

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-05 TRSE-00 CIAE-00  
INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 PA-01 USIA-06 SIL-01 LAB-04  
PM-05 DODE-00 /057 W

-----126984 300023Z /62

R 282030Z OCT 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2950  
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY ROME

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

Release  Excise  Deny

Exemption(s):

~~Classify~~:  In Part  In Full **DECLINTOR OL**

Classify as  Extend as  Downgrade to

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Declassify on \_\_\_\_\_ Reason \_\_\_\_\_

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 8096

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, AR, IT, SP  
SUBJECT: ADMIRAL MASSERA'S EUROPEAN TRIP OVER

REF: STATE 257662 (NOTAL)

1. ADMIRAL MASSERA COMPLETED HIS NINE-DAY OFFICIAL TRIP TO SPAIN AND ITALY OCT 28 AND IS EXPECTED BACK IN ARGENTINA OCT 30. AS FAR AS THE HUMAN RIGHTS CONTENT OF HIS VISIT IS CONCERNED, WE UNDERSTAND FROM PRESS REPORTS HERE THAT THE ISSUE DID NOT ARISE DURING HIS CALLS IN SPAIN BUT THAT IN ITALY HIGH GOVERNMENT AND VATICAN OFFICIALS PRESSED HIM HARD ON THE QUESTION OF DISAPPEARANCES AND DETENTIONS IN ARGENTINA. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER CUILIO ANDREOTTI SHARPLY QUESTIONED MASSERA ABOUT DISAPPEARED AND DETAINED ITALIAN CITIZENS IN ARGENTINA. ITALIAN SENATE PRESIDENT AMINTORE FANFANI REPORTEDLY ASKED ABOUT ARGENTINA'S LABOR PROBLEMS AND THE STATUS OF MISSING AND DETAINED

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LABOR LEADERS AND OTHER INDIVIDUALS IN ARGENTINA.

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2. AT THE VATICAN, MASSERA APPARENTLY HAD A SHARP EXCHANGE WITH MONSIGNOR AGOSTINO CASAROLI, VATICAN SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, WHO POINTLY ASKED ABOUT THE SITUATION OF SEVERAL CATHOLIC PRIESTS WHO HAD BEEN ATTACKED AND DETAINED OR DISAPPEARED IN ARGENTINA. POPE PAUL REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED SYMPATHY AND HIS WISH FOR A SPEEDY RETURN TO PEACE IN ARGENTINA WHEN VISITED BY MASSERA. THE ARGENTINE EMBASSY'S PRESS RELEASES ON THE VATICAN CALLS REPORTEDLY, CHARACTERIZED THEM AS SIMPLY "COURTESY CALLS".

3. MASSERA'S EUROPEAN TRIP WAS AT THE INVITATION OF ITALIAN AND SPANISH NAVY OFFICIALS AND HE TRAVELED IN HIS CAPACITY AS NAVY CINC RATHER THAN RULING JUNTA MEMBER. THE PRIMARY STATED PURPOSE OF HIS TRIP WAS TO PROMOTE INCREASED COOPERATION WITH THE SPANISH AND ITALIAN NAVIES AND TO EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND PURCHASE OF EUROPEAN WARSHIPS AND MILITARY TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF THE ARGENTINE NAVY. TO THAT END, MASSERA ANNOUNCED HIS TRIP WOULD BE FOLLOWED SOON BY ANOTHER HIGH-LEVEL NAVY DELEGATION HEADED BY NAVY CHIEF OF STAFF VICE ADMIRAL LAMBRUSCHINI.  
CHAPLIN

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