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ACTION SS-30

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4197

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E.O. 12065: XDS-1 2/8/10 (CASTRO, RAUL H.) OR-M
TAGS: PEPR SHUM AR
SUBJ: (U) REACTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT

REF: BUENOS AIRES 1159

1. (C) AT MID MORNING TODAY, PRESIDENT VIDELA SENT ME AN ADVANCE COPY OF THE TEXT OF A COMMUNIQUE HIS OFFICE ISSUED SHORTLY BEFORE NOON ON OUR HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT. THE EMISSARY WHO BROUGHT THE NOTE -- COL. MIGUEL ABBATE -- SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS SURPRISED THAT THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAD ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING THE DELIVERY OF YESTERDAY'S PROTEST TO US, HIGHLIGHTING THE GOA'S DISPLEASURE AND SUGGESTING THE REPORT CAUSED DETERIORATION IN US-ARGENTINE RELATIONS (FULL TEXT PARA 6 BELOW). IN ISSUING THE COMMUNIQUE THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAD INADVERTENTLY BUT CLEARLY OVERSTEPPED THE PRESIDENT'S ORDERS, ABBATE SAID. THE PRESIDENT DID NOT AND DOES NOT WANT THE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT TO BECOME A CONTENTIOUS ISSUE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ARGENTINA, ABBATE SAID. RATHER HE WANTS TO BUILD UPON THE RECONSTRUCTED BASES OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR NATIONS. THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNIQUE IS INTENDED TO PUT AN END TO THE DEBATE WITH THE UNITED STATES -- IN FACT, HE NOTED, IT NEITHER TAKES ISSUE WITH THE SUBSTANCE OF THE

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DEPARTMENT'S REPORT NOR REPEATS THE FOREIGN OFFICE'S ALLEGATIONS ABOUT THE REPORT'S EFFECT ON US-ARGENTINE RELATIONS. THE COMMUNIQUE WAS ADDRESSED TO DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONCERNS, ABBATE AVOWED.

2. (C) COMMENT: TO THE AVERAGE ARGENTINE READER THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNIQUE CAN ONLY FEED A BELIEF THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S REPORT HAS PRODUCED A DIFFICULT MOMENT WITH THE US. VIDELA IS TRYING TO HAVE THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS. ON THE ONE HAND HE WANTS TO MAKE SURE THAT NO ARGENTINE BELIEVES HE HAS PASSIVELY ACCEPTED THE USG "INTERVENTION" IN ARGENTINE AFFAIRS. ON THE OTHER, HE WANTS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT SOME ACTS ARE POLITICALLY NECESSARY BUT NEED NOT AFFECT OUR RELATIONS. I BELIEVE TOO, THAT FROM NOW ON HE WILL TRY TO KEEP THE DEBATE OVER OUR REPORT AN INTERNAL ONE AND NOT ONE BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENTS.

3. (S) I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE COLONEL'S VISIT TO HIT HIM ON SOVIET-ARGENTINE COOPERATION IN GENEVA UNHRC MEETING. BASED ON INFO PROVIDED BY SESO, I ALSO BRACED HIM WITH THE REPORT, WHICH I DID NOT ATTRIBUTE TO ANY SPECIFIC SOURCE, THAT SOVIET VICE FOREIGN MINISTER JACOV

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MALIK MIGHT BE COMING TO ARGENTINA. I TOLD HIM THAT IF MALIK WERE TO COME TO ARGENTINA IT WOULD CREATE THE WORST POSSIBLE IMPRESSION IN WASHINGTON AND THE WEST, CONFIRMING THE VIEW OF SOME THAT ARGENTINA IS FAST BECOMING A PARTNER OF THE EAST. ABBATE SAID HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT EITHER OF THESE SUBJECTS -- WHICH IS PROBABLY TRUE -- BUT WOULD IMMEDIATELY LOOK INTO THEM.

4. (C) THE FOLLOWING IS OUR INFORMAL TRANSLATION

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OF THE TEXT THAT WAS GIVEN TO ME BY ABBATE. (COMMENT: THE CONFUSION AND LACK OF CLARITY IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ORIGINAL DRAFTERS.)

5. (U) QUOTE. YESTERDAY THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT, THROUGH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, EXPRESSED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ITS DISPLEASURE OVER THE PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN OUR COUNTRY THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS OF THAT NATION, BECAUSE IT CONSIDERS THAT SUCH AN ACTION CONSTITUTES A CLEAR INTERVENTION ON THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF A SOVEREIGN STATE.

MOREOVER, PUBLIC OPINION IS INFORMED THAT BECAUSE OF THE FOREGOING, THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT ABSTAINS FROM ANALYZING THE CONTENT OF THAT DOCUMENT, AT THE SAME TIME THAT IT FEELS IT NECESSARY TO REITERATE AGAIN ITS PERMANENT POSITION ON THE MATTER. THAT POSITION IS FOUNDED ON THE NECESSITY GENERATED AS

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A CONSEQUENCE OF THE WAR UNLEASHED BY TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS, THROUGH MANY YEARS OF PERMANENT AND PROGRESSIVE AGGRESSION IN WHICH THE ARMED FORCES WERE FINALLY OBLIGED TO PARTICIPATE.

THEY DID SO WITH THE INESTIMABLE SUPPORT OF THE POLICE AND SECURITY FORCES AND THE SPONTANEOUS COLLABORATION OF A PUBLIC ANXIOUS FOR TRANQUILITY, WITH THE OBJECT OF REESTABLISHING LOST PEACE, GUARANTEES FOR ALL INHABITANTS AND THE ORDER REQUIRED AS THE FOUNDATION FOR THE NATION TO CONSTRUCT ITS OWN DESTINY.

THE PAINFUL CONSEQUENCES, WHICH WERE NEITHER DESIRED NOR SOUGHT AFTER WERE THE PRICE THAT WAS PAID. OUR PEOPLE HAVE THE EXCLUSIVE AND IRRENUNCIABLE RIGHT TO JUDGE THE SITUATION IN THE LIGHT OF THE

PRESENT PREVAILING CLIMATE OF PEACE AND SECURITY,
WHICH ARE ONLY FULLY VALUED WHEN THEY ARE LOST.
END QUOTE.

6. (U) FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MFA COMMUNIQUE:
QUOTE. AS A MEANS OF MAKING KNOWN THE DISPLEASURE
OF THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT DUE TO A NEW INTRUSION
INTO THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE STATE WHICH THE
AMERICAN STATE DEPARTMENT'S REPORT TO THE US CONGRESS
ON THE STATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ARGENTINA REPRESENTS

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AND AT THE SAME TIME TO DEMONSTRATE CONCERN OVER THE
DETERIORATION IN BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE
TWO COUNTRIES WHICH THIS PRACTICE BRINGS, THE UNITED
STATES AMBASSADOR, MR. RAUL CASTRO, WHO WAS RECEIVED
BY FOREIGN RELATIONS UNDERSECRETARY (COMODORE) CARLOS
CAVANDOLI, WAS SUMMONED TO THE SAN MARTIN PALACE."
CASTRO

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