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RELEASED IN PART  
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ACTION SS-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 SSO-00 /000 W  
-----163652 261606Z /38

O 261601Z JAN 89  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1193  
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
USINT HAVANA

SECRET SECTION 01 OF 02 BUENOS AIRES 00846

EXDIS DECAPTIONED

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN  
MILITARY ADDRESSEE TREAT AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PREL, MARR, ASEC, AR  
SUBJECT: LA TABLADA: FELIPE GONZALEZ TELLS ALFONSIN  
- THERE IS CONTINENTAL DIMENSION

REF: BUENOS AIRES 823

1. (SECRET --ENTIRE TEXT)
2. FOREIGN MINISTER CAPUTO CALLED ME IN MORNING  
JANUARY 26 TO SAY THAT SPAIN'S FELIPE GONZALEZ HAD  
JUST PHONED PRESIDENT ALFONSIN TO TELL HIM THAT THE  
LA TABLADA INCIDENT WAS NOT LIMITED TO ARGENTINA.  
GONZALEZ SAID HE HAD HARD INFORMATION THAT SIMILAR  
ACTIONS WERE TO TAKE PLACE IN OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE  
HEMISPHERE. APPARENTLY GONZALEZ MENTIONED VENEZUELA  
SPECIFICALLY TO ALFONSIN, SAYING THAT SOMETHING WAS  
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(OR HAD BEEN) PLANNED FOR AROUND THE TIME OF THE CAP  
INAUGURATION, WHETHER BEFORE OR AFTER CAPUTO WAS  
NOT SURE. CAPUTO DID NOT KNOW ANY OTHER DETAILS.  
ALFONSIN AND GONZALEZ HAD AGREED TO TALK MORE WHEN

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON  
CLASSIFICATION: SECRET REASON: 25X6  
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 7 JUN 2032  
DATE/CASE ID: 07 JUN 2007 200601449

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THEY SEE EACH OTHER IN CARACAS.

3. CAPUTO SAID HE HAD NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED TO PASS THIS INFORMATION BUT FELT IT SO IMPORTANT WE SHOULD KNOW. HE ASKED THAT WE TREAT IT WITH MORE THAN NORMAL CARE FOR TIME BEING. IN ANSWER TO MY QUERY, HE ASSURED ME THAT GOV IS AWARE OF GONZALEZ'S INFORMATION.

4. CAPUTO SAID THAT GOA IS MOVING TO "COUNTERATTACK" IN WAKE OF LA TABLADA. CREATION OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL IS ONE ASPECT OF RESPONSE ON INTERNAL SIDE. CAPUTO HOPES THAT THERE WILL ALSO BE AN EXTERNAL DIMENSION, DIRECTED AGAINST NICARAGUA AND PANAMA. I ASKED CAPUTO IF HE CONTINUED TO FEEL COMFORTABLE IN EXCLUDING CUBA FROM POSSIBLE RESPONSIBILITY. I TOLD HIM THAT WHAT PRELIMINARY CHECKING WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO, IT APPEARED THAT A GOOD MANY OF THOSE INVOLVED WITH THE MOVIMIENTO TODOS POR LA PATRIA (MTP) HAD BEEN THROUGH CUBA. CAPUTO DID NOT DISPUTE THAT, BUT NEITHER DID HE SEE IT AS NECESSARILY RELEVANT IN CONNECTION WITH LA TABLADA.

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5. I ASKED CAPUTO IF THERE WAS ANY GOOD INFORMATION AS YET ON REMAINING CAPABILITIES OF THE MTP. CAPUTO NOTED THAT SOME OF TOP LEADERS HAD BEEN KILLED OR

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TAKEN PRISONER, BUT OTHERS SUCH AS GORRIARAN MERLO AND PROVENZANO HAD NOT. THERE WAS A REPORT THAT GORRIARAN AND HIS WIFE HAD BOTH BEEN ABLE TO ESCAPE FROM LA TABLADA. THE GOVERNMENT IS WORRIED THAT THE MTP HAS SUFFICIENT REMAINING CAPABILITIES TO CARRY OUT FURTHER ACTS. IF SO, ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS ARE NOW VIEWED AS MOST LIKELY.

6. IN SUBSEQUENT PHONE CONVERATION WITH CAPUTO I TOLD HIM WE WERE HAVING SOME DIFFICULTY IN GETTING SERIAL NUMBERS OF WEAPONS BECAUSE THEY ARE NOW IN CUSTODY OF A FEDERAL JUDGE. IF HE, CAPUTO, HAS MEANS TO EXPEDITE INFORMATION, WE WOULD DO WHAT WE CAN TO PROVIDE USG ASSISTANCE IN TRACKING WEAPONS. (SEE ALSO SEPTTEL REPORTING CONVERSATION JAN 25 WITH JUDGE WHO TOLD

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US THAT MANY OF WEAPONS WERE TAKEN HOME AS SOUVENIRS,  
AND GOA IS HAVING TROUBLE ROUNDING THEM UP.)

7. COMMENT. I DID NOT THINK IT APPROPRIATE AT  
THIS TIME TO PRESS CAPUTO ON HIS THINKING ABOUT  
EXTERNAL "COUNTERATTACK"; PRESUMABLY HE HAS IN MIND  
AT MINIMUM PUBLIC DENUNCIATION OF PANAMA AND NICARAGUA  
ROLES IN SUPPORT OF EXTREMISTS OF RIGHT AND LEFT, AND  
QUITE POSSIBLY WITHDRAWING AMBASSADORS OR EVEN BREAKING  
RELATIONS. HOWEVER IT WILL BE HARD FOR GOA TO GO  
THAT ROUTE ABSENT A REASONABLY CONVINCING PUBLIC CASE.  
MAYBE THE GONZALEZ INFORMATION WILL HELP. ANYTHING WE  
CAN PROVIDE SEPARATELY ON NICARAGUAN/CUBAN LINKS TO  
THE MTP (OR MORE ON NORIEGA/SEINELDIN) WILL ALSO BE  
IMPORTANT.

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[REDACTED]

8. THE IMPRESSION GAINED FROM CAPUTO WAS THAT ANY  
INCIDENT IN VENEZUELA WOULD BE SIMILAR TO LA TABLADA,  
I.E. DIRECTED AGAINST INTERNAL TARGETS. HE DID  
NOT RAISE THREAT TO ALFONSIN OR OTHER FOREIGN GUESTS  
AT CAP INAUGURAL. BUT WE FLAG IT FOR APPROPRIATE LIAISON  
IN CARACAS SURROUNDING VICE PRESIDENT QUAYLE'S VISIT.

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