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PAGE 01 BUENOS 08232 01 OF 04 030405Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-05 TRSE-00 IO-13 COME-00 EB-08
LAB-04 SIL-01 MCT-01 AID-05 ACDA-12 SY-05 /127 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
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AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

[REDACTED] SECTION 1 OF 4 BUENOS AIRES 8232

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY:

RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS IN ARGENTINA ARE MIXED. THE GOVERNMENT'S RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT OF A RESTRICTED RIGHT OF OPTION PROGRAM TO ALLOW PERSONS HELD UNDER EXECUTIVE DETENTION TO LEAVE-THE COUNTRY, ALTHOUGH POINTED TO BY THE GOA AS A SIGNIFICANT ADVANCE, IS SEEN BY PERSONS SEEKING THE "OPTION" TO LEAVE AS NO ESSENTIAL CHANGE OVER PAST PROCEDURES. THE GOVERNMENT STILL RETAINS THE RIGHT TO RELEASE ONLY THOSE PERSONS THAT IT CHOOSES TO. LOCAL BAR MEMBERS WITH DETAINED CLIENTS HAVE DUBBED THE NEW PROGRAM AS "THE RIGHT TO PETITION". THE REAL TEST WILL LIE IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM. PERMANENT ASSEMBLY AND

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Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
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PAGE 02 BUENOS 08232 01 OF 04 030405Z

Current Class: [REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1977BUENOS08232

Page: 2
Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

LEAGUE FOR THE RIGHT OF MAN MEMBERS STATE THAT THEY HAVE BEEN RECEIVING ABOUT THE SAME NUMBER OF REPORTED DISAPPEARANCES OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS. THE POSITIVE NEWS IS THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS ARE GAINING IN STRENGTH. THE RECENT "MOTHER'S DAY" PETITION AND DEMONSTRATION ARE VIEWED AS HAVING NOT ONLY SENT A SIGNAL TO THE JUNTA REGARDING THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE DISAPPEARANCE PROBLEM, BUT ALSO HAVING STRENGTHENED THE COMMITMENT OF THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED. THE MOST SOBERING DEVELOPMENT IS THE EXPECTED RETENTION AND IN SOME CASES PROMOTION OF SENIOR ARGENTINE HARD-LINE MILITARY OFFICIALS CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE ANTI-TERRORIST AND ANTI-SUBVERSIVE CAMPAIGNS. HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS HAD HOPED EARLIER THAT THIS YEAR'S CYCLE OF PROMOTIONS AND RETIREMENTS WOULD SEE NEW, MORE MODERATE OFFICERS MOVING INTO POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY RELATING TO THE ANTI-SUBVERSIVE PROGRAMS. END SUMMARY.

1. UNION HUMAN RIGHTS SURVEY -----

IN AN EFFORT TO "DIALOGUE" AND SHOW THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS RESPONSIVE TO WORKER PROBLEMS, THE GOVERNMENT-INTERVENED NATIONAL TRADE UNION CENTRAL (CGT) HAS ESTABLISHED A SUBCOMMITTEE OF TRADE UNION LEADERS TO DEAL WITH THE QUESTION OF TRADE UNION DETAINEES AND DISAPPEARED. AS A FIRST STEP THE MILITARY OFFICER PRESIDING OVER THE COMMITTEE ASKED ITS MEMBERS TO PREPARE A LIST OF ALL LABOR LEADERS AND WORKERS WHO HAVE EITHER DISAPPEARED IN RECENT YEARS OR ARE BEING DETAINED. WHETHER THIS IS A SERIOUS EFFORT TO ASSESS THIS PROBLEM OR LABOR MINISTRY EYEWASH REMAINS TO BE SEEN. THIS DEVELOPMENT TAKES PLACE AGAINST A BACKDROP OF HEIGHTENING WORKER DISCONTENT AND STRIKES OVER ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND A GOVERNMENT RESPONSE WHICH SEES THE PROTEST AS AT LEAST PARTIALLY INSPIRED BY LEFTIST AND TERRORIST AGITATORS.

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PAGE 03 BUENOS 08232 01 OF 04 030405Z

2. POSSIBILITY OF DISBANDMENT OF JOINT SECURITY FORCES -----

ARGENTINE FOREIGN OFFICE POLICY COORDINATOR, CAPT. RAUL NELSON CASTRO (WHO HAS JUST BEEN TRANSFERRED BACK TO THE NAVY) INDICATED TOEMBOFF IN EARLY OCTOBER THAT AS PART OF THE PRESIDENT'S "PEACE BY CHRISTMAS PLAN", THE GOA WAS CONSIDERING DISBANDING ITS JOINT SECURITY OPERATIONS UNITS. THESE UNITS ARE COMPOSED OF POLICE AND MILITARY ELEMENTS, AS WELL AS SPECIAL CONTRACT PERSONNEL. ACCORDING TO CASTRO, IT IS THE

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 2

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1977BUENOS08232

Page: 3
Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

GOVERNMENT'S WISH TO RETURN ALL SECURITY OPERATIONS TO THE REGULAR POLICE AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE UNITS BY YEAR'S END. HE INDICATED THAT THE DISBANDMENT OF THE JOINT SECURITY UNITS WOULD ALLOW GREATER CENTRAL CONTROL OVER THE GOA'S ANTI-SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES. EMBASSY IS SEEKING MORE INFORMATION ON THIS.

3. FALSE DENIAL OF HABEAS CORPUS PETITION -----

THE ARGENTINE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IS CONSIDERING A LEGAL CHALLENGE TO THE FALSE -- OR AT BEST "PREMATURE" REPLY GIVEN TO A HABEAS CORPUS PETITION FILED FOR ITS KIDNAPPED CO-PRESIDENT ALFREDO BRAVO. IMMEDIATELY AFTER BRAVO'S KIDNAPPING, A HABEAS CORPUS PETITION WAS FILED AND JUDICIAL INQUIRIES WERE SENT TO A NUMBER OF POLICE AND MILITARY UNITS WHO MIGHT BE HOLDING THE ARGENTINE LABOR AND HUMAN RIGHTS LEADER. THE FIRST ARMY CORPS FORMALLY REPLIED THAT BRAVO WAS NOT BEING DETAINED. HOWEVER, A WEEK LATER WHEN THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR ANNOUNCED THE "REAPPEARANCE" OF BRAVO, IT STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN HELD UNDER DETENTION BY ORDER OF GENERAL SUAREZ MASON, COMMANDER OF THE FIRST CORPS. THE ASSEMBLY MAY DELAY ACTION UNTIL BRAVO IS RELEASED, BUT THE CASE IS AN IMPORTANT DEMONSTRATION OF THE FUTILITY OF THE PRESENT HABEAS CORPUS PROCEEDINGS.

4. DANISH UNDERTAKE HUMAN RIGHTS CASE WORK -----

ON SEPTEMBER 29 AN OFFICER OF THE DANISH EMBASSY ASKED FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING TWO "DISAPPEARED" ARGENTINE

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 08232 02 OF 04 030407Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-05 TRSE-00 IO-13 COME-00 EB-08
LAB-04 SIL-01 MCT-01 AID-05 ACDA-12 SY-05 /127 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3017
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 3

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1977BUENOS08232

Page: 4

Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

[REDACTED] SECTION 2 OF 4 BUENOS AIRES 8232

COUPLES -- DR. IGNACIO IKONICOFF AND MARIA BEDOYAN; HAROLD LOGITURATO AND LILIANA GALLETTI. ALTHOUGH DENMARK, LIKE ITS EC COLLEAGUES, HAS DECIDED NOT TO MAKE GENERAL BILATERAL HUMAN RIGHTS DEMARCHES, ITS EMBASSY HERE IS UNDERTAKING "QUIET INVESTIGATIONS" ON BEHALF OF HIGH INTEREST CASES.

5. GOVERNMENT'S VOLUNTARY SURRENDER PROGRAM CONTINUES -----
WEEKLY PRESS PUBLICITY IS BEING GIVEN TO THE REDUCED SENTENCES BEING LEVIED AGAINST FORMER SUBVERSIVES WHO HAVE VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERED. THE SENTENCES OF THOSE SURRENDERING WHO HAVE NOT PARTICIPATED IN ACTS OF VIOLENCE ARE GENERALLY REDUCED BY ONE HALF TO TWO THIRDS. IT IS ALSO PRESUMED THAT THE DEGREE OF COOPERATION IN PROVIDING INFORMATION TO THE AUTHORITIES IS ANOTHER FACTOR TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. THE EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL SECRET AND WELL PROTECTED "REHABILITATION CENTERS" IN SOUTHERN ARGENTINA WHERE THESE PRISONERS SERVE THEIR TIME, WELL PROTECTED FROM THEIR FORMER TERRORIST COLLEAGUES. SOME MAY EVEN BE LISTED AS

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PAGE 02 BUENOS 08232 02 OF 04 030407Z

"DISAPPEAREDS". THE GOVERNMENT HAS LASO ANNOUNCED THAT COUPLES SURRENDERING WILL BE ALLOWED TO LIVE TOGETHER AND YOUNG CHILDREN WILL BE ABLE TO REMAIN WITH THEIR MOTHERS.

6. HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS INCREASE ACTIVITIES -----
LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS ARE CLAIMING THAT THE OCTOBER 14 MASS DEMONSTRATION STAGED BY THE "FAMILIARES DE DETENDIDOS Y DESAPARECIDOS" AND THE MOTHERS OF PLAZA DE MAYO WAS A SIGNIFICANT ACT CALLING ATTENTION TO THE GRAVE "DESAPARECIDO" RPOBLEM. (SEE BA 7700.) OVER 200 PERSONS PEACEFULLY ALLOWED THEMSELVES TO BE ARRESTED, RAPPORT WAS ESTABLISHED WITH THE POLICE UNITS, SYMPATHETIC PRESS ACCOUNTS WERE GENERATED AND MOST IMPORTANTLY THE MOTHER'S RESOLVE TO CONTINUE THEIR CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE (THERE IS AN OFFICIAL BAN ON DEMONSTRATIONS) HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED. THE MOTHERS ARE BEGINNING TO TALK ABOUT A PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION DURING SECRETARY VANCE'S VISIT SIMILAR TO THE ONE HELD DURING ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN'S AUGUST TRIP.

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 4

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1977BUENOS08232

Page: 5
Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

THE "FAMILIARES DE DETENIDOS Y DESAPARECIDOS" GROUP (WHICH IS LINKED TO A GROUP WITH COMMUNIST PARTY ASSOCIATION) CLAIMS THAT 24,000 PERSONS THROUGHOUT ARGENTINA SIGNED ITS PETITION TO THE MILITARY JUNTA WHICH CALLED FOR A SEARCH FOR MISSING CITIZENS, THE APPEARANCE OF DETAINED CITIZENS, THE FREEING OF THOSE DETAINED WITHOUT CHARGES, THE REESTABLISHMENT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT OF OPTION AND TRIAL ACCORDING TO NATIONAL LAW OF PERSONS PROPERLY CHARGED. THREE OTHER PETITIONS ON THE PROBLEM OF THE "DESAPARECIDOS" APPEARED AS NEARLY FULL PAGE ADVERTISEMENTS IN LA PRENSA IN RECENT WEEKS. TWO OF THE ADS WERE FUNDED BY THE "FAMILIARES DE DETENIDOS Y DESAPARECIDOS" AND THE OTHER WAS FUNDED BY THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE MOTHERS OF THE PLAZA DE MAYO. A COUNTER ADVERTISEMENT APPEARED IN CLARIN SIGNED BY "COORDINATOR FEDERICO VOLPE". ITS MAJOR CAPTION WAS "HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL AND HUMAN DUTIES FOR ALL". THE TEXT POINTED OUT THAT SUBVERSIVES ARE THE FIRST TO CALL FOR HUMAN

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PAGE 03 BUENOS 08232 02 OF 04 030407Z

RIGHTS, BUT ARE ALSO THE FIRST TO VIOLATE THEM BY KILLING INNOCENT MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

A RELIGIOUS GROUP ALSO IS PLANNING TO UNDERTAKE HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVITIES. A CATHOLIC, PROTESTANT, JEWISH ORGANIZATION -- THE INSTITUTE FOR HIGHER RELIGIOUS STUDIES -- IS STARTING TO PLAN A MASS DEMONSTRATION DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON IN BUENOS AIRES TO PRAY FOR PEACE.

7. HIGH INTEREST CASES -----

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE RELEASE OF MRS. DEUTSCH AND HER TWO ELDEST DAUGHTERS, THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE MOVEMENT AMONG THE HIGH VISIBILITY CASES.

ALTHOUGH THE SUBVERSION INVESTIGATION AGAINST FORMER LA OPINION PUBLISHER TIMERMAN HAS BEEN DROPPED "FOR LACK OF MERIT" (I.E. INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE), HIS FAMILY'S KEEN EXPECTATION OF HIS EARLY RELEASE HAS NOT MATERIALIZED. (SEE BA 7716.) THE FAMILY HAS NOW DECIDED TO PURSUE LEGAL REMEDIES THROUGH A PETITION FOR HABEAS CORPUS. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THE FAMILY HAS GONE PUBLIC. ON OCTOBER 31, THE FEDERAL COURT OF APPEALS ASKED THE FIRST ARMY CORPS TO AFFIRM THAT TIMERMAN IS NO LONGER BEING HELD FOR INVESTIGATION OF SUBVERSION BY THE SECOND SPECIAL MILITARY COURT. AT THE SAME TIME, THE COURT REQUESTED THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR TO PROVIDE THE REASONS FOR THE CONTINUED EXECUTIVE DE-

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 5

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1977BUENOS08232

Page: 6
Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

TENTION OF MR. TIMERMAN. THE FAMILY'S LAWYER TOLD THE EMBASSY PRIVATELY THAT HE WAS OPTIMISTIC FROM A LEGAL POINT OF VIEW, BUT HE FEARED THAT DECISIONS IN THE CASE WOULD CONTINUE TO BE MADE ON POLITICAL GROUNDS. (A POSITIVE PRECEDENT WAS ANNOUNCED ON NOVEMBER 1, WHEN A FEDERAL JUDGE ORDERED IMMEDIATE FREEDOM FOR A BUSINESSMAN HELD UNDER EXECUTIVE DETENTION FOR ILLEGAL SUGAR TRANSACTIONS. THE JUDGE HELD THAT THE EXECUTIVE'S STATE OF SIEGE POWERS RELATED ONLY TO PRESERVING LAW AND ORDER, NOT ILLICIT MARKETING.) IN THE ALFREDO BRAVO, CASE, NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS AND PETITIONS HAVE FAILED TO END THE EXECUTIVE DETENTION OF THIS IMPORTANT LABOR AND HUMAN RIGHTS LEADER.

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PAGE 04 BUENOS 08232 02 OF 04 030407Z

THE DISAPPEARANCES OF EDGARDO SAJON, ENRIQUE RAAB, RODOLFO FERNANDEZ PONDAL AND JUAN RAMON NAZAR WERE RECALLED TO PUBLIC ATTENTION BY THE ARGENTINE PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION (ADEPA). ON SEPTEMBER 24, ADEPA ISSUED A STATEMENT THAT FULL FREEDOM OF THE PRESS DOES NOT EXIST IN ARGENTINA. THE ASSOCIATION POINTED TO THE MANY DISAPPEARANCES AND DETENTIONS OF EDITORS AND JOURNALISTS, THE GOVERNMENT'S INTERVENTION OF LA OPINION AND SEVERAL INTERIOR PAPERS, AND THE MURDER OF SEVERAL JOURNALISTS AS DAMAGING THE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN ARGENTINA. THE ORGANIZATION QUESTIONED THE UTILIZATION OF THE STATE OF SIEGE AUTHORITY IN CURTAILING THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND CALLED FOR THE RELEASE OF THOSE JOURNALISTS BEING HELD UNDER EXECUTIVE DETENTION. A DELEGATION OF THE MOTHERS OF THE PLAZA DE MAYO MET WITH THE ADEPA LEADERSHIP TO URGE THEM TO GIVE MORE ATTENTION TO THE GENERAL DISAPPEARANCE PROBLEM; ADEPA REPLIED THAT ITS FIRST CONCERN WAS IN LOCATING MISSING JOURNALISTS.

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 08232 03 OF 04 030404Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-05 TRSE-00 IO-13 COME-00 EB-08
LAB-04 SIL-01 MCT-01 AID-05 ACDA-12 SY-05 /127 W

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 6

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 7

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1977BUENOS08232

Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3018
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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

[REDACTED] SECTION 3 OF 4 BUENOS AIRES 8232

THE DISAPPEARANCE OF FORMER ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR TO VENEZUELA HECTOR HIDALGO SOLA WAS BROUGHT AGAIN BEFORE THE PUBLIC'S FADING ATTENTION BY GOA'S ANNOUNCEMENT ON OCTOBER 27 THAT IT WILL FILL HIS VACANT POST IN CARACAS WITH CAREER DIPLOMAT CARLOS FEDERICO BARTFELD. MOST LOCAL OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT BY NOW SOLA HAS PROBABLY BEEN ELIMINATED BY HIS CAPTORS.

8. UK REJECTS SMALL ARMS SALE --
IN LINE WITH A RECOMMENDATION FROM THEIR EMBASSY IN BUENOS AIRES, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TURNED DOWN THE SALE OF TWO DOZEN SOUND SUPPRESSED SUBMACHINE GUNS TO ARGENTINA. THE PURCHASING ORGANIZATION OF RECORD WAS THE BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE PRISON AT LA PLATA. BRITISH EMBASSY SOURCES INDICATE THAT THERE WAS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR "PRISON AUTHORITIES" ORDERING COMMANDO TYPE WEAPONS. THE BRITISH ARE PREPARED TO SUPPLY LARGE WEAPON SYSTEMS TO THE ARGENTINES, SUCH AS THE SMALL GUIDED MISSILE DESTROYER RECENTLY

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PAGE 02 BUENOS 08232 03 OF 04 030404Z

DELIVERED, BUT HAVE DECIDED AT PRESENT NOT TO PROVIDE ARMS FOR INTERNAL SECURITY PURPOSES.

THE UK PREVIOUSLY SOLD A NUMBER OF STERLING SUBMACHINE GUNS TO THE PERONIST GOVERNMENT, MOST OF WHICH TURNED UP AT THE SOCIAL WELFARE MINISTRY AND IN UNION HALLS. THE VIDELA GOVT FORMALLY PLAYED UP THE UK'S SALE OF THE STERLINGS WHICH WENT TO THE PERONIST'S HEAVIES. THE LATEST UK REFUSAL PROBABLY REFLECTS THE VERY BAD BURNING HMG TOOK ON THE PREVIOUS SALE.

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 7

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1977BUENOS08232

Page: 8

Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

9. REPORTS OF EXCESSES --

IN SEPTEMBER, TWO SHOOTOUTS WITH TERRORISTS IN BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE WERE REPORTED IN THE PRESS WITH THREE MONTONERO TERRORISTS KILLED IN EACH ENCOUNTER. A RELATIVE OF ONE OF THE DECEASED HAS INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT THE YOUNG MEN KILLED IN THE FIRE FIGHTS HAD BEEN TAKEN FROM THEIR HOMES IN BAHIA BLANCA BY SECURITY FORCES THREE MONTHS TO OVER A YEAR AGO. THEIR FAMILIES WERE UNDERSTANDABLY SHOCKED BY THE NEWS.

REPORTS OF THE THEFT OF TELEVISION SETS AND OTHER PORTABLE VALUABLES IS A FREQUENT OCCURRENCE ASSOCIATED WITH THE ARREST AND DISAPPEARANCE OF INDIVIDUALS IN ARGENTINA. A REPORT HAS BEEN FILED WITH THE EMBASSY THAT THE OWNER OF AN AUTO REPAIR SHOP WHO WAS "ARRESTED" AND THEN DISAPPEARED HAD HIS SHOP "SEARCHED FOR WEAPONS" SEVERAL DAYS AFTER HIS ARREST. ALL HIS TOOLS AND A FULL-SIZED BUS WHICH HE RECENTLY PURCHASED WERE STOLEN. LOCAL POLICE AUTHORITIES REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE DENUNCIA OF THE CRIME FROM HIS FAMILY. SENIOR MILITARY OFFICIALS HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER SUCH ROBBERIES TO THE DAO [REDACTED] THE GOA IS TRYING TO GET CONTROL OVER THE SECURITY FORCES TO PREVENT SUCH FLAGRANT ABUSES.

31

PAGE 03 BUENOS 08232 03 OF 04 030404Z

1#. RELIGIOUS FREEDOM --

PRESIDENT VIDELA ANNOUNCED ON OCTOBER 13 THAT THE NEW PENAL CODE WILL CONTAIN SANCTIONS AGAINST ANYONE WHO HARMS OR DISCRIMINATES AGAINST PERSONS OR GROUPS FOR ETHNIC OR RELIGIOUS REASONS. THE LOCAL JEWISH LEADERSHIP, THE DAIA, WAS PLEASANTLY SURPRISED BY THE PRESIDENT'S WELCOME INITIATIVE.

IN ADDITION TO SOME 20 SCATTERED POLICE RAIDS IN THE LAST 18 MONTHS AGAINST JEHOVAH WITNESS MEETING HALLS, HOMES, AND ADHERENTS; THE JEHOVAH WITNESSES ARE FIGHTING A THREE SIDED LEGAL BATTLE WITH THE GOA. UNFORTUNATELY, THEY ARE LOSING ON TWO FRONTS.

THE WITNESSES WON AN IMPORTANT LEGAL VICTORY SEVERAL MONTHS AGO WHEN THE FEDERAL COURT OF APPEALS (THE NATION'S MOST PROGRESSIVE COURT) HELD THAT JUNTA DECREE NO. 1867/76 PROSCRIBING ALL JEHOVAH WITNESS ACTIVITY WAS AN UNCONSTITUTIONAL INFRINGEMENT OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM. HOWEVER, THE DECISION IN THAT CASE HAS NOT TAKEN EFFECT AS

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 8

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1977BUENOS08232

Page: 9
Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

THE GOVERNMENT HAS APPEALED TO THE SUPREME COURT WHERE THE CASE IS STILL PENDING.

IN THE FLAG SALUTING CASES, THE WITNESSES RECEIVED A FAVORABLE DECISION IN CORDOBA PROVINCE EARLIER THIS YEAR WHICH BOTH ALLOWED THEIR CHILDREN TO RETURN TO SCHOOL AND VOIDED THE PROVINCE'S DIRECTIVE. BUT IN A SIMILAR CASE IN BUENOS AIRES DECIDED IN LATE OCTOBER, THE WITNESSES WON ONLY THE RE-ENTRY OF THE CHILDREN TO THEIR SCHOOLS.

THE DECREE REGARDING HOMAGE TO THE FLAG, ANTHEM, ETC. WAS UPHELD. MANY WITNESS CHILDREN ARE DE FACTO BEING DENIED AN EDUCATION BECAUSE OF THEIR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 08232 04 OF 04 030408Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-05 TRSE-00 IO-13 COME-00 EB-08
LAB-04 SIL-01 MCT-01 AID-05 ACDA-12 SY-05 /127 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3019
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AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

[REDACTED] SECTION 4 OF 4 BUENOS AIRES 8232

THE LAST FRONT IS THE WITNESS' REFUSAL TO SERVE IN THE ARMED FORCES. THIS NOW APPEARS TO BE BECOMING THE MAJOR AREA OF CONFRONTATION. ABOUT 200 WITNESSES ARE SERVING PRISON SENTENCES FOR FAILURE TO WEAR ARMY UNIFORMS. THE YOUNG WITNESSES GENERALLY RESPOND PROMPTLY TO THEIR DRAFT NOTICES, BUT REFUSE TO CHANGE INTO MILITARY UNIFORMS. THEY ARE THEN COURT-

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 9

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1977BUENOS08232

Page: 10

Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

MARTIALED, AND GIVEN 30 TO 48 MONTH SENTENCES. THEY WERE TREATED REASONABLY WELL DURING THEIR PRISON SENTENCES; SOME EVEN ALLOWED WEEFENDS AT HOME.

THE GOVERNMENT IS NOW PROSECUTING CHURCH LEADERS, INCLUDING AMCIT ARGENTINE BRANCH COORDINATOR CHARLES EISENHOWER, FOR INCITMENT, CONSPIRACY, AND APOLOGIA (PRAISING A CRIME) IN THESE MILITARY SERVICE REFUSAL CASES. EISENHOWER AND A FELLOW WITNESS WERE SENTENCED TO 6 MONTHS TO 2 YEARS IMPRISONMENT ON OCTOBER 31. THEY WERE ALLOWED TO POST A MINIMAL BAIL AND WILL APPEAL THE CONVICTION.

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PAGE 02 BUENOS 08232 04 OF 04 030408Z

11. ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE VISIT --

RABBI ROSENTHAL, LATIN AMERICAN DIRECTOR FOR THE JEWISH ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE, MADE TWO BRIEF VISITS TO BUENOS AIRES IN MID-OCTOBER. ROSENTHAL WAS GUEST OF HONOR AT A LUNCH HOSTED BY THE CHARGE AND ATTENDED BY THE DAIA LEADERSHIP. HE ALSO MET WITH OTHER LEADERS OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY AND THE FOREIGN PRESS. THE FOREIGN OFFICE, WHICH USUALLY PROVIDES A CORDIAL BRIEFING FOR VISITING U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS WORKERS, IGNORED THE RABBI'S VISIT, PERHAPS IN RESPONSE TO HIS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE LAST YEAR ON ARGENTINA. THE FONOFF'S COLD SHOULDER TREATMENT WAS INTERESTING GIVEN THE FACT THAT ROSENTHAL HAD MET WITH BOTH VIDELA AND MONTES DURING THEIR RECENT VISITS TO THE U.S.

ROSENTHAL RECEIVED DIVIDED JUDGEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY HERE. THE DAIA INDICATED THAT ANTI-SEMITISM AND HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS WERE GETTING NO BETTER NOR WORSE IN ARGENTINA. MORE LIBERAL JEWISH COMMUNITY LEADERS EXPRESSED SERIOUS CONCERN REGARDING CONTINUING ABUSES OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND WHAT THEY BELIEVE TO BE A SHIFT IN GOVERNMENT TARGETS FROM TERRORISM TO INTELLECTUAL SUBVERSION. ROSENTHAL EVIDENCED SERIOUS CONCERN OVER THE LACK OF PROGRESS IN THE ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION. HE ENCOURAGED THE DAIA TO TAKE A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN PURSUING JEWISH AND NON-JEWISH CASES WITH THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT. HE WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE DEUTSCH, TIMERMAN AND STOULMAN CASES.

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 10

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1977BUENOS08232

Page: 11
Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

REGARDING THE LATTER, HE PRESSED ON INFORMATION FROM THE
STOULMAN FAMILY IN SANTIAGO THAT AFTER HIS DISAPPEARANCE,
JACOBO STOULMAN HAD ORDERED THE TRANSFER OF ABOUT \$16,000
FROM HIS NEW YORK ACCOUNT TO A MIAMI ACCOUNT OF TWO OTHER
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PAGE 03 BUENOS 08232 04 OF 04 030408Z

INDIVIDUALS. THIS POSSIBLE VIOLATION OF U.S. LAWS IS BEING
INVESTIGATED BY THE FBI. THE FUNDS TRANSFER EVIDENCE IS
SERIOUS, AS IT POINTS TO EXPORTION OF THE STOULMANS
AFTER THEIR REPORTED DISAPPEARANCE FROM EZEIZA AIRPORT.

12. PRISON DEVELOPMENTS--

A MAJOR RESHUFFLING OF THE WARDENS OF ARGENTINE PENAL
INSTITUTIONS IS LEADING TO "NEW BROOM SWEEPS CLEAN"
REORGANIZATIONS. PRISONERS ARE LOSING SOME PRIVILEGES AS
THE NEW DIRECTORS TAKE HOLD.

PRISONERS IN LA PLATA, SIERRA CHICA AND VILLA DEVOTO ARE
BEING SEGREGATED ACCORDING TO THEIR POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS.
INDEPENDENTS, TRADE UNIONISTS, AND PERONISTAS ARE,
ACCORDING TO ACCOUNTS WE HAVE RECEIVED, BRING GROUPED
TOGETHER AND GIVEN THE BEST TREATMENT.

THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED SEVERAL REPORTS OF "APARECIDOS"
SHOWING UP IN LA PLATA AND VILLA DEVOTO. ONE SOURCE INDICATED
THAT APPROXIMATELY 80 MALE PRISONERS WERE RECENTLY PLACED
IN LA PLATA AND 20 WOMEN IN VILLA DEVOTO. SOME OF THESE
INDIVIDUALS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN HELD INCOMMUNINADO
FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME. A NUMBER WERE SAID TO BE IN
VERY POOR PHYSICAL CONDITION.

13. REQUESTS FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM--

IN THE LAST SEVERAL WEEKS THE EMBASSY HAS HAD TWO REQUESTS
FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM. THE FIRST WAS MADE BY [REDACTED]
A 23 YEAR OLD ARGENTINE POLICE SECURITY
AGENT FROM BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE. HE REHORTED THAT HIS
COLLEAGSES HAD INFORMED HIM THAT COLONEL CAMPS, CHIEF OF
POLICE FOR THE PROVINCE OF BUENOS AIRES, HAD ISSUED
A "CAPTSRE ORDER" FOR HIM. [REDACTED] SAID THAT HIS LIFE
WAS IN DANGER BECAUSE HE WAS A PERONIST STUDENT LEADER IN
HIGH SCHOOL. [REDACTED] SOUGHT LEGAL PROTECTION FROM THE
FEDERAL COURT IN LA PLATA BY SUBMITTING A PREVENTIVE HABEAS
[REDACTED]

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B6

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 11

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1977BUENOS08232

Page: 12
Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

[REDACTED]
PAGE 04 BUENOS 08232 04 OF 04 030408Z

CORPUS PETITION (SIC) DETAILING HIS ASSOCIATION WITH THE PERONIST YOUTH MOVEMENT AND HIS PREVIOUS INTERROGATION AND RELEASE BY THE ARGENTINE SECURITY FORCES. HOWEVER, WHEN THE COURT REFUSED TO ACCEPT HIS HABEAS CORPUS PETITION AND HIS HOUSE WAS PLACED UNDER SURVEILLANCE, HE DECIDED TO REQUEST POLITICAL ASYLUM.

IN MID-OCTOBER, [REDACTED] A MIDDLE AGED ARGENTINE WOMAN, ALSO REQUESTED ASYLUM. SHE STATED THAT SHE WAS BEING SOUGHT BY POLICE IN BUENOS AIRES FOR INTERROGATION REGARDING HER SON'S POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. HE WAS PREVIOUSLY IMPRISONED IN RAWSON AND WAS FREED BY THE CAMPORA AMNESTY. SHE SAID SHE HAS NOT SEEN HER SON FOR SEVERAL YEARS; BUT FEARS THAT IF SHE IS CAPTURED, SHE WILL BE TORTURED AND FORCED TO GIVE THE NAMES OF MANY INNOCENT PEOPLE. SHE HAD BEEN LIVING WITH HER DAUGHTER IN BUENOS AIRES UNTIL POLICE RAIDED THE HOUSE AND PUT IT UNDER SURVEILLANCE.] 362

AN EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER EXPLAINED TO BOTH PERSONS THAT THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WAS NOT TO GRANT EMBASSY SANCTUARY. HE SUGGESTED THAT THEY CONTACT ONE OF THE LATIN AMERICAN EMBASSIES WHO WERE SIGNATORIES TO THE HAVANA CONVENTION. AFTER LONG DISCUSSIONS OF THEIR SITUATIONS, BOTH PERSONS LEFT THE EMBASSY VOLUNTARILY.
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Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 12

UNCLASSIFIED