taking into account differences of quality, transportation distances to major markets, and other factors. The Iranian representative said his government would like to get oil production up to a level of about 4 million

The Europeans & Japanese should raise some hell with the Arabs since they were so careful not to offend them in the past.

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barrels per day (compared with about 6 mmbd under the Shah). He asked other OPEC members to stop supplying incremental output to the market as they have done since October to help offset the Iranian shortfall.

Results of the meeting are disquieting. The price increase alone will add about \$12 billion to world oil import bills, with the surcharges adding more. Uncertainty about the amount of oil to be provided by producers with surplus capacity will aggravate the current tight market conditions. The meeting results illustrate that Saudi Arabia cannot, in present circumstances, exercise its traditional overwhelming influence on OPEC prices. Even with the Saudis producing oil at near-maximum levels, the reduction in Iranian exports leaves supply and demand essentially unbalanced, keeping pressure on prices and preventing the seasonal stock build-up needed to cover next winter.

6. Peru: Chris met today with the new Peruvian Ambassador, Alfonso Arias Schreiber. Chris told him of our concern about the Cuban candidacy for a seat on the Security Council and said the US would back Peru if it gained the support of the Latin American caucus. Arias will report this to his government, and may have something to say to you on the subject when he presents his credentials Friday.

Following up on the discussion Fritz had on this topic last week with Brazilian Foreign Minister Guerreiro, I plan to send a personal letter to Guerreiro asking for more active Brazilian support of a Peruvian candidacy.

7. Argentina: I have been increasingly concerned about the absence of substantial human rights progress in Argentina. During 1978 Argentine security units continued to abduct and torture (and in many cases summarily execute) an average of more than 50 persons per month. Last month we informed the Argentines that, in the absence of substantial improvements, we would not be able to maintain our position of abstention on loans to Argentina in the multilateral development banks, and instead would have to vote against the loans. Late last week

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the Argentine Ambassador responded with a number of potentially significant representations, including that the moderates have strengthened their position within the junta, that abductions by security units have been stopped, and that any reports of abductions will be immediately investigated. Although we have learned to be skeptical of Argentine promises, reports of abductions have greatly diminished in February and March. On the basis of their representations, Warren told the Argentines that we are adhering to our abstention position on a World Bank loan today and would continue to watch the situation closely.

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Carter Library

RAC 7 - NSA, BRZ Material, Subject File

Box 21:

Evening Reports (state), 3/79

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TELEGRAM

PAGE 01 BUENOS 10053 271244Z
ACTION ARA-15

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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E.O. 12065: GDS 12/26/84 (HARRIS, F. ALLEN) OR-P
TAGS: SHUM AR
SUBJ: GOA RESPONSE TO MAJOR HUMAN RIGHTS DEMONSTRATION

(C - ENTIRE TEXT) SUMMARY: IN AN UNPRECEDENTED ACTION ARGENTINE OFFICIALS RECEIVED TWO HUMAN RIGHTS DELEGATIONS INTO THE CASA ROSADA (THE ARGENTINE WHITE HOUSE) ON DECEMBER 22 FROM A GROUP OF 500 TO 1,000 DEMONSTRATORS IN THE PLAZA DE MAYO. CASA ROSADA SPOKESMAN ISSUED SEVERAL PROMISES: FIRST, THAT A CHRISTMAS AMNESTY FOR SEVERAL HUNDRED PEN PRISONERS WOULD BE ANNOUNCED SHORTLY; SECOND, THAT THE NAMES OF THOSE SENTENCED BY MILITARY TRIBUNALS WOULD BE MADE PUBLIC AND THEIR SENTENCES WOULD BE REDUCED BY TWO THIRDS; AND THIRD, THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD PROVIDE A RESPONSE NEXT THURSDAY TO THE SUBMITTED PETITION TO THE CASA ROSADA SEEKING INFORMATION REGARDING THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE MANY DISAPPEARED. END SUMMARY.

1. BETWEEN 500 AND 1,000 HUMAN RIGHTS PROTESTERS GATHERED IN THE PLAZA DE MAYO ON THE THURSDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS (12/21). A DELEGATION OF ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS ORGANIZED BY THE PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS WERE ADMITTED TO PRESENT A PETITION TO OFFICIALS IN THE CASA ROSADA REPORTEDLY SIGNED BY 37,500 PERSONS. THE SIMPLE PETITION ASKED THE GOVERNMENT FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE DISAPPEARED, BETTER TREATMENT FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS, AND THE FREEDOM OF ALL PEN PRISONERS CURRENTLY BEING HELD WITHOUT CRIMINAL CHARGES.

2. THE MOTHERS OF THE PLAZA DE MAYO AND THE OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS WHO GATHERED IN THE PLAZA HELD AN EMOTIONAL TWO-HOUR DEMONSTRATION. THE MOTHERS FOR THE FIRST TIME BEGAN CHANTING "NOS DIGA DONDE ESTAN," (TELL US WHERE THEY ARE.) AS THEY CIRCLED AROUND THE PLAZA DE MAYO IN THE AFTERNOON'S HEAT. ALTHOUGH A LARGE NUMBER OF PLAINCLOTHES POLICEMEN WERE IN EVIDENCE THERE WERE ONLY MINOR REPORTS OF HASSLING.

3. ABOUT AN HOUR AFTER THE DEMONSTRATION BEGAN, A GROUP OF APPROXIMATELY 300 PERSONS MOVED FROM THE PLAZA TO THE ENTRANCE OF THE CASA ROSADA AND DEMANDED ENTRY. A PERSON WHO IS SAID TO HAVE IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS THE CHIEF OF SECURITY OF THE CASA ROSADA SAID THAT HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO TALK WITH A SMALL DELEGATION OF THE PROTESTERS. SIX OF THE MOTHERS AND ONE MAN WERE ADMITTED AND REAPPEARED A HALF AN HOUR LATER TO INFORM THE DEMONSTRATORS THAT THE CASA ROSADA SPOKESMAN HAD MADE THREE SIGNIFICANT PROMISES:
A) A CHRISTMAS AMNESTY LIST OF SEVERAL HUNDRED PEN PRISONERS WOULD BE ANNOUNCED BY SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23. FURTHERMORE THESE INDIVIDUALS WOULD BE ACTUALLY FREED AND NOT JUST HAVE THEIR PEN STATUS REMOVED. (SEE SEPTEL.) (ATTN: WEDS)
B) THOSE PERSONS WHO HAVE BEEN SENTENCED BY MILITARY TRIBUNALS WOULD BE NAMED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND WOULD HAVE THEIR SENTENCES REDUCED BY TWO-THIRDS.

C) IF THE DELEGATION WOULD RETURN ON THE FOLLOWING THURSDAY, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD REPLY REGARDING THE PERSONS INQUIRED ABOUT IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS' PETITION. ACCORDING TO A PRESS ACCOUNT IN THE BUENOS AIRES HERALD, THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT ONE SHOULD NOT TALK OF THE DISAPPEARED AS THERE ARE ONLY PEOPLE UNDER CIVIL AND MILITARY JUSTICE.

4. AMBASSADOR CASTRO IN THURSDAY MORNING MEETING (12/21) MENTIONED REPORTS TO GENERAL VIOLA THAT A LARGE SCALE POLICE ACTION WAS PLANNED AGAINST THE MOTHERS IN THE PLAZA DE MAYO THAT AFTERNOON. GENERAL VIOLA EXPRESSED SURPRISE AND NOTED THAT THE TIMING FOR SUCH AN ACTION AGAINST THE MOTHERS WITH THE BEAGLE PROBLEM COMING TO A HEAD WAS POOR. IN THE PRESENCE OF THE AMBASSADOR, HE CALLED IN ARMY SECRETARY GENERAL BIGNONE AND ORDERED THAT NO ACTION BE TAKEN AGAINST THE MOTHERS' DEMONSTRATION THAT AFTERNOON.

6. EMBASSY COMMENT: THURSDAY'S EVENTS WERE SIGNIFICANT. THE DEMONSTRATION WAS THE LARGEST AND MOST VOCAL HELD IN THE PLAZA SINCE THE DISAPPEARANCE LAST DECEMBER OF SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE PLAZA DE MAYO LEADERSHIP. SECONDLY,

TWO DELEGATIONS WERE ADMITTED INTO CASA ROSADA AND A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN MADE SUBSTANTIAL PROMISES TO THE DEMONSTRATORS.

7. SINCE THE INTERNATIONAL FLAP CAUSED BY THE NOVEMBER 1977 BRIEF ARREST OF SOME 300 MOTHERS AND THE MID-DECEMBER DISAPPEARANCE OF 13 OF THE MOTHERS' GROUP, THE ATTITUDE OF THE GOA TOWARDS THE HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT HERE HAS BEEN ONE OF CAREFUL SCRUTINY AND BENIGN NEGLECT. THE DECEMBER 21ST ACTIONS WERE A DEFINITE DEPARTURE. WHETHER THOSE ACTIONS WERE PREMEDITATED OR TAKEN ON AN AD HOC BASIS BY SECURITY OPERATIVES TO DEFUSE THE LARGE AND AGITATED DEMONSTRATION WE DO NOT KNOW. HOWEVER, THE ACTION WAS SIGNIFICANT AND IS ENCOURAGING MORE VISIBLE ACTIONS BY HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS HERE.
CASTRO

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ED HER 11 HABEAS CORPUS REQUESTS.
HERALD WEDNESDAY REPRINTED STANLEY HOFFMAN STORY "HUMAN
RIGHTS POSITIVE FOR U.S." FROM NEW YORK TIMES.
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HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS. - PRESS REPORTS TUESDAY SAID 17
PEOPLE WHO HAD BEEN DETAINED IN CONNECTION WITH THE ABDUCTION
AND ASSASSINATION OF ELENA HOLMBERG WERE RELEASED AS POLICE
CONTINUED TO INVESTIGATE THE DEATH OF THE ARGENTINE CAREER
DIPLOMAT. CLARIN AND HERALD EDITORIALS PRAISED THE "STRONG,
BRAVE WORDS" FROM FOREIGN MINISTER PASTOR AT MISS HOLMBERG'S
FUNERAL, WHICH "REVEALED THE DEEP IMPACT THE MURDER HAS MADE
IN ARGENTINE SOCIETY, AND THE CONCERN OF THE GOVERNMENT ABOUT
IT." BOTH PAPERS DEMANDED FAST ACTION TO STOP THE VIOLENCE.
HERALD SAID "THERE HAVE BEEN TOO MANY DEATHS IN INEXPLICABLE
AND ODIUS CIRCUMSTANCES (READ: MURDERS FOR WHICH
LEFTWING TERRORISTS CANNOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE) BEFORE
THIS -- AND, INEXPLICABLY, SINCE THE ARMED FORCES TOOK
POWER TO RESTORE LAW AND ORDER. YET THERE IS NOT A
SINGLE CASE IN WHICH ANY ONE HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO
JUSTICE OR, EVEN, NAMED." CLARIN DECLARED THAT THE
HOLMBERG CASE MUST BE "INVESTIGATED TO ITS ULTIMATE
CONSEQUENCES" AND "TERRORISM AND ASSASSINATION... NO
MATTER WHO IS RESPONSIBLE, ARE CONFRONTING THE AUTHORITY
OF THE STATE, WHICH CAN ONLY BE BASED IN THE RULE OF
LAW."

HERALD AND CRONICA REPORTED THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS SENT A LETTER TO PRESIDENT VIDELA STATING
"ITS DEEP CONCERN ABOUT THE LACK OF REACTION AND FAILURE
TO RESPOND TO THE PROBLEM POSED BY THE LARGE NO. OF
PEOPLE WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED AFTER BEING KIDNAPPED."

THE ASSEMBLY ALSO SENT VIDELA A LIST OF 4381

"DOCUMENTED CASES OF PEOPLE WHO DISAPPEARED AFTER BEING
KIDNAPPED-- GENERALLY BY ARMED MEN CLAIMING TO BE
MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY FORCES." THE STORY ADDED:

"THE ASSEMBLY ENCLOSED RECENT NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS REPORT-

ING THE FINDING OF 17 BODIES... ON THE BEACH AT SANTA

TERESITA, THREE ALLEGED TERRORISTS KILLED IN A SHOOT-OUT

IN ROSARIO, ANOTHER EXTREMIST SHOT IN MAR DEL PLATA,

"DUBIOUS" DEATHS IN A PSYCHIATRIC ESTABLISHMENT IN THE

ONTIVEROS COLONY IN SANTA FE, THE DISCOVERY OF THREE

CHARRED BODIES AT LA SALADA, IN THE PROVINCE OF BUENOS

AIRES, AND THE REPORTED DEATH FROM POISONING OF TWO

PRISONERS IN AN UNNAMED POLICE STATION." THE LETTER

SAYS THE ASSEMBLY "HAS NO WAY OF KNOWING WHETHER ANY

OF THESE CASES HAVE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS BUT THEY ARE

ALL OF SOCIAL CONCERN." ALSO CLAIMS THAT "THE KIDNAPPING

OF PEOPLE IS CONTINUING, ALTHOUGH AT A SLOWER RATE."

ON THE SAME PAGE, HERALD SAID THE LIFELESS BODY OF A

YOUNG WOMAN WITH HER HAIR SHAVED WAS FOUND MONDAY IN THE

SALADO RIVER IN SANTA FE.

HERALD WEDNESDAY PRINTS A LETTER FROM MRS. ANA ETCHEVERRY

DE RICCI IN BAHIA BLANCA WHO SAYS SHE IS TRYING TO LOCATE

HER SON, AGED 21, WHO WAS KIDNAPPED IN LA PLATA MAR 30,

1977. SHE STATES "WE CANNOT FIND ANY WITNESSES WILLING

TO TESTIFY BECAUSE THEY ARE ALL AFRAID... MY 12 TELEGRAMS
TO PRESIDENT VIDELA AND INTERIOR MINISTER HARGUINDEGUY
REMAIN UNANSWERED." SHE ALSO SAYS THE COURTS HAVE REJECT-

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E. O. 12065: GDS 12/27/84 (HARRIS, F. ALLEN) OR-P
TAGS: SHUM AR
SUBJ: YEARLY CHRISTMAS PRISON VISITS DENIED IN CORDOBA

1. (U) SOME 26 POLITICAL (PEN) PRISONERS BEING HELD BY THE ARMY THIRD CORPS IN CORDOBA PRISON WERE DENIED THEIR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS VISIT WITH THEIR FAMILIES. THIS EMBASSY, THE NUNCIATURA, CHURCH AND HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS HAVE RECEIVED PROTESTS FROM THE AFFECTED FAMILIES.

2. (C) ACCORDING TO MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND FAMILY REPORTS, SOME 220 PEN AND CLANDESTINE PRISONERS HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THE THIRD CORPS AREA IN THE LAST MONTH. RED CROSS AND FAMILY SOURCES REPORT THAT THERE ARE STILL SOME 26 PEN PRISONERS DETAINED UNDER THE PERSONAL JURISDICTION OF THIRD CORPS COMMANDER MENENDEZ. TWENTY-THREE FAMILIES WERE REFUSED ADMISSION BY PRISON AUTHORITIES ON CHRISTMAS DAY IN CORDOBA. THE PRISON OFFICIALS REPORTEDLY TREATED THE INCIDENT AS A JOKE.

3. (C) EMBASSY COMMENT: THE ISOLATION OF PEN PRISONERS IN THE THIRD CORPS AREA--NO MAIL, NO VISITORS--HAS BEEN A SUBJECT OF FREQUENT CRITICISM IN ARGENTINA AND ABROAD. IN THE PAST THE ONLY CONTACT ALLOWED EACH YEAR BETWEEN THE PEN PRISONERS AND THEIR FAMILIES WAS A TWO HOUR CHRISTMASDAY REUNION. WE ARE TRYING TO FIND OUT WHY THE ANNUAL FAMILY VISIT WAS DENIED AND WILL LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPRESS CONCERN. CASTRO

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*Suarez-Mason
Chief of Staff*

Montes

YEARS.

7. AT "MILITARY INSTITUTES," REPLACING HARDLINE MAJOR GENERAL SANTIAGO OMAR RIVEROS, WHOSE ENMITY FOR VIOLA AND WILLINGNESS TO ENGAGE IN ACTS APPARENTLY INTENDED TO EMBARRASS BOTH VIDELA AND VIOLA WAS WIDELY DISCUSSED, IS MAJOR GENERAL JOSE MONTES -- WHO HAD BEEN ACTING TEMPORARILY AS VIOLA'S ARMY CHIEF SINCE VIOLA HIMSELF CAME TO REPLACE VIDELA. DESPITE ITS TAME SOUNT "INSTITUCIONES MILITARES" IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT CONFERS CONTROL OVER THE ARMY'S ENORMOUS "CAMPO DE MAYO" BASE JUST OUTSIDE THE CAPITAL. RIVERO'S DEPARTURE FOR THE INTER-AMERICAN DEFENSE BOARD IN WASHINGTON CLEARLY REMOVES AN ELEMENT OF ANTI-VIDELA/VIOLA FRICTION. AGAIN, VIOLA SCORES.

8. MAJOR GENERAL ANTONIO DOMINGO BUSSI, THE NEW GENDARMERIE CHIEF REPLACING RETIRING GENERAL SANTIAGO, IS A VIOLA MAN ALSO. A BRIGHT, DEDICATED PROFESSIONAL -- KNOWN FOR HIS ANTI-GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES IN TUCUMAN -- HIS ASSIGNMENT TO THE GENDARMERIE SIDELINES IS PUZZLING. ONCE AGAIN THOUGH HE DOES COMMAND TROOPS -- UP ONE FROM HIS RELATIVELY POWERLESS POSITION AS RIVEROS' SECOND AT "MILITARY INSTITUTES."

9. SIMILARLY MAJOR GENERAL ADOLFO JAUREGUI'S REPLACING GALTIERI AS SECOND CORPOS COMMANDER APPEARS TO PUT A "VIOLA MAN" IN A LEADING COMMAND POSITION.

10. MORE ON THE NEUTRAL SIDE WERE RECONFIRMATION OF MAJOR GENERAL LUCIANO B. MENEDEZ AND JOSE ANTONIO VAQUERO AS THIRD AND FIFTH CORPOS COMMANDERS -- SUPPOSEDLY BECAUSE OF THE NEED OF THEIR STAYING PUT ON THE CHILEAN FRONTIER. ON THE OTHER HAND, FAILURE TO APPOINT MENEDEZ TO THE PRESTIGIOUS FIRST CORPSCOMMAND IS TAKEN BY SOME AS A CALCULATED AFFRONT BY VIOLA.

11. BRIGADIER GENERAL JUAN BAUTISTA SASSIAIN (THE FINA "M" CARRIES A "TILDE") REPLACES OJEDA AS CHIEF OF NATIONAL POLICE. SASSIAIN BRINGS A TOUGH, CRUEL REPUTATION TO THIS AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE TO THE GOVERNMENT'S REPRESSIVE EFFORTS. IF THERE IS AN OMINOUS APPOINTMENT, THIS IS IT. SASSIAIN WAS FORMERLY COMMANDER OF THE TENTH INFANTRY BRIGADE AND, AS COMMANDER ALSO OF SECURITY SUBZONE ELEVEN -- HE REPORTEDLY BECAME AN "EXPERT" IN COUNTERSUBVERSION. WE DO NOT KNOW FOR SURE HOW HE STANDS IN TERMS OF LOYALTIES THOUGH BY ONE REPORT HE IS A "VIOLA MAN".

12. OTHER CHANGES IN THE ARMY, BEING REPORTED IN OTHER CHANNELS, LOOK AT THIS POINT TO US EITHER POLITICALLY NEUTRAL OR INSCRUTABLE -- ALTHOUGH, AGAIN, THERE MAY BE AN EDGE TOWARD THE VIDELA-VIOLA TEAM. CASTRO

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT).

2. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY. THE VIDELA-VIOLA TEAM COMES OUT AHEAD IN THE NEW ARMY ASSIGNMENTS THAT WERE ANNOUNCED LATE FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, AND BEGAN TO TAKE PLACE (NOTABLE IN SUAREZ MASON'S TAKING OVER AS CHIEF OF STAFF) ON MONDAY TWENTY NINE. IT LOOKS TO US THAT THE PRESENT REGIME HAS RENOVATED ITS CHARTER -- BOTH IN TERMS OF ITS FUTURE AND ITS PRESENT SPAN OF CONTROL. THOSE CHANGES WE BELIEVE ESPECIALLY PERTINENT TO THE PROCESS OF MILITARY POLITICS ARE THE FOLLOWING: END INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY.

3. MAJOR GENERAL GUILLERMO SUAREZ MASON BECOMES ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF. THE TOUGH FIRST CORPS COMMANDER, WHOM WE BELIEVE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTIVITIES ON THE REPRESSION FRONT THAT LED TO SCROES OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS MOVES TO A POSITION OF PRESTIGE AND ALIGNS HIMSELF TO REPLACE VIOLA AS ARMY COMMANDER. HIS "NEW APPARENT" JOB ALSO CONFERS A MEASURE OF CONTROL OVER WHEN HIS ARMY BOSS MIGHT HAVE TO MOVE ON -- IE HIS OPINION COUNTS HEAVILY IN THE TOP BRASS HAT CONSENSUS THAT BESTOWS OR WITHDRAWS "CONFIDENCE" IN VIOLA. BUT IN LEAVING FIRST CORPS COMMAND HE TAKS HIMSELF FROM DIRECT COMMAND OF TROOPS AND AWAY FROM A KIND OF MILITARY FIEF. SUAREZ MASON'S POSITION AS AN OUTSPOKEN RIVAL OF VIOLA WHO BELIEVES HE CAN DO IT BETTER (AND HAS SUPPORT FOR THESE AMBITION IN MILITARY CIRCLES) APPEARS THEN TEMPORARILY DIMINISHED BOTH BY CO-OPTION AND BY POWER AMPUTATION.

4. BRIGADIER GENERAL TOMAS LIENDO, FORMER MINISTER OF LABOR, BECOMES SUAREZ MASON'S SECOND IN COMMAND. LIENDO IS RESPECTED FOR HIS HANDLING OF THE LABOR PORTFOLIO AND IS A LOYALIST -- MEANING WE THINK HE WILL HOLD FIRM WITH THE EXISTING VIOLA-VIDELA LEADERSHIP.

5. MAJOR GENERAL LEOPOLDO FORTUNATO GALTIERI REPLACES SUAREZ MASON AT FIRST CORPS. HE COMES TO THIS JOB FROM SECOND CORPS COMMAND, AND WE NOTE THAT IN THAT GEOGRAPHICAL AREA EARLY PROGRES WAS MADE IN GETTING PEN PRISONERS TRIED, SENTENCED, PROCESSED. IF HE CAN BRING TO THE FIRST CORPS DISTRICT SOMETHING OF THE JUDGEMENT HE SHOWED WHILE IN ROSARIO THEN WE BELIEVE THERE IS REASON FOR ENCOURAGEMENT ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS FRONT. HE TOO WILL PROBABLY LOOK TOWARD VIDELA'S AND VIOLA'S LEADERSHIP -- A PROFESSIONAL WHOSE INVOLVEMENT IN MILITARY POLITICS HAS NOT BEEN NOTABLE.

BRIGADIER GENERAL JOSE ROGELIO VILLARREAL BECOMES DEPUTY FIRST CORPS COMMANDER. UNTIL EARLY DECEMBER SECRETARY OF THE PRESIDENCY, VILLARREAL PRESUMABLY BRINGS TO HIS NEW JOB THE LOYALTY TO VIDELA AND VIOLA THAT SAW THIM THROUGH THE PAST FEW

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E.O. 12065 XDS-1 1-31-09 (CASTRO, RAUL H.) OR-M
TAGS PGOV, AR
SUBJECT: (C) COUP RUMORS

REF: BUENOS AIRES 0174

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT)

2. YESTERDAY NOON (JAN 30) I HAD LUNCH WITH CLOSE AND PERSONAL FRIEND OF GENERAL SUAREZ MASON. THIS CONTACT MADE IT CLEAR TO ME HE WAS SUPPORTING SUAREZ MASON IN HIS EFFORTS TO UNSEAT THE GENERAL VIDELA-VIDLA COMBINE. I INQUIRED WHY EFFORT WAS BEING MADE TO DEPOSE VIDELA & CO. HE GAVE ME THE FOLLOWING REASONING:

3. INFLATION: CONTACT SAID WITH INFLATION AT 170 PERCENT LIFE WAS BECOMING UNBEARABLE FOR MIDDLE-CLASS PERSONS AND ABOVE. HE SAID THE "BOTTOM-POOR" LIVING IN "VILLAS MISERIAS" (SHACKS) WERE NOT THAT EFFECTED IN THAT THIS GROUP DIDN'T HAVE CARS, TELEVISIONS, UTILITIES AND OTHER OBLIGATIONS TO MEET. THEY LIVED FROM DAY TO DAY. CONTACT SAID IT WAS MIDDLE CLASS AND SMALL AND MEDIUM BUSINESSMEN BEING DIRECTLY HIT. HE SAID THERE WERE AN ALARMING NUMBER OF BANKRUPTCIES, WHICH IN TURN WERE CREATING UNEMPLOYMENT, UNKNOWN BEFORE IN ARGENTINA. I TOLD HIM I HAD SEEN ADVTS ASKING FOR WORKERS. HIS REPLY WAS WORKERS NEEDED WERE NOT IN THE CATEGORY OF THOSE BEING LAID-OFF. HE SAID HINECON MARTINEZ DE HOZ WAS ARGENTINA'S NEMESIS AND HAD TO GO.

4. NON-PAYMENT OF DEBTS: CONTACT SAID GOA HAD INCURRED LARGE DEBTS WITH SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED BUSINESSES DUE TO BEAGLE CHANNEL AFFAIR, BUT WAS NOT MEETING ITS OBLIGATIONS. HE SAID THESE BUSINESSES ARE BEING FORCED OUT OF BUSINESS. CONTACT STATED GOA'S CREDIT WAS EXCELLENT ABROAD, BUT TERRIBLE DOMESTICALLY.

5. MILITARY DISSATISFACTION: SOURCE SAID GREAT TURMOIL EXISTS WITHIN MILITARY RANKS. HE SAID A LARGE NUMBER OF ENLISTED PERSONNEL, JUNIOR, MIDDLE AND SOME TOP OFFICERS WERE UNHAPPY OVER THE MONTEVIDEO BEAGLE CHANNEL ACCORD. CONTACT SAID THESE MEN WERE PRIMED TO DO BATTLE AND WOULD ACCEPT NOTHING LESS. HE FURTHER STATED THESE UNHAPPY MILITARY VIEWED THE MONTEVIDEO ACCORD AS NOTHING MORE THAN A "CHICKENING OUT" PROCESS; LEAVING GOA IN AN EMBARRASSING SITUATION.

6. WEAK GOVERNMENT: SOURCE SAID GENERAL SUAREZ MASON CATEGORIZED THE VIDELA-VIOLA GOVERNMENT AS WEAK, UNDECISIVE AND INEPT. HE REPEATED FACT VIDELA HAS KEP MARTINEZ DE HOZ FOR OVER TWO YEARS WAS AN OBVIOUS DISREGARD OF GOA'S BEST INTERESTS. I THEN ASKED IF TOA'S IS SO WEAK THEN WHY WOULD SUAREZ MASON ACCEPT THE POSITION OF CHIEF OF STAFF. HE READILY REPLIED SAYING SUAREZ MASON WANTED TO BE CLOSE TO THE "TILL", MEANING HEART OF THE ACTION. HE STATED CARLOS, AS HE CALLED SUAREZ MASON, WAS NOW READY TO MOVE UP AND WAS IN A NATURAL POSITION. I ASKED HIM TO FURTHER EXPLAIN.

7. GENERAL STRIKE: SOURCE THEN STATED SUAREZ MASON AND

HIS FOLLOWERS HAVE ENCOURAGED LABOR LEADERS (TRADE UNIONS) TO ENCOURAGE A GENERAL STRIKE AROUND FEBRUARY 19. A HINT WAS GIVEN ME THAT SOME OF THE KEY LABOR LEADERS WERE BEING SUBSIDIZED BY SUAREZ MASON & CO. SOURCE ALSO SAID TRADE UNIONS WERE BEING SUPPORTED BY A GROUP OF BUSINESS PEOPLE IN THEIR EFFORTS TO STRIKE. CONTACT SAID IF A NATION-WIDE STRIKE TAKES PLACE THEN SUAREZ MASON WILL STEP IN AND TAKE OVER THE GOA. HIS STATEMENT WILL BE, AFTER THE FACT, THAT HE DID IT TO SAVE ARGENTINA FROM ECONOMIC CHAOS. HE SAID THIS WAS THE SAME REASON GIVEN BY THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION WHEN IT TOOK OVER ON MARCH 24, 1976.

8. NEWSPAPER: SOURCE SAID A NEW NEWSPAPER WAS ABOUT TO APPEAR ON THE STREETS OF BUENOS AIRES. THE NAME OF THIS DAILY IS TO BE "NOSOTROS" AND IT IS ALREADY DULY REGISTERED WITH GOA. IT IS TO BE AN ORGAN OF PROPAGANDA FOR SUAREZ MASON. A FEW DAYS AGO I TALKED TO A NEWSPAPER PROFESSIONAL WHO CONFIRMED THIS FACT AND STATED HE WOULD BE IN CHARGE OF ITS PUBLICATION.

9. COMMENT: SOURCE IS A WELL-KNOWN INDUSTRIALIST. HE MANUFACTURES RAILROAD EQUIPMENT, SUCH AS CARS, AND IS INVOLVED IN A MYRIAD OF OTHER BUSINESS INVESTMENTS. HIS REPUTATION IS ONE OF BEING EXTREMELY WEALTHY, BUT MUCH OF IT MAY BE "HOT AIR". HE IS A NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR OF GENERAL SUAREZ MASON, WHO HAS OFTEN TOLD ME OF HIS CLOSE TIES TO SOURCE. NORMALLY, WHEN SUAREZ MASON WANTS INFORMATION MADE KNOWN TO ME HE USES THIS PERSON AS THE INTERMEDIARY. ALTHOUGH MUCH OF THE INFORMATION FURNISHED ME IN THE PAST BY THIS SOURCE HAS NOT PROVEN ACCURATE. I FIND THIS CONTACT TENDS TO EXAGGERATE SOMETIMES AFFECTING HIS CREDIBILITY. DESPITE CONTACT'S PROPENSITIES, I FEEL THERE MAY EXIST PROBABLY CAUSE FOR SOME TRUTH IN SOURCE'S ALLEGATIONS. THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SUAREZ MASON AND SOURCE JUST CAN'T BE IGNORED. AS THE SAYING GOES "WHERE THERE IS SMOKE, THERE IS FIRE". THE SYMBOLIC SMOKE WILL COME INTO BEING IF AND WHEN THERE IS A SEMBLANCE OF A STRIKE. THAT SHOULD BE THE CAVEAT OF THINGS TO COME.
CASTRO

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E.O. 12065 GDS 1-30-65 (HALLMAN, WILLIAM H.) DR-P
TAGS SHUM, AR
SUBJECT VISIT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TO
ARGENTINA: HOW CAN WE ENHANCE ITS SUCCESS?

REF: BUENOS AIRES 0627; BUENOS AIRES 0654

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. SUMMARY. THE VISIT HERE OF THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION CAN BE AN IMPORTANT EVENT IN PROMOTING THE OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND GETTING THE GOA TO BRING ITS FORCES UNDER CONTROL AND REDUCE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. THIS MESSAGE CONTAINS THE EMBASSY'S VIEWS ON AREAS WHERE WE BELIEVE THE RIGHT KIND OF COMMISSION EFFORT WOULD HAVE POSITIVE EFFECT -- BOTH SHORT-RANGE AND OVER A LONGER PERIOD. THESE AREAS ARE: CENTRALIZATION OF THE REPRESSIVE EFFORT, PROVIDING MEANS FOR JUDICIAL OVERSIGHT OF EXECUTIVE POWER ACTIONS, WORKING TOWARD CONSENSUS DEFINITIONS OF "TERRORISM" AND "SUBVERSION"

THAT NOT EVERY GUN TOTER IS FREE TO PUPSUE HIS OWN JEAS, HIGHLIGHTING THAT HUMAN RIGHT VIOLATIONS CONTINUE EVEN NOW LONG AFTER TOP LEADERS ASSURE THE COUNTRY THE WAR AGAINST SUBVERSION HAS BEEN WON, REQUIRING BETTER TREATMENT OF (FEWER AND FEWER) PRISONERS AND EXTIRPATING THE USE OF TORTURE, FORCING OUT REVELATIONS OF REMAINING CLAUDESTINE PRISONERS, AND AMELIORATING THE SITUATION OF THE FAMILIES OF "DISAPPEAREDS" THROUGH NEW LEGAL-CIVIC DEFINITIONS. IF THE DEPARTMENT AGREES, WE HOPE THESE VIEWS CAN BE SHARED WITH COMMISSION MEMBERS. END SUMMARY.

3. WE HOPE THAT THE VISIT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TO ARGENTINA (SCHEDULED NOW FOR MAY 29-JUNE 6) WILL BE A MAJOR EVENT IN THE WAY THE GOVERNMENT SEES ITS OWN REQUIREMENTS AND PROSPECTS IN THIS AREA.

4. FIRST, WE HOPE THE COMMISSION'S REPORT WILL HAVE THE TOUGHNESS, EVIDENTIARY WEIGHT AND FAIRNESS THAT WILL MAKE THE DOCUMENT ACCEPTABLE TO A WIDE SPECTRUM OF ARGENTINES AS A DEFINITIVE STATEMENT. WE WANT THE DOCUMENT TO HAVE IMPACT IN FORMING PUBLIC OPINION HERE. ARGENTINES -- INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY FORCES AND GOVERNMENT -- HAVE TOO LONG BEEN TREATED TO PARTIAL, ANECDOTAL AND BIASED TREATMENT OF THIS COUNTRY'S APPALLING HUMAN RIGHTS HISTORY. ATTEMPTS BY OUTSIDE GROUPS, NOTABLY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, TO DESCRIBE THE SITUATION HERE HAVE BEEN TOO EASILY DISMISSED AS PROPAGANDA EFFORTS BY INIMICAL GROUPS OR AS THE SUPERFICIAL EXAMINATIONS OF BLEEDING HEARTS WHO DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE REALITIES OF ARGENTINA'S "DIRTY WAR." WE BELIEVE THE COUNTRY'S BETTER APPRECIATION OF REALITY IS A PREREQUISITE FOR REAL IMPROVEMENT. IN THE TERM "THE COUNTRY" WE INCLUDE GOVERNMENT MEMBERS THEMSELVES, AS WELL AS POTENTIAL PRESSURE GROUPS LIKE THE CHURCH, PROFESSIONAL ORGANI-

ZATIONS AND THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY.)

5. NEVERTHELESS WE BELIEVE THE COMMISSION'S PRINCIPAL FUNCTION OF PROMOTING THE OBSERVATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS WILL BE BETTER SERVED IF IT GOES BEYOND FACT-FINDING AND CONDEMNATION. A PART OF THE ARGENTINE REALITY IS THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE EFFORTS ALREADY TO IMPROVE THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION. THERE ARE FEWER PEN PRISONERS. TOTAL NUMBERS OF "HITS" BY SECURITY FORCES ARE DOWN AS COMPARED WITH YEARS PREVIOUS. THIS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED.

6. ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THERE IS RECOGNITION ALREADY AMONG ARGENTINA'S PRESIDENT AND JUNTA THAT THE COUNTRY'S SITUATION MUST BE NORMALIZED, THE COMMISSION MIGHT PRIVATELY INITIATE CONVERSATIONS ABOUT A PROGRAM OF REMEDIAL ACTION WITH THE COUNTRY'S LEADERSHIP. ALTHOUGH SPECIFIC REMEDIES AGREED AS NECESSARY AND FEASIBLE BETWEEN THE COMMISSION AND THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA MIGHT NOT HAVE THE LOOK OF HIGH HOPES AND PURITY THAT THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS ONLY MIGHT HAVE, WE BELIEVE THEY WOULD HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF BEING PUT INTO PRACTICE.

7. HERE BELOW ARE SOME AREAS WE BELIEVE ARE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT:

A) CENTRALIZATION. WE BELIEVE THE COMMISSION WILL FIND THAT THE GREATEST SINGLE FACTOR CONTRIBUTING TO HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IS DECENTRALIZATION OF CONTROL AMONG A BEWILDERING, OFTEN MUTUALLY ANTAGONISTIC ARRAY OF OFFICIAL ENTITIES: THE ARMY, THE NAVY, THE AIR FORCE, THE FEDERAL POLICE, THE STATE INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SIDE) AND THE FEDERAL SECURITY SERVICE -- WITH FURTHER BREAKAGE INTO SUB-GROUPS ALONG SEVERAL OF THESE. THE FIRST RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMISSION SHOULD BE THAT CONTROL OVER SUPPRESSION OF REMAINING TERRORISM AND SUBVERSION BE CENTRALIZED AND RATIONALIZED AS A PRIMARY MEANS OF GETTING CONTROL OVER A SITUATION EVEN ARGENTINE MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT (INCLUDING MILITARY MEN) AGREE ALLOWS AN EXCESS OF AUTONOMY.

B) LEGAL PROCESSES. THIS AREA IS DIFFICULT BECAUSE THE ARGENTINE CONSTITUTION RECOGNIZES STATE OF SEIGE PROVISIONS, BEHIND WHICH EVERY ACT OF THE EXECUTIVE POWER (THE "PODER EJECUTIVO NACIONAL" OR PEN) STANDS IN ORDER TO ESCAPE SCRUTINY BY THE REGULAR COURT SYSTEM. THIS POWER IS RECOGNIZED BY COURTS THEMSELVES. THEIR OPINIONS OFTEN CONTAIN INTRICATE LEGAL DISCOURSES THAT STOP SHORT BEFORE THE GREAT LEGAL WALL THAT STATE OF SEIGE POWERS CONSTITUTE. UNLESS THE COMMISSION CAN GAIN ACCEPTANCE BY THE EXECUTIVE POWER THAT AN ENTIRE NEW CONSTRUCT IS REQUIRED -- AN ENTIRE NEW AREA OF "INTERFACE" IN WHICH PEN POWER IS CIRCUMSCRIBED BY THE JUDICIARY -- THEN ANY ARGENTINE REGIME WILL BE FREE TO TREAT CITIZENS MORE OR LESS AS IT PLEASES. WITHOUT THESE BASIC NEW JURISDICTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS "JUDICIAL REFORM," ONE OF THE TENETS OF THE NATIONAL RE-ORGANIZATION PROCESS, WILL REMAIN A CYNICAL -- EVEN CRUEL -- SLOGAN. IN THIS CONNECTION THE COMMISSION SHOULD MAKE EFFORT TO TABULATE THOSE INSTANCES WHEN COURTS HAVE INDEED RISEN TO JUDGE AGAINST SUCH ACTIONS ONLY TO MET WITH SILENCE ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT.

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C) SUBVERSION/TERRORISM DEFINED. A PRINCIPAL PROBLEM IN BOTH CENTRALIZATION AND IN CREATING LEGAL REMEDIES AS EXPLAINED ABOVE DERIVES FROM THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT'S APPARENTLY LACKING DEFINITIONS OF "SUBVERSION" AND "TERRORISM" THAT COULD GUIDE EVEN WELL INTENTION SECURITY OFFICIALS AND DEDICATED JUDGES IN THEIR COMPLICATED CHORES. THE COMMISSION MUST NOT ACT AS THOUGH IT EXPECTS ARGENTINA TO "RETURN" (COMMENT: THE COUNTRY WAS NEVER THERE) TO A SECURITY-LEGAL SYSTEM THAT WOULD STAND THE EXACTING REVIEW OF A WESTERN EUROPEAN OR US COURT. THIS PLAYS INTO THE HANDS OF "DIRTY WAR" THEORISTS WHO JUSTIFY ANY METHOD OF COMBAT ON GROUNDS THAT THE TERRORIST ONSLAUGHT AGAINST ARGENTINE WAS SIMPLY TOO GREAT FOR ITS LEGAL SYSTEMS TO STAND AGAINST THEM. THIS GOVERNMENT AND ITS FORESEEABLE SUCCESSORS ARE GOING TO GUARD AGAINST WHAT IS REGARDED AS ATTACKS AGAINST THE GOVERNING STRUCTURE. WHAT CAN BE REALISTICALLY IMAGINED -- AND THIS WOULD HAVE INCALCULABLE BENEFIT -- IS THAT WITH THE COMMISSION THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT MIGHT DEFINE (AFTER IN-HOUSE DEBATE MADE PUBLIC) WHAT IS CONSIDERS TO BE A "TERRORIST," AND IN DOING THIS ANNOUNCE WHAT PENALTIES A TERRORIST CAN EXPECT, AND WHAT IT CONSIDERS A "SUBVERSIVE" AND WHAT PENALTIES, IF ANY, ATTACH.

AT PRESENT THE CATEGORIES "TERRORIST" AND "SUBVERSIVE" TOO EASILY SLIDE TOGETHER, AND A "SUBVERSIVE" CAN BE PRACTICALLY ANYTHING, INCLUDING A MOTHER DEMANDING TO KNOW THE WHEREABOUTS OF HER SON.

D) PRESENT AND PAST ANTI-TERRORIST/ANTI-SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES. THE COMMISSION IN ITS REPORTS AND IT CONVERSATIONS SHOULD HIGHLIGHT THE RECENT DISAPPEARANCES AND RECENT EVIDENCE OF TORTURE AND MISTREATMENT THAT MAY COME ITS WAY. A FREQUENT ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT DEFENSE OF ITS ACTIVITIES IS THAT BAD THINGS HAPPENED IN THE BAD OLD DAYS, AND THAT THESE EVENTS ARE HISTORY. THEY ARE NOT. THEY CONTINUE TO OCCUR ALBEIT WITH DECREASING FREQUENCY. IT WILL BE BRACING FOR ARGENTINES TO REALIZE THE FREQUENCY WITH WHICH SERIOUS VIOLATIONS TAKE PLACE AT A TIME WHEN VIDELA, VIDLA, MASSERA, AGOSTI, LAMBRUSCHINI, HARGUINDEGUY HAVE EACH SAID -- IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER -- "SUBVERSION IS ELICED AND NOW WE TURN TO THE PROCESS OF HEALING."

E) PEN PRISONERS. THE FACE OF THE COMMISSION'S COMING ALREADY HAS LED TO REDUCTION OF THE NUMBERS OF PEN PRISONERS. WE KNOW OF PLANS FOR IMPROVED PROCESSING SYSTEM OPERATED BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, WOULD HELP THE SITUATION. WE BELIEVE A RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMISSION FOR RELEASE UNDER RIGHT OF OPTION AND CLEMENCY FOR PERSONS CONVICTED -- PERHAPS AFTER A SPEEDY REVIEW OF SOME SORT -- MIGHT PROVIDE THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT AN INCENTIVE FOR DOING WHAT MANY PROFESS TO WANT TO DO ANYWAY: RELEASE PERSONS PICKED UP WHILE VERY YOUNG AND PERSONS WHOSE ONLY LINK WITH SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES WAS MARGINAL.

F) TORTURE. HOSTILE INTERROGATION WITH THE ELECTRIC PICANA, "THE SUBMARINE," ETC. LIES AT THE HEART OF THE ARGENTINE REPRESSIVE SYSTEM. THIS IS AN AREA OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE WHICH CAN BE CLEARLY AND FACTUALLY DOCUMENTED BY THE COMMISSION. THE COMMISSION SHOULD (AND CAN WE BELIEVE DEMONSTRATE THAT TORTURE HAS BECOME A REGULARLY UTILIZED PROCEDURE IN CRIMINAL AS WELL AS SUBVERSIVE CASES. THE COMMISSION MIGHT POINT OUT THAT ACCEPTANCE OF TORTURE BY JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES WITHOUT TRIGGERING INQUIRIES AGAINST THE RESPONSIBLE MILITARY OR POLICE OFFICIALS HAS DEBASED THE SYSTEM OF JUSTICE AND AT VERY LEAST IS AN AREA WHERE PEN ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE SURGED.

G) CLANDESTINE PRISONERS. IT IS HARD TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THIS INSCRUTABLE AREA, FOR THEORIES RANGE BETWEEN THERE BEING "THOUSANDS" OF CLANDESTINE PRISONERS -- THESE OPINIONS BEING HELD, SADLY BUT NATURALLY, BY FAMILIES WHO KEEP ALIVE IN THIS WAY HOPE FOR THEIR MISSING RELATIVES -- TO THERE BEING VERY FEW. (COMMENT: THIS EMBASSY FAVORS THE SECOND VIEW, LESS FROM EVIDENCE THAN FROM FAILURE TO IMAGINE ANY PURPOSE TO BE SERVED BY THE ARMED FORCES' HOLDING A GREAT MANY UNDECLARED PRISONERS.) THE COMMISSION COULD URGE THE THREE ARMED FORCES AND THE POLICE TO RECOGNIZE ALL PRESENTLY HELD PRISONERS AND THEN TO DECLARE UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT THEY HOLD OTHERS. AS SEPTIET STATES (BUENOS AIRES 679) THIS IDEA IS FAVORED BY AN OFFICIAL OF THE INTERIOR MINISTRY AS A MEANS OF CONVINCING FAMILIES THAT THE DISAPPEARED ARE IN FACT DEAD. FINALLY, THIS IS AN AREA TO WHICH THE COMMISSION SHOULD PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION; EVERY BIT OF EVIDENCE THAT CAN BE GOTTEN ON THIS SUBJECT IS VALUABLE.

H) THE DISAPPEARED. THERE WILL BE NO REVIVING THE DEAD, BUT THERE ARE STEPS THE COMMISSION MIGHT URGE FOR ALLEVIATING THE PROBLEMS OF THE LIVING:
1) IT MIGHT URGE THE GOVERNMENT TO UNIFORM FAMILIES -- DIRECTLY OR THROUGH INTERMEDIARIES -- THAT EVIDENCE EXISTS A PERSON HAS DIED. 2) IT MIGHT SUGGEST LEGAL MEASURES BY WHICH PRESUMPTION OF A PERSON'S DEATH COULD BE MADE QUICKER AND SIMPLER -- THUS PERMITTING MYRIAD PRACTICAL TRANSACTION THAT NOW ARE IN ABEYANCE BECAUSE OF A FAMILY MEMBER'S UNCLEAR STATUS. 3) INFORMALLY, IT MIGHT RECOMMEND CLOSE CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, SO THAT THE STATUS OF WIDOWS AND ORPHANS CAN MORE EASILY BE DEFINED FOR BELIEVERS BY THE CLERGY THEY CONSULT. 4) IT MUST INSIST THAT THE GOVERNMENT SEEK TO IDENTIFY BODIES THAT TURN UP IN MYSTERIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES, THE APPARENT RESULT OF GOVERNMENT'S REPRESSION.
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E.O. 12065: CDS 1/22/85 (HARRIS, F. ALLEN) GR-P
TAGS: SHUM, AR, UNHCR, OAS
SUBJECT: (U) ARGENTINA SEEKING UNHCR SEAT

REF: BUENOS AIRES 9998

1. (C- ENTIRE TEXT).

2. ACTING FOMIN FOREIGN POLICY COORDINATOR ARLIA CALLED IN EMBDFF ON JANUARY 17, 1979 AGAIN TO REQUEST USG SUPPORT (OR NEUTRALITY) FOR THE ARGENTINE INITIATIVE TO FILL THE LATIN AMERICAN SEAT ON UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (UNHCR). ARLIA TOUCHED ON ALL THE USUAL POINTS IN HIS PRESENTATION; HOWEVER, TWO POINTS WERE OF SPECIAL INTEREST. FIRST ARLIA ARGUED THAT US SUPPORT FOR ARGENTINA FOR THE UN POST AT THE APRIL ECOSOC MEETING WOULD SIGNAL THE IMPROVEMENT BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND THE UNITED STATES ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE LIGHT OF THE UPCOMING INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (IAHRC) VISIT. SECONDLY, ARLIA OFFERED IN CONSIDERATION FOR US SUPPORT (OR NEUTRALITY) FOR THE ARGENTINE BID FOR THE UNHCR POST THAT THE GOA WOULD BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT THE REELECTION OF PROFESSOR TOM J. FARER TO THE IAHRC. ARLIA SAID THAT ALTHOUGH FARER AND THE COLOMBIAN IAHRC COMMISSIONER WERE PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REJECTION OF THE GOA'S "GUIDELINES" FOR THE SITE VISIT TO ARGENTINA, THE GOA WOULD BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT FARER AS A POLITICAL GESTURE. ARLIA NOTED THAT FARER HAD SUFFICIENT SUPPORT FOR RE-ELECTION, BUT THAT THE ARGENTINE VOTE WOULD SIGNIFY THE "GOA'S POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR THE COMMISSION".

2. EMBASSY COMMENT: THE GOA HAS BEEN SEEKING SUPPORT FOR ITS BID TO GET A SEAT ON THE UNHCR IN SELECTED CAPITALS AROUND THE WORLD. ARLIA EARLIER ADMITTED THAT THE DIPLOMATIC SOUNDINGS WERE NOT GOING WELL. THE MOST RECENT APPROACH SEEKING OUR SUPPORT LOOKED ALSO LIKE A FISHING EXPEDITION, ONLY THIS LAST TIME A BIT OF BAIT WAS OFFERED. ALTHOUGH IT IS TEMPTING TO WRITE OFF THE INITIATIVE AS AN EXAMPLE OF ARGENTINE DIPLOMATIC CHUTZPAH, GIVEN THIS COUNTRY'S HUMAN RIGHTS REPUTATION, THE FACT THAT A GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE HAS SUGGESTED A "PAY-OFF" FOR US SUPPORT (OR NON-OPPOSITION) ON THIS ISSUE IS INTERESTING.

OUR UNDERSTANDING HERE IS THAT OUR VOTE IN THESE FORUMS USUALLY GOES TO THE REGIONAL "CONSENSUS CANDIDATE", AND FROM HERE IT LOOKS LIKE ARGENTINA IS SEEKING ARGUMENTS TO BOLSTER ITS CANDIDACY WITH THE LATIN BLOC. ALTHOUGH THE WHOLE MATTER OF "TRADE-OFFS" MAY BE ACADEMIC, WE PROPOSE SAYING TO GOA IN RESPONSE TO ARLIA'S INITIATIVE THAT IT WOULD BE HARD FOR US TO CONSIDER ARGENTINA'S CANDIDACY ON THE COMMISSION BECAUSE OF CONTINUING DISAPPEARANCES AND THE NUMBERS OF PEN PRISONERS STILL UNCHARGED.

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E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: SHUM AR
SUBJ: REPLIES TO US INTEREST CASES PRESENTED TO THE FOWG.
REF: STATE 019464

1. THE FOREIGN OFFICE'S WORKING GROUP ON HUMAN RIGHTS (FOWG) HAS RECENTLY INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT HAS NO RECORD OF THE DETENTION OF THE FOLLOWING PERSONS, NOR ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THEIR WHEREABOUTS:

CASE NO.	NAME	US INTEREST
47A/77/2	ALVAREZ ROJAS, FEDERICO EDUARDO	SEN. CRANSTON CONG. GILMAN CONG. DU PONT CONG. FINDLEY
9/76/11	MISETICH, ANTONIO ANSELMO	AAAS-ADL
12/76/11	GLEYZER, RAIMUNDO	SEN. ABOUREZK SEN. CASE SEN. DANFORTH SEN. JAVITS SEN. KENNEDY SEN. STEVENSON
13/76/11	GLEYZER, RAIMUNDO	SEN. WEICKER, JR. SEN. WILLIAMS, JR. CONG. BONKER CONG. BURTON CONG. MOFFETT CONG. UDALL CONG. WAXMAN CONG. WOLFF CONG. LOTT
93/77/9	RUS, DANIEL LAZARO	SEN. JAVITS SEN. MOYNIHAN CONG. CAPUTO CONG. COUGHLIN CONG. DOWNEY CONG. ROSENTHL CONG. SCHEUER CONG. UDALL ADL
237/77/12	ELBERT, HORACIO ANIBAL	SEN. BROOKE SEN. LONG SEN. PERCY SEN. SPARKMAN CONG. COLLINS CONG. HECKLER CONG. REUSS CONG. RODINO CONG. ROSTENKOWSKI CONG. YATES
341/78/5	JAROLAVSKY, MAXIMO EDUARDO	SEN. CHURCH SEN. JAVITS SEN. KENNEDY SEN. PERCY AAAS
504/78/8	FIDALGO, ALCIRA GRACIELA	AMN. INT'L

618/78/9	FALCONE, NORMA RAQUEL	AAAS-WOLA
611/78/9	MORALLI, GUILLERMO	AAAS-WOLA
613/78/9	FOUNDAN, ANGELICA BEATRIZ	DEPT. OF STATE
614/78/9	BEDDYAN, MARIA	CONG. STOCKMAN
615/78/9	IKONICOFF, IGNOCIO	CONG. STOCKMAN
616/78/9	SPINELLA, MIGUEL ANGEL SERAFIN	WOLA
617/78/9	GUTIERREZ, ALEJANDRO ENRIQUE	CONG. MYERS
619/78/9	INFANTE ALLENDE, ADOLFO VICENTE	DEPT. OF STATE
620/78/10	DOLZ DE CASTORINO, MARGARITA ROSA	WOLA
621/78/10	KENNEDY DE SADY, DELIA	DEPT. OF STATE
622/78/10	SADY, AMERICO	DEPT. OF STATE
625/78/10	ALONSO, JUAN MANUEL	CONG. MCHUGH
626/78/10	TORNEY NIGRO, ALBERTO JORGE	CONG. FENWICK
627/78/11	DEPRATTI, OSVALDO NEREO	SEN. BAKER SEN. HOLT
628/78/11	ABELLA RAMIREZ DE DEPRATTI, MARIA MELIDA	SEN. BAKER SEN. HOLT

2. THE FOWG ALSO PROVIDED INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING CASES:

612/78/9	RUSSO, HORACIO HUGO	AAAS-WOLA
DETAINED AT DISPOSAL OF MILITARY AUTHORITIES.		
623/78/12	SARAVI, TOMAS MARIO ERNESTO	AAAS
ARRESTED: DECREE 3511, 11-22-75 CHARGES: IN CONNECTION WITH SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES. OPTION: DENIED 8-31-78.		
624/78/12	BROCHI, MARCOS	AAAS
ARRESTED: DECREE 2369, 4-10-76 CHARGE: IN CONNECTION WITH SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES. OPTION: DENIED 11-8-76.		

3. WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST TO PRESENT FOLLOW UPS FOR FEDERICO EDUARDO ALVAREZ ROJAS AND HILDA GRACIELA LEIKIS. (SEE REFTEL) AS NEGATIVE INFORMATION REGARDING FEDERICO EDUARDO ALVAREZ ROJAS HAS JUST BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE FOWG WE WILL NOT PRESENT FOLLOW UP AT THIS TIME. WE ARE PRESENTING ONE ON THE OTHER CASE.

4. WE ARE WRITING TO CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES DIRECTLY.
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E.O. 12065: GDS 1/25/85 (FREEMAN, ANTHONY G.) OR-P
TAGS: ELAB PGOV PINT AR
SUBJ: (U) COMMITTEE OF 25 DECLARES "STATE OF ALERT"
REF: (A) BUENOS AIRES 174; (B) BUENOS AIRES 084

1. (C) SUMMARY: WHILE MILITARY TENSIONS OVER THE UN-RESOLVED BEAGLE DISPUTE ARE SIMMERING DOWN, THERE MAY BE PROBLEMS ON THE HORIZON CREATED BY THE ECONOMIC SITUATION. TRADE UNION LEADERS GROUPED IN THE "COMMITTEE OF 25" HAVE DECLARED A WORKERS' "STATE OF ALERT" AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC POLICIES. TRADITIONALLY, SUCH STATEMENTS ARE THE FIRST STEP LOOKING TO STRIKE ACTION. WE SUSPECT THAT THE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN ENCOURAGED BY SOME MILITARY OFFICERS AND INDUSTRIALISTS TO ISSUE THIS STATEMENT, THE IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE BEING TO FORCE THE ECONOMY MINISTER FROM GOVERNMENT. THERE MAY ALSO BE COUP PLOTTING INVOLVED ON THE PART OR ON BEHALF OF GENERAL SUAREZ MASON, BUT THE ODDS ARE THAT THIS SITUATION WILL SMOOTH OUT AT LEAST TEMPORARILY WITH ARMY COMMANDER VIOLA APPOINTING SUAREZ MASON HIS CHIEF OF STAFF. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHAT ACTION, IF ANY, THE VIDELA GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE AGAINST THE TRADE UNION SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION, WHICH IS AN OBVIOUS VIOLATION OF CURRENT PROHIBITIONS AGAINST POLITICAL AND LABOR ACTIVITY. TRADE UNION SOURCES BELIEVE IT WOULD TAKE THE COMMITTEE OF 25 SEVERAL WEEKS TO PREPARE THE WORKERS FOR A GENERAL STRIKE. END COMMENT.

2. (U) THE "COMMITTEE OF 25," A PROVISIONAL BOARD WHICH PURPORTS TO SPEAK IN REPRESENTATION OF A MAJORITY OF THE ARGENTINE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT, ISSUED A STATEMENT JANUARY 25 DECLARING THE ENTIRE LABOR MOVEMENT IN A "STATE OF ALERT" IN PROTEST AGAINST INADEQUATE WAGES AND "SHARP, GROWING AND UN-CONTROLLED INFLATION." THE COMMUNIQUE RATIFIED THE COMMITTEE'S REJECTION OF THE RECENT ECONOMIC PLAN ANNOUNCED BY ECONOMY MINISTER MARTINEZ DE HOZ AND SEVERELY CRITICIZED THE LATEST INDUSTRY-BY-INDUSTRY WAGE RATES WHICH, IT SAID, "DE FRAUDED THE WORKERS' EXPECTATIONS AS TO THE RATES OF INCREASE THEY SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED. (THE COMMITTEE'S OBJECTIONS TO THE MARTINEZ DE HOZ PLAN WERE DETAILED IN A DOCUMENT ISSUED LAST DECEMBER 19.) THE COMMUNIQUE STATES THAT THE COMMITTEE OF 25 DELAYED UNTIL NOW ITS DECLARATION OF A STATE OF ALERT BECAUSE OF THE NEED FOR NATIONAL UNITY IN THE CRISIS WITH CHILE OVER THE BEAGLE CHANNEL DISPUTE (WHICH HAS NOW BEEN TAMPED DOWN AS A RESULT OF THE VATICAN'S DECISION TO MEDIATE THE PROBLEM).

3. (U) THE COMMUNIQUE WAS SIGNED BY THE FIVE-MAN EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE COMMITTEE OF 25. (INSURANCE WORKER LEADER JOSE VALLE, NOW A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE OF FIVE, IS ONE OF THE SIGNERS; A SUBSTITUTE

LEADER FROM THE GARMENT UNION SIGNED FOR ENRIQUE MICO.)

4. (U) ACCORDING TO UNION TRADITION, THE DECLARATION OF AN ALERT PUTS THE COMMITTEE "IN PERMANENT SESSION" AND OPENS THE WAY FOR STRIKE ACTIONS AND OTHER PRESSURE TACTICS.

5. (C) THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS THAT MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATED WITH ARMY FIRST CORPS COMMANDER GENERAL SUAREZ MASON, CONSPIRING TOGETHER WITH DISGRUNTLED INDUSTRIALISTS, HAVE BEEN PRESSURING TRADE UNION LEADERS TO CALL A GENERAL STRIKE WHICH WOULD BE COORDINATED WITH A COUP AGAINST ARMY COMMANDER VIOLA, PRESIDENT VIDELA AND ECONOMY MINISTER MARTINEZ DE HOZ. LABOR SOURCES TOLD US LAST WEEK THAT THE STRIKE CALL WOULD PROBABLY NOT OCCUR UNTIL MARCH WHEN TRADE UNION LEADERS AND SOME INDUSTRIALISTS ESTIMATE THERE WILL BE A RENEWED SPURT OF INFLATION (FOLLOWING THE TRADITIONALLY LESS ACTIVE MONTH OF FEBRUARY) AND "A NEW DOWNTURN IN PRODUCTION." THESE SOURCES NOW SAY THAT THE FOLLOWING FACTORS CONVERGED TO PERSUADE THE COMMITTEE OF 25 TO MOVE AT THIS TIME AT LEAST PART WAY TOWARD A STRIKE:

(A) MILITARY OFFICERS FROM THE VIOLA CAMP AS WELL AS SUAREZ MASON SUPPORTERS ALLEGEDLY HAVE BEEN EXERTING PARALLEL PRESSURES ON UNION LEADERS TO ISSUE STATEMENTS AGAINST MARTINEZ DE HOZ IN ORDER TO "ACCELERATE THE POLITICAL PROCESS."

(B) MEDIUM-SIZED INDUSTRIALISTS, FORMALLY GROUPED IN THE CGE (THE ENTREPRENEURS' ASSOCIATION FORGED BY THE LATE ECONOMY MINISTER GELBARD DURING THE PERONIST PERIOD) ARE EXPECTED TO ISSUE A BLAST SHORTLY AGAINST MARTINEZ DE HOZ.

(C) THE "CNT", THE TRADE UNION BLOC WHICH RIVALS THE COMMITTEE OF 25 FOR LEADERSHIP OF THE ARGENTINE LABOR MOVEMENT A WEEK OR SO AGO ISSUED A STATEMENT AGAINST MARTINEZ DE HOZ. THE COMMITTEE OF 25 REPORTEDLY COULD NOT STAND IDLY BY AND ALLOW ITS RIVAL, WHICH IS SUPPOSED TO BE THE TAMER OF THE TWO TRADE UNION BLOCS, TO ATTACK GOVERNMENT POLICIES WITHOUT

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NO DOUBT THAT THERE IS ENORMOUS LABOR AND POPULAR
 DISCONTENT OVER LOW WAGES AND CONTINUING INFLATION.
 THE ALERT DECLARATION COULD EVEN SPARK A SPONTANEOUS
 STRIKE ACTION BY RANK-AND-FILE WORKERS. BUE JANUARY
 IS VACATION MONTH, TRADITIONALLY NOT A GOOD TIME
 FOR EFFECTIVE ACTION. WE THINK THE CHANCES FOR A
 GENERAL STRIKE, IF INDEED THERE IS ONE, WILL PROBABLY
 BE BETTER IN MARCH AND THEREAFTER. END COMMENT.
 CASTRO

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EMITTING A SIMILAR EVEN MORE DRAMATIC STATEMENT.
 (D) THE RECENT UNCOVERING OF A BANKING SCANDAL,
 ALLEGEDLY INVOLVING FINANCIERS AND GOVERNMENT
 OFFICIALS CLOSE TO MARTINEZ DE HOZ APPEARED TO MAKE
 THE ECONOMY MINISTER AND HIS TEAM "EASIER GAME."

6. TRADE UNION SOURCES, CONTACTED JANUARY 25, SEE
 THE "STATE OF ALERT" AS A WARNING TO VIDELA BUT NOT
 NECESSARILY A SIGNAL THAT A SUAREZ MASON COUP IS
 IMMINENT. THE NEW ARMY COMMAND ASSIGNMENTS ARE
 EXPECTED TO BE ANNOUNCED SHORTLY. THERE IS A BELIEF
 THAT VIOLA WILL DESIGNATE SUAREZ MASON AS CHIEF-OF-
 STAFF OF THE ARMY, WHICH, SHOULD THIS BE ACCOMPLISHED AND SUAREZ
 MASON ACCEPT, WOULD SIGNIFY AT LEAST A TEMPORARY ALLIANCE OF
 CONVENIENCE BETWEEN THE TWO GENERALS. THE STATE OF ALERT
 CALL PRESUMABLY IS INTENDED TO HELP THIS PROCESS
 ALONG IN THE BELIEF THAT THE FIRING OF MARTINEZ DE HOZ
 JUST MIGHT BE BROUGHT OFF AS A HAPPY RESULT. THE
 OBJECTIVE, THEN, IS FIRST OF ALL TO PRECIPITATE THE
 SACKING OF MARTINEZ DE HOZ AND TO HELP THE POLITICAL
 PROCESS MOVE IN A DIRECTION WHICH EVIDENTLY WORKER
 LEADERS, SOME INDUSTRIALISTS AND MILITARY MEN BELIEVE
 BETTER SUITS THEIR INTERESTS. LABOR SOURCES BELIEVE
 THAT VIOLA'S OBJECTIVE IS TO TRY TO
 SAVE PRESIDENT VIDELA AND PERHAPS EVEN MARTINEZ DE
 HOZ, BUT THAT IF THE PRESSURES SHOULD BECOME TOO
 GREAT, VIOLA MAY BE FORCED TO DISPOSE OF BOTH
 THE PRESIDENT AND THE ECONOMY MINISTER. REPORTEDLY,
 VIOLA AIDES ARE ALREADY TELLING TRADE UNION SOURCES
 THAT VIOLA PLANS TO TAKE THIS ACTION AND THEN
 DECLARE HIMSELF PRESIDENT IN VIDELA'S STEAD, I.E. HE
 WILL REVERT TO THE PREVIOUS MODEL OF THE ARMY
 COMMANDER HOLDING DOWN THE PRESIDENCY AT THE SAME
 TIME. (COMMENT: WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THIS IS
 INDEED VIOLA'S PLAN; WE KNOW ONLY THAT THIS IS WHAT HIS
 AIDES REPORTEDLY ARE CLAIMING. IT IS ALSO UNCLEAR
 TO US WHAT SUAREZ MASON'S ATTITUDE WOULD BE TO
 VIOLA'S RETAINING HIS COMMAND OF THE ARMY AND
 ASSUMING THE PRESIDENCY.)

7. (C) WORKER SOURCES CONTACTED JANUARY 25 DO NOT
 APPEAR TO ANTICIPATE A HARSH GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO
 THE COMMITTEE OF 25'S STATEMENT, ON THE THEORY THAT
 THE GOVERNMENT IS WEAK AND WILL NOT WISH TO
 TAKE ACTION WHICH MIGHT PRECIPITATE ITS OWN DOWNFALL.
 COMMENT: THIS MAY BE AN OVERLY COMPLACENT ATTITUDE.
 END COMMENT.

8. (C) LABOR SOURCES BELIEVE IT WOULD TAKE THE COMMITTEE
 OF 25 AT LEAST A WEEK, AND PROBABLY MORE, TO PRE-
 PARE THE GROUND WORK FOR AN EFFECTIVE GENERAL STRIKE
 BUT THAT THE SITUATION IS RIPE FOR A GOOD LABOR
 BLOW-UP. COMMENT:
 WORKER LEADERS WILL PROBABLY WANT SOME
 ASSURANCES FROM MILITARY CHIEFS THAT THEY WILL
 NOT BE SUBJECT TO SEVERE REPRISALS BEFORE COMMITTING
 THEMSELVES TO A GENERAL STRIKE. MUCH DEPENDS ON HOW
 THE GOVERNMENT REACTS TO THE THREAT TOO. THERE IS

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E.O. 12065: GDS 1/23/85 (HARRIS, F. ALLEN) OR-P
TAGS: SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: (U) VISIT OF IAHRC - HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION'S
PREPARATIONS AND CONCERNS -

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT).
2. AN INDEPENDENT TASK FORCE OF PERMANENT ASSEMBLY
LAWYERS HAS BEEN ORGANIZED BY DRS. CONTE-MACDONELL AND
MIGNONE AND HAS BEGUN PREPARING A "WHITE PAPER" ON ALL ASPECTS
OF THE ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION FOR THE IAHRC.
THE PAPER WILL EMPHASIZE THE LACK OF LEGAL REMEDIES AND
PROCEDURES TO PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS IN ARGENTINA, THE VERY
SAME ISSUE WHICH WE HAVE BEEN TOLD GOVERNMENT MEMBERS FEEL
THEY CAN BEST USE TO DEFEND THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD.

3. HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERS ARE OPENLY EXPRESSING CONCERN
ABOUT THE ABILITY OF IAHRC TEAM TO ABSORB THE HUGE AMOUNT
OF CASE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AND ALSO LOOK THROUGH BROAD
PRIORITY TOPICS AS CLANDESTINE PRISONERS, RIGHT TO TRIAL,
PRISONER MISTREATMENT, TORTURE, AND THE THOUSANDS OF "DESAPARECIDOS"
IN THE NINE OR TEN DAYS ALLOTTED FOR THE
OAS GROUP'S STAY IN ARGENTINA. GIVEN THE LARGE NUMBER
OF DESAPPEARANCE CASES IN ARGENTINA (WHICH THE HUMAN
RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS NOW UNIFORMLY ESTIMATE AT AROUND
15,000), IF ONLY A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF THOSE CASES WERE
TO BE ACTUALLY DISCUSSED OR INVESTIGATED BY IAHRC MEMBERS
WHILE HERE, THIS WOULD OCCUPY A MAJOR AMOUNT OF THE OAS
TEAM'S TIME.

4. THE CURRENT FOCUS FOR THE IAHRC VISIT WITHING THE
PERMANENT ASSEMBLY IS ON THE CLANDESTINE PRISONERS.
ASSEMBLY MEMBERS BELIEVE THAT MOST OF THE DETENTION AND
INTERROGATION FACILITIES PRESENTLY IN OPERATION ARE
LOCATED ON MILITARY BASES--AREAS WHICH PROBABLY WILL BE
OFF LIMITS TO THE COMMISSION. ALTHOUGH THE ASSEMBLY
ACTIVISTS DISCOUNT THE PROSPECT OF FIRSTHAND "DISCOVERIES"
BY THE COMMISSION, THEY ARE HOPING THAT THE "THREAT" OF
SITE VISITS WILL PUT PRESSURE ON THE ARMED SERVICES TO
RECOGNIZE AND/OR RELEASE THE CLANDESTINE PRISONERS THEY
ARE HOLDING. (COMMENT: ALTHOUGH WE HAVE RECEIVED SEVERAL
REPORTS OF THE CLOSING OF INTERROGATION FACILITIES--NAVY
MECHANICS SCHOOL, "LA PERLA" AND "LA RIVERA" IN CORDOBA--
WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE THE LARGE NUMBERS OF
SURVIVING PRISONERS RUMORED TO BE HELD BY THE MILITARY.

5. TO FACILITATE THE DISAPPEARANCE CASE WORK OF THE
COMMISSION A PERMANENT ASSEMBLY TASK FORCE, WORKING
IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE LEAGUE FOR THE RIGHTS
OF MAN AND THE ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
(MEMO), HAS PREPARED A LIST OF ALL THE DISAPPEARANCE
CASES REPORTED TO THE THREE ORGANIZATIONS. AS OF
JANUARY FIRST THE COMPUTERIZED LIST CONTAINED 4,497

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INFO: S2865: GDS 1/22/65 (HARRIS, F. ALLEN) OR-P
TAGS: SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: (U). PREPARATIONS FOR IAHRC VISIT

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT).

2. SUMMARY: PREPARATIONS FOR THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (IAHRC) ARE UNDER WAY IN THE MINISTRIES OF INTERIOR AND FOREIGN RELATIONS. GOA OFFICIALS SEE THE ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD MOST VULNERABLE ON THE ISSUES OF TORTURE, MISTREATMENT OF PRISONERS, AND LONG-TERM DETENTION OF EXECUTIVE ("PODER EJECUTIVO NACIONAL") PRISONERS WITHOUT CHARGES. THE GOA IS TAKING STEPS ON THE LATTER POINT TO IMPROVE THE TREATMENT AND THE PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH ITS PEN PRISONERS. THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR HOPES TO REMOVE FROM PEN DETENTION ALL PRISONERS WHO ARE ALSO UNDER CHARGES BY THE CIVIL MILITARY JUSTICE SYSTEM. MOST NEW CASES ARE NOT BEING PLACED UNDER PEN, BUT UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF MILITARY COURTS. A FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL TOLD US HE DOES NOT SEE A GREAT THREAT COMING OUT OF AN OAS INVESTIGATION OF THE "DESAPARECIDOS". WITH NO HARD EVIDENCE OF GOA INVOLVEMENT AVAILABLE, THE ISSUE BECOMES A QUESTION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S WORD AGAINST THE WORD OF THE MISSING PERSON'S RELATIVES OR FRIENDS. END SUMMARY.

3. THE FOREIGN OFFICE WORKING GROUP ON HUMAN RIGHTS (FOWG) HAS BEGUN WORK TO PREPARE FOR THE STATE-MAY IAHRC VISIT TO ARGENTINA. AS A START, THE FOWG HAS PRODUCED A TWO-INCH BRIEFING BOOK FOR THE VISIT FOR THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND HIS NEW AIR FORCE TEAM. IN RECENT CONVERSATIONS, FOWG HEAD ARLIA ADMITTED THAT THERE ARE THREE PRINCIPAL AREAS WHERE THE ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD IS VULNERABLE TO THE IAHRC INVESTIGATION. THE FIRST IS THE "BAD TREATMENT" RECEIVED BY PEN PRISONERS AND PERSONS "BEING QUESTIONED", AS ARLIA PHRASES IT. A NUMBER OF FIRST-HAND REPORTS OF SUCH MISTREATMENT WILL BE FORMALLY PRESENTED TO THE COMMISSION DURING ITS VISIT, AND ARLIA BELIEVES, THAT THE GOA CANNOT SUCCESSFULLY DISAVOW THOSE TESTIMONIES. THE SECOND AREA OF VULNERABILITY IS THE FAILURE OF THE GOVERNMENT TO TRY LARGE NUMBERS OF PRISONERS IN THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM. THE THIRD, AND COROLLARY, PROBLEM IS THE LONG DETENTION WITHOUT CHARGES OF A LARGE NUMBER OF PEN PRISONERS--SOME CASES FOR PERIODS OF THREE TO FOUR YEARS. IN THESE AREAS, THE FOREIGN OFFICE SEES LITTLE THAT THE GOA CAN DO TO REBUT THE IAHRC REPORT.

4. MINISTER ARLIA BLUNTLY STATED THAT THE ISSUE OF THE "DESAPARECIDOS" WAS NOT AN AREA OF CONCERN AS THERE WAS NOTHING THE GOVERNMENT COULD DO TO RESOLVE

THIS PROBLEM. THE DISAPPEARANCE REPORTS WOULD BE A QUESTION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S WORD THAT THEY HAD NO INFORMATION ON THE CASES AGAINST THAT OF PARENTS AND OTHERS CLAIMING THAT GOVERNMENT FORCES WERE RESPONSIBLE.

5. ARLIA WENT ON TO EXPRESS THE MINISTRY'S DISPLEASURE OVER THE IAHRC'S RECENT FINDINGS AGAINST THE GOA IN 14 HUMAN RIGHTS CASE INVESTIGATIONS.

6. ARLIA SAID THAT THE GOA'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE COMMISSION'S VISIT WOULD DEPEND ENTIRELY ON THE COMMISSION'S BEHAVIOR. IF THE COMMISSION MEMBERS COME TO ARGENTINA PREPARED TO INCLUDE "HEARSAY EVIDENCE" IN ITS REPORT, THEY WOULD MEET STRONG OPPOSITION FROM THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT. IF ON THE OTHER HAND, THE COMMISSION ARRIVED TO MAKE AN OBJECTIVE APPRAISAL OF THE ARGENTINE SCENE, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE TERRORIST ANTECEDENTS OF THE ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM AND NOTING THE SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE LAST YEAR, THE COMMISSION WOULD FIND THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT MOST COOPERATIVE.

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