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E.O. 11652 GDS  
TAGS SHUM, AR  
SUBJECT HUMAN RIGHTS ROUNDUP THROUGH MAY 31, 1978

PART I - NEW EVENTS AND INDICATORS

1. ARMY MOVES AGAINST ABUSE OF AUTHORITY BY SECURITY PERSONNEL

A MILITARY SOURCE TOLD US ON MAY 26 THAT SOME 50-60 JUNIOR AND NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS OF THE ARMY ARE UNDER DETENTION AWAITING TRIAL UNDER MILITARY JUSTICE FOR ABUSE OF AUTHORITY IN CARRYING OUT SECURITY OPERATIONS. THOSE DETAINED ARE BEING HELD ON A NUMBER OF CHARGES REPORTEDLY RANGING FROM MURDER TO ILLEGAL CONFISCATION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY. ANOTHER SOURCE REPORTED TO OUR MILITARY ATTACHE THAT THE ARMY IS CRACKING DOWN ON PERSONNEL WHO ARE OPERATING WITHOUT OFFICIAL SANCTION IN THE ANTI-SUBVERSIVE CAMPAIGN. ]

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THESE REPORTS ARE SUPPORTED BY STATEMENTS

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FROM MINISTRY OF INTERIORS DIRECTOR OF INTERNAL SECURITY, COL (RET.) SAN ROMAN. SAN ROMAN TOLD

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EMBOFFS RECENTLY THAT GOVERNMENTS EFFORTS ANNOUNCED IN MINISTER OF INTERIORS MAY 3 SPEECH "TO TIGHTEN THE SCREWS" ON NON AUTHORIZED ACTIONS BY POLICE OFFICIALS WERE ALSO BEING CARRIED OUT AMONG THE MILITARY SERVICES. SAN ROMAN ADDED HOWEVER THAT HE EXPECTED THAT IT WOULD TAKE "A LONG YEAR" TO CHANGE OVER FROM THE CURRENT ANTI SUBVERSIVE PROCUDRES TO NORMAL POLICE AND JUDICIAL OPERATIONS AND SUGGESTED THAT MINISTER HARGUINDEGUYS ACTION TO BRING THE MILITARY AND POLICE OPERATIONS UNDER TIGHT CONTROL WAS THE FIRST STEP IN THAT PROCESS.

IN MID-MAY, BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE POLICE CHIEF RICHERI MADE A STRONG SPEECH FOLLOWING UP ON HARGUINDEGUYS TIGHTEN CONTROL THEME.

THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN TOLD THAT IN 1977, 334 MEMBERS OF THE FEDERAL POLICE WERE EITHER PROSECUTED OR REPRIMANDED CONCERNING ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES TAKEN UNDER THE GUISE OF COMBATTING SUBVERSION. SO FAR DURING 1978, 100 MEMBERS OF THE FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL POLICE FROM COMISARIO INSPECTOR DOWN TO POLICEMAN HAVE BEEN PLACED UNDER DETENTION OR UNDER INVESTI GATION CONCERNING KIDNAPPING, BRIBERY, ROBBING, STEALING AND OTHER ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES THAT HAD BEEN CONDUCTED IN MANY CASES UNDER THE GUISE OF ANTI-SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES. WE ALSO WERE TOLD THAT TWO SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS WERE ALSO UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR ALLEGED ABUSES. A GROUP OF POLICE WERE ARRESTED IN MAY 1978 FOR ROBBERY AND KIDNAPPINGS. MANY OF THESE

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WERE FROM THE FEDERAL SECURITY SERVICE AND BUENOS AIRES PROVINCIAL POLICE. IN ONE INSTANCE, THEY REPORTEDLY KIDNAPPED THE SON OF AN INDUSTRIALIST AND DEMANDED US \$ 2 MILLION. THERE WERE ALSO SEVERAL CIVILIANS INVOLVED IN THIS OPERATION.

## 2. STATISTICS

SINCE THE BEGINNING OF 1978 THROUGH MAY 31 THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS OF PEOPLE WERE REPORTED IN THESE CATEGORIES:

1. DETAINEES (REDUCTION OF 22 DURING FIVE MONTH

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PERIOD)  
A) ADDED TO PEN LISTS:  
JUNUARY 98  
FEBRUARY 75  
MARCH 70  
APRIL 49  
MAY 5  
TOTAL 297  
B) TAKEN FROM PEN LISTS:  
JANUARY 19  
FEBRUARY 47  
MARCH 99  
APRIL 81  
MAY 29  
TOTAL 275

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C) ALLOWED TO LEAVE UNDER RIGHT OF OPTION:  
JANUARY 0  
FEBRUARY 5  
MARCH 17  
APRIL 3  
MAY 2  
TOTAL 27  
D) EXPELLED:  
JANUARY 6  
FEBRUARY 3

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MARCH 6  
APRIL 2  
MAY 0  
TOTAL 17

B. DISAPPEARANCES  
SINCE THE BEGINNING OF 1978 THE FOLLOWING  
DISAPPEARANCES HAVE BEEN REPORTED TO THE EMBASSY:  
JANUARY 18 (INCLUDES 16 URUGUAYAN REFUGEES)  
FEBRUARY 11  
MARCH 20

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APRIL 10  
MAY 18  
TOTAL 77

THE REPORTING MONTH REFERS TO THE DATE OF THE DISAPPEARANCE  
AND NOT TO THE MONTH OF THE  
REPORT. ALTHOUGH THERE IS, OF COURSE, A LAG  
IN THE REPORTING OF CASES TO THE EMBASSY,  
THE EMBASSYS NUMBERS REFLECT THE GENERAL  
TREND SEEN BY THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY, THE  
MEDH, AND THE LIGA. THESE ORGANIZATIONS,  
ALL SAW A DECLINE IN THE NUMBER OF DIAP  
PEARANCES THIS SUMMER AND A RISE IN LATE  
APRIL AND MAY.

3. BODIES DISCOVERED  
MEMBERS OF TWO HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS  
REPORTED TO THE EMBASSY IN EARLY MARCH THAT  
IN MID-FEBRUARY NEAR HAEDO, OUTSIDE OF BUENOS AIRES  
MILITARY OFFICIALS HELICOPTERED INTO  
AN ABANDONED FIELD TO FINGER PRINT AND REMOVE  
30 BODIES OF YOUNG INDIVIDUALS DESCRIBED AS  
"WELL DRESSED." THESE REPORTS INDICATED  
THAT THERE WERE NO SIGN OF WOUNDS NOR SIGNS  
OF HOW THE INDIVIDUALS DIES. WE HAVE NOT  
BEEN ABLE TO GET BETTER DATA ON THIS ALLEGA-  
TION. THERE HAVE BEEN NO FURTHER OR AMPLIFIED  
REPORTS.

4. NEWSMEN HARASSED  
THERE HAVE BEEN FOUR INSTANCES OF REPORTED  
HARASSMENT OF FOREIGN NEWSMEN HERE TO COVER  
ARGENTINA DURING THE MUNDIAL PERIOD. ON MAY 4,

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A DANISH JOURNALIST AND THREE OTHER PERSONS  
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WER HELD FOR OVER AN HOUR WHILE THEIR IDENTITIES WERE VERIFIED WHEN THEY ATTENDED THE THURSDAY "MOTHERS OF THE PLAZA DE MAYO" DEMONSTRATION. TWO AUSTRALIAN TV MEN WERE PICKED UP AND RELEASED IN SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES TWO WEEKS LATER. ON MAY 23, JEAN PIERRE CLERC OF LE MONDE WAS ARRESTED ON HIS WAY TO THE AIRPORT AND HELD FOR FIVE HOURS. DOCUMENTS SAID TO BE "HARMFUL TO ARGENTINA" WERE REPORTEDLY TAKEN FROM HIS LUGGAGE BEFORE HE WAS ALLOWED TO DEPART. FOUR DAYS LATER FRENCH INTELLECTUAL-JOURNALIST, BERNARD HENRI LEVY, WAS DETAINED FOR FOUR HOURS UPON HIS ENTRY INTO ARGENTINA. (SEE BUENOS AIRES 4183.) SEVERAL PUBLICATIONS "UNFAVORABLE TO ARGENTINA" WERE SAID TO HAVE BEEN CONFISCATED AS "SUBVERSIVE." LEVY WAS ALLOWED ENTRY REPORTEDLY ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT HE STAY AT THE SHERATON HOTEL AND DEPART TWO DAYS LATER. HE WAS NEVERTHELESS, ABLE TO FREELY ABOUT THE CITY AND MET WITH FORMER PRESIDENT FRONDIZI AND ROGELIO FRIGERIO OF THE "DESARROLLISTA" PARTY AND PERONIST AND LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERS. LEVY INTERVIEWED PERSONS AT THE HOUSING PROJECT IN THE SAN JUSTO AREA WHERE A NUMBER OF RECENT DISAPPEARANCES HAVE BEEN REPORTED. (SEE BUENOS AIRES 2589.) LEVY INFORMED EMBOFF THAT AS HE WAS WALKING DOWN ON THE MAIN STREETS OF BUENOS AIRES, A CAR DROVE UP ON THE SIDE WALK AND MISSED HITTING HIM " BY 50 CENTIMETERS" BEFORE DRIVING OFF AT HIGH SPEED. HE SAID THIS WAS AN ATTEMPT ON HIS LIFE. THE FRENCH EMBASSY MADE A LOW LEVEL ORAL COMPLAINT TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE AND RECEIVED AN APOLOGETIC REPLY FROM THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR FOR LEVY'S DETENTION. THE BA HERALD STRONGLY CHIDED THE GOVERNMENT FOR ITS ROUGH HANDLING

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OF THE LEVY VISIT -- WHILE DISCOUNTING, AT THE SAME TIME LEVYS CHARGE OF AN ATTEMPT AGAINST HIS LIFE BY SUGGESTING THAT MR. LEVY GOT NO MORE THAN THE TREATMENT TO WHICH MOST BA PEDESTRIANS ARE ACCUSTOMED.

5. SAN JUSTO DISAPPEARANCES  
ON MAY 1, ACCORDING TO ASSOCIATED PRESS SOURCE, HOUSING BLOCK 17 COMMISSION MEMBER,

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MR. CASCO WAS ABDUCTED FORCIBLY FROM HIS HOME IN SAN JUSTO. THE EMBASSY HAS SEVERAL REPORTS THAT BETWEEN 18 AND 37 PERSONS CONNECTED WITH HOUSING BLOCK 17 WERE ABDUCTED BY SECURITY FORCES SINCE EASTER EVENING. MOST APPEAR EITHER TO BE PARTIDO COMUNISTA REVOLUCIONARIO (PCR) MEMBERS OR MEMBERS OF THE HOUSING COMPLEX LEADERSHIP. THE LOCAL AP NEWS EDITOR (STRICTLY PROTECT) HAS INVESTIGATED THE CASE. HE CITED SEVERAL REPORTS OF TORTURE AND PHYSICAL INTIMIDATION. IN ONE CASE, HE SAID, A MATERIAL WITNESS' DRESS WAS SOAKED WITH GASOLINE AND SHE WAS THREATENED WITH A MATCH. THE PERMANENET ASSEMBLY HAS BEEN INFORMED BY MAR PEARLMAN, THE SECRETARY OF THE PCR, THAT MILITARY SOURCES REPORT THAT 22 PERSONS FROM THE SAN JUSTO OPERATION WERE HELD IN A DETENTION

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FACILITY BY THE FIRST ARMY CORPS. HOWEVER, ALL EXCEPT FIVE PERSONS HAD BEEN RELEASED OR PLACED UNDER PEN AS OF JUNE 9.

ACCORDING TO GENERAL VILLAREAL, THE SAN JUSTO DISAPPEARANCES WERE RAISED BY CATHOLIC

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BISHOPS CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVES AT THEIR LAST REGULAR MONTHLY WORKING LUNCH WITH THE ARMED SERVICES SECRETARY IES GENERAL. VILLAREAL INFORMED EMBOFF RECENTLY THAT NEITHER THE PRESIDENCY NOR THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR HAS BEEN ABLE TO SUBSTANTIATE THE SAN JUSTO DISAPPEARANCE REPORTS.

6. RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS

THE APRIL ISSUE OF EXTREME RIGHT WING MAGAZINE CABILDO CARRIES A FOUR-PAGE ATTACK AGAINST SEVERAL RELIGIOUS SECTS IN ARGENTINA INCLUDING THE AMERICAN KNIGHTS OF FIRE (CAHF), SILO, NUEVA ACROPOLIS, AND COMUNIDAD TIERRA. THE ARTICLE CALLS FOR THE CONFISCATION OF THE PROPERTIES OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS AND MAKES UNSUPPORTED CHARGES OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO BOTH COMMUNISM AND TERRORISM. THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED INQUIRIES REGARDING ARRESTED MEMBERS OF THE CAHF AND THE SILO. MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OFFICIALS TOLD EMBASSY RECENTLY THAT THE PEN DETENTIONS OF PERSONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE CAHF FOR ALLEGED DISSEMINATION OF "DISASSOCIATIVE IDEAS" WAS UNDER REVIEW. EMBOFF HAS SEEN A FEDERAL SECURITY SERVICE REPORT EXTERMELY CRITICAL OF SILO AND OTHER GROUPS, CONCLUDING THAT THEY ARE CONSIDERED SUBVERSIVE. THE REPORT APPEARED TO BE BASED ON ATTITUDES, RATHER THAN ON ACTIVITIES.

JEHOVAH WITNESSES ARRESTED IN MAR DE LA PLATA, MENDOZA AND SEVERAL OTHER INTERIOR CITIES HAVE ALL BEEN RELEASED, ACCORDING TO JEHOVAH WITNESS LEADERSHIP. THE WITNESSES' ARRESTS IN RECENT

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MONTHS FOLLOWED A FEBRUARY SUPREME COURT DECISION WHICH UPHELD THE AUGUST, 1976 JUNTA DECREE PROHIBITING JEHOVAH WITNESSES FROM HOLDING PUBLIC MEETINGS, PUBLISHING ANY MATERIALS OR CONDUCTING HOUSE-TO-HOUSE PREACHING. THE DECISION APPEARED TO GUARANTEE THE WITNESSES THE RIGHT TO PETITION TO BE INSCRIBED AS A REGISTERED RELIGION. THE SUPREME COURT COMMENTED IN DICTA ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S RIGHT TO PROHIBIT THE REGISTRATION OF ANY RELIGION WHICH OPPOSES THE NATION'S INSTITUTIONS SYMBOLS OR SOVEREIGNTY. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND WORSHIP CONTINUED IN MAY ITS CONSULTATIONS WITH RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS REGARDING REGISTRATION PROCEDURES. ITS PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED END OF MAY DATE FOR THE RELEASE OF THE REGISTRATION FORMS PASSED UNEVENTFULLY.

7. EXECUTION REPORTEDLY ACKNOWLEDGED BY A MILITARY OFFICER  
THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY OF HUMAN RIGHTS TOLD AN EMBOFF THAT IT HAD HEAR FROM A MR. ARCE-GARZON, FATHER ELENA ARCE, THAT A MILITARY OFFICER PRIVATELY TOLD HIM HIS DAUGHTER HAD BEEN KILLED AFTER MID-JANUARY 1978. ACCORDING TO THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY, ARCE-GARZON SAID HIS DAUGHTER HAD FIRST BEEN ARRESTED LEGALLY BY UNIFORMED ARMY ELEMENTS WHO EVEN LEFT A SIGNED RECEIPT FOR PROPERTY REMOVED FROM HER APARTMENT. ARCE-GARZON SAID A FIRST CORPS ARMY OFFICER TOLD HIM THAT AS THE INTERROGATION OF MISS ARCE REVEALED DEEPER INVOLVEMENT WIHT SUBVERSION THAN HAD FIRST BEEN SUSPECTED, SHE WAS TURNED OVER TO POLICE STATION NO8 IN LA PLATA, WHERE SHE WAS BOOKED AND RELEASED IN MID-JANUARY OF THIS YEAR.

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THEN, ACCORDING TO THE FATHER, THE MILITARY OFFICER ADMITTED SHE WAS PICKED UP OUTSIDE THE POLICE STATION BY A CLANDESTINE UNIT AND EXECUTED BECAUSE THE DAUGHTER HAD BEEN JUDGED "IRREVOCABLY" INVOLVED WITH SUBVERSION. THE EMBASSY HAS NOT FURTHER CONFIRMATION OF THIS REPORT.

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8. AFTER DARK RELEASES PROHIBITED  
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OFFICIALS GAVE INSTRUCTIONS IN EARLY MAY TO ALL PENAL FACILITIES THAT NO PEN PRISONER IS TO BE RELEASED AFTER 1800

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HOURS, AND THAT IF POSSIBLE THE PRISONERS FAMILY IS TO BE NOTIFIED OF THE RELEASES AND ENCOURAGED TO MEET THE PRISONER. THIS ACTION APPEARS TO BE IN RESONSE TO REPORTS THAT SEVERAL PRISONERS WERE KILLED OR DISAPPEARED AFTER MIDNIGHT RELEASES FROM LA PLATA PRISON. EMBOFF WAS INFORMED RECENTLY THAT THE MILITARY SENT OFFICERS TO LA PLATA AREA IN AN EFFORT TO GAIN BETTER CONTRQL OF THE SITUATION. PERMANENT ASEMBLY MEMBER MRS WESTERCAMP (PROTECT) TOLD EMBASSY LAST WEEK THAT A PEN PRISONER REFUSED TO LEAVE LA PLATA PRISON LATE AT NIGHT IN REALY MAY. PRISON OFFICIALS, SHE SAID, RESONDED THAT HIS REFUSAL WOULD BE TAKEN OUT ON THE PRISONERS WIFE, WHO HAS BEEN MISSING FOR A NUMBER OF MONTHS.

9. UNRECOGNIZED PRISONERS  
THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED REPORTS DURING APRIL AND MAY FROM HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS AND FAMILES THAT THREE OR FOUR LONG TIME DIS-

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SPPEAREDS TELEPHONED THEIR FAMILIES IN EARLY 1978. OTHER SOURCES INDICATE THAT SOME "DISAPPEAREDS" ACTUALLY VISIT THEIR FAMIIES FOR A FEW HOURS EACH MONTH. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THOSE ALLOWED TO CONTACT THEIR FAMILIES ARE NOW COOPERATING WITH SECURITY FORCES. (NOTE: PHONE CALLS FROM ABDUCTE PERSONS SHORTLY AFTER THEIR SEIZURE IS COMMON AND IS THOUGH BY HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS TO BE A TECHNIQUE TO CREATE CONFIDENCE IN THE PRISONERS THAT THEY WILL EVENTUALLY BE RELEASED.)

10. RIGHT OF OPTION PROGRAM  
THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR HAD RECEIVED FOR REVIEW BY THE PRESIDENTIAL RIGHT OF OPTION ADVISORY COUNCIL OVER 300 RIGHT OF OPTION PETITIONS BY MID-MAY. A HUNDRED OF THESE CASES WERE RECEIVED IN APRIL. ACCORDING TO A MININT LAWYER, THE MINISTRY IS ATTEMPTING TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES WHICH WILL ALLOW IT TO PROCESS AND COLLECT INFORMATION ON A PETITON WITHIN THE FIRST 60 DAYS AFTER ITS RECEIPT, WHIC WILL ALLOW THE ADVISORY COUNCIL 60 DAYS FOR ITS DELIBERATION ON THE CASE.  
A MEMBER OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL TOLD EMBASSY MILITARY ATTACHE IN LATE MAY THAT HIS WORKING GROUP HAD CONSIDERED 48 OPTION CASES AND AGREED TO THE DEPARTURE OF 12 PERSONS FROM ARGENTINA. SOURCE ALSO SAID THAT ABOUT 30 CASES, PREVIOUSLY DENIED EXIT, WILL BE RECONSIDRED-AFTER THE WORLD CUP FOOTBALL MATCHES. (NOTE: FROM APRIL 14 THROUGH THE END OF MAY TWO RIGHT OF OPTION CASES FROM

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MORE THAN 40 PETITIONS WERE ANNOUNCED. TWO FOREIGNERS ALSO WERE EXPELLED FROM THE COUNTRY.) THE SAME SOURCE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE NUMBERS OF APPLICANTS WHO PLAN TO GO TO ITALY, WHERE THE

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GOA BELIEVES THAT CONSIDERABLE ANTI-ARGENTINE ACTIVITY TAKES PLACE. MININTS DIRECTOR OF INTERNAL SECURITY SAN ROMAN IN RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH EMBASSY OFFICIALS HAS STRESSED THAT THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL'S ROLE IS NOT JUST TO REVIEW RIGHT OF OPTION CASES, BUT TO FORMULATE GENERAL POLICIES WHICH WILL ALLOW THE MAXIMUM RELEASE OF PEN PRISONERS WITHOUT ENDANGERING THE SECURITY OF THE NATION. SAN ROMAN RECENTLY SUGGESTED THAT THE HUMANITARIAN APPROACH TO PEN RELEASES IS NOT TO FORCE PEOPLE TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY UNDER THE RIGHT OF OPTION, BUT RATHER TO ALLOW THEM TO STAY IN ARGENTINA WITH THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES. SAN ROMAN NOTED THAT THE ANTI-ARGENTINE ENVIRONMENT, ESPECIALLY IN EUROPE, WAS A GROWING CONSIDERATION IN THE GOA'S PEN RELEASE POLICIES.

11. URUGUAYAN REFUGEES REPORTED HELD IN B.A. UNHCR LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE LYONETTE (STRICTLY PROTECT) INFORMED EMBASSY IN MID-MAY THAT THE UNHCR HAD RECEIVED FIRST HAND INFORMATION FROM A PRISONER WHO HAD BEEN MISTAKENLY DETAINED WITH MORE THAN 20 URUGUAYAN REFUGEES IN LATE DECEMBER AND JANURARY THAT HE REFUGEES WERE GEI G HELD TOGETHER IN A ABANDONED POLICE FACILITY IN QUILMES. (SEE BUENOS AIRES 3045.) THE UNHCR'S SOURCE SAID THAT THE INTERROGATIONS WERE BEING CONDUCTED "BY PERSONS WITH URUGUAYAN ACCENTS." LYONETTE HAS CONFIRMED THE INFORMATION AND WAS PLANNING TO MAKE A

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QUIET DEMARCHES TO THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS...

12. PRESUMED SUBVERSIVE ACQUITTED THE SECOND ARMY CORPS ANNOUNCED ON MAY 17 THAT ITS FIRST MILITARY COURT HAD RELEASED A "SELF-ARRESTED" SUBVERSIVE (ONE WHO HAD TURNED HERSELF IN). THE 22 YEAR OLD ARGENTINE MOTHER HAD EARLIER LINKS WITH THE MONTONEROS THROUGH THE UNIVERSITY PERONIST YOUTH ORGANIZATION. SHE ATTENDED MEETINGS, DISTRIBUTED PAMPHLETS,

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AND PAINTED WALLS. THE SUBJECT TURNED HERSELF

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IN SHORTLY AFTER HER HUSBAND WAS ARRESTED BY THE AUTHORITIES, AND HER CONFINEMENT FOR A MONTH DURING THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MILITARY TRIBUNAL WAS DEEMED TO BE A SUFFICIENT SENTENCE IN HER CASE AND SHE WAS ORDERED TO BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY.

PART II - FOLLOW-UPS, UPDATES AND REVERBERATIONS

13. REPRESSION IN CORDOBA  
THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT FROM A MIDDLE-LEVEL JUDICIAL OFFICIAL IN CORDOBA THAT 832 HABEAS CORPUS PETITIONS WERE FILED IN CORDOBA FOR DISAPPEARED PERSONS FROM MID-1977 THROUGH JANUARY, 1978. A NUMBER OF THOSE DETAINED WERE REPORTED TO HAVE PREVIOUSLY STUDIED IN THE ARCHITECTURE AND LAW FACULTIES

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15. LIST OF 232 LOCATED PERSONS  
THE ARGENTINE FEDERAL PLICE ISSUED ON  
APRIL 12 THE NAMES OF 232 INDIVIDUALS WHO HAD  
PREVIOUSLY BEEN REPORTED MISSING, BUT HOW HAD  
BEEN LOCATED IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1978.  
(SEE BUENOS AIRES 2803.) THE MINISTRY OF  
INTERIORS'S DIRECTOR FOR INTERNAL SECURITY SAN  
ROMAN INFORMED EMBASSY RECENTLY THAT ONLY 9 OF  
[REDACTED]  
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THE 232 LOCATED PERSONS WERE SECURITY DISAPPEAR-  
ANCE CASES. THE OTHER WERE THE NORMAL POLICE  
MISSING PERSONS -- RUN AWAYS, SHIPJUMPERS, ETC.  
ACCORDING TO SAN ROMAN, HIS OFFICE IN THE FIRST  
QUARTER 1978 HAS IN FACT LOCATED 90 PERSONS  
PREVIOUSLY REPORTED TO HIS OFFICE AS DISAPPEARED.  
THE MININT IS CONSIDERING PUBLISHING THIS LIST.  
UNDERSTANDABLY, THE LOCATED PERSONS LIST

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GENERATED ENORMOUS INTEREST AMONG THE HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS HOWEVER THOSE MEMBERS WERE GREATLY DISAPPOINTED UPON LEARNING THE EXACT NATURE OF THE LIST. TWO HUNDRED PERSONS REPORTEDLY APPEARED AT THE FEDERAL POLICE OFFICE THE DAY AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS ISSUED SEEKING INFORMATION.

16. B.A. BAR ASSOCIATION STATEMENT  
ON APRIL 15, THE ASSOCIATION LAWYERS OF BUENOS AIRES ISSUED A STATEMENT OPPOSING VIOLENCE AND CALLING FOR ORDER AND PEACE IN THE COUNTRY. THE STATE DEPLORED EQUALLY THE RECENT ASSASSINATIONS OF TWO LAWYERS - SENIOR TREASURY OFFICIAL DR. MIGUEL TOBIAS PADILLA AND DR. JUAN CARLOS DEGHI, A PROMINENT LABOR LAWYER WHO WAS ABDUCTED IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS RELEASE FROM LA PLATA PRISON AND LATER FOUND MURDERED. THE BA BAR ASSOCIATIONS PROTEST WAS CLEARLY TRIGGERED BY PADILLAS ASSASSINATION, BUT IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT IS ALSO MENTIONED THE DEGHI MURDER IN A SPECIFIC CALL FOR THE END OF VIOLENCE. (NOTE: PADILLAS MURDER MAY HAVE BEEN THE RESULT OF INTERNAL FRICTIONS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT AND NOT TERRORIST ELEMENTS.)

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17. FREEDOM OF THE PRESS - A RESUME

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THE ARGENTINE PRESS ASSOCIATION (ADEPA) ISSUED A STATEMENT OF APRIL 1 STATING THAT WITH SOME EXCEPTIONS PRESS FREEDOM HAD BEEN RESPECTED IN ARGENTINA FROM SEPTEMBER, 1977 THROUGH FEBRUARY, 1978. ADEPA CALLED ATTENTION TO FOUR CONTINUING SITUATIONS VIOLATIVE OF PRESS FREEDOM. THE FIRST WAS THE CONTINUING DETENTION WITHOUT CHARGES OF 14 JOURNALISTS. SECOND WAS THE INTERVENTION OF THREE ARGENTINE NEWSPAPERS BY MILITARY AUTHORITIES, INCLUDING LA OPINION. THIRD WAS THE DISAPPEARANCE OF EIGHT ARGENTINE JOURNALISTS: EDGARDO SAJON, JOAQUIN NAZAR, ENRIQUE RAAB, RODOLFO FERNANDEZ RONDAL, JUAN CARLOS HIGA, CONRADO GUILLERMO CERETTI, LUIS FASATTI AND SANTIAGO CERVIN. LASTLY, WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S SUSPENSIONS OF THE BUENOS AIRES EVENING PAPER LA RAZON ON FEBRUARY ON FEBRUARY 25. ON APRIL 25 ADEPA, THE ASSOCIATION OF PROVINCIAL NEWSPAPERS (ADIRA), AND INTER-AMERICAN PRESS SOCIETY PROTESTED THE GOVERNMENT'S THREE-DAY SHUT DOWN OF LA OPINION AND CRONICA FOR THEIR

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ACCOUNTS OF THE ARMY'S DECISION TO INSTALL GENERAL VIDELA AS PRESIDENT. THERE WERE REPORTS IN MARCH THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONTEMPLATING ACTION AGAINST THE EXTREME RIGHT WING MAGAZINE CABILDO FOR A SCATHING EDITORIAL ATTACKING PRESIDENT VIDEL'S PROPOSED RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAW (WHICH HAS BEEN SHELVED IN THE CAL). HOWEVER, NOTHING SEEMS TO HAVE DEVELOPED. CABILDO'S APRIL ISSUE APPEARED, CONTAINING AN EQUAL SCATHING COVER STORY AGAINST FORMER LA OPINION EDITOR, JACOBO TIMERMAN.

18. HIGH INTEREST CASES  
THERE HAS BEEN PRESS AND PUBLIC INTEREST RECENTLY IN A NUMBER OF CASES OF HIGH INTEREST TO US.  
--THE CONTINUED DETENTION OF ALFREDO BRAVO, LEADER OF THE ARGENTINE TEACHERS' UNION AND CO-PRESIDENT OF THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS HAS RECEIVED THE MOST ATTENTION. BRAVO'S WIFE HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE ON MARCH 8 AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY TO MARK THE SIX-MONTH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DETENTION.

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SINCE THEN BOTH THE ASSEMBLY AND TEACHERS UNION HAVE REGULARLY ISSUED ANNOUNCEMENTS ON HIS BEHALF. THE LATEST WAS ON MAY 24.

--ON APRIL 2, LA OPINION RAN A HALF PAGE ARTICLE MARKING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE DISAPPEARANCE OF JOURNALIST EDGARDO SAJON, FORMER PRESS SECRETARY DURING THE PRESIDENCY OF GENERAL LANUSSE. THE BUENOS AIRES HERALD RAN A STRONG ANNIVERSARY EDITORIAL ENTITLED "BLACK DAY OF THE SAJON DISAPPEARANCE."

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--IN EARLY FEBRUARY THE SECRETARIES OF THE COUNTRYS LIGHT AND POWER UNIONS REQUEST AN AUDIENCE WITH PRESIDENT VIDELA CONCERNING THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MODERATE PERONIST LABOR LEADER OSCAR SMITH.

--ON MARCH 8, AN ANNIVERSARY MASS WAS HELD IN BUENOS AIRES FOR TERESA ALICIA ISRAEL, A DISAPPEARED HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER.

--HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS REPORT THAT THERE IS SERIOUS CONSIDERATION UNDERWAY WITHIN THE GOA REGARDING THE RELEASE OF ADOLFO PEREZ ESQUIVEL, WHO WAS RECENTLY NOMINATED FOR A NOBEL PEACE PRIZE. (SEE BUENOS AIRES 1712.) ACCORDING TO HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS PEREZ ESQUIVEL HAS OT ONLY NOT BEEN CHARGED, HE HAS NOT EVEN BEE INTERROGATED. SIMILAR RELEASE REPORTS ARE CIRCULATING ABOUT ALFREDO BRAVO AS WELL.

19. SOUTH VIETNAMESE REFUGEES TO BE ACCEPTED UNHCR OFFICIAL RECENTLY TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA PLANS TO GRANT PERMANENT RESIDENCESTATUS TO THE FOUR VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WHO WERE ALLOWED TO DISEMBARK IN ARGENTINA IN EARLY APRIL FROM THE SHIP WHICH RESCUED THEM IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA. ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES ARE REPORTEDLY IMPRESSED WITH THE DEDICATION THE VIETNAMESE HAVE SHOWN IN LEARNING SPANISH AND ARE SURE THAT THEIR FISHING AND MECHANICAL SKILLS WILL BE WELCOMED IN ARGENTINA.

20. LAWYERS GROUP VISIT POSTPONED THE CANCELLATION OF THE PROPOSED VISIT TO ARGENTINA BY THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF LAWYERS

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(UIA) (SEE PARIS 2906, BUENOS AIRES 0931 AND STATE 696265) HAS LED TO A ROUND OF FINGER POINTING BETWEEN THE ARGENTINE LEAGUE FOR THE

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RIGHTS OF MAN, THE ARGENTINE FEDERATION OF BAR ASSOCIATIONS (FACA) AND MR. SIVORI, LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UIA. THE CANCELLATION OF THE VISIT APPEARS TO HAVE STRAINED RELATIONS BETWEEN THE ARGENTINE BAR AND THE UIA. ARGENTINE BAR ASSOCIATIONS PRESIDENT DR BERNAL ANNOUNCED ON APRIL 7 THAT THE FACA WOULD NOT ATTEND THE APRIL UIA BOARD MEETING IN ISTANBUL BECAUSE THE UIA IS JUDGING ARGENTINA WITHOUT HAVING CONSULTED THE ONLY COMPETENT LEGAL ORGANIZATION IN THE COUNTRY. IN SHORT, THE LEAGUES EFFORTS TO INTEREST THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF LAWYERS IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISTUATION OF THE ARGENTINE BAR, WHICH INCLUDED THE PUBLICATION OF A LIST

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OF 146 DETAINED OR DISAPPEARED LAWYERS, APPEARS TO HAVE BACKFIRED.

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21. REACTION TO THE LIST OF 2500 DISAPPEARED PERSONS

THE PUBLICATION OF A THREE PAGE ADVERTISE-  
MENT IN LA PRENSA OF 2508 DISAPPEAREDS HAS  
GENERATED A STIR IN THE GOA AND HOPE FOR THE  
HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS. THE PERMANENT  
ASSEMBLY, THE MEDH, AND THE LIGA ALL REPORT A  
LARGE INFLUX OF NEW DISAPPEARANCE REPORTS. A  
MEDH OFFICIAL TOLD EMBASSY THAT ITS NUMBER OF  
DAILY REGISTRATIONS HAD MORE THAN DOUBLED SINCE  
THE LISTS PUBLICATION. THE HUMAN RIGHTS  
ORGANIZATIONS PLAN TO PUBLISH A FOLLOW UP LIST  
AFTER THE WORLD CUP ENDS.

OF THE 2508 NAMES ON THE LIST, 1194 WERE OF CASES WHERE FORMAL  
HABEAS CORPUS PETITIONS HAD BEEN FILED. THE  
1314 OTHER CASES WERE BASED ON REPORTS MADE  
TO THE ORGANIZATIONS. OF THE 229 DISAPPEARED  
CASES WHICH WE HAVE PRESENTED TO THE FOREING  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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OFFICE, ABOUT HALF (116) APPEAREED ON THE LA PRENSA  
LIST.

THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR ANNOUNCED ON  
JUNE 1 THAT IT HAD BEEN ABLE TO TRACE 87 OF  
THE PERSONS REPORTED MISSING IN THE LA PRENSA  
AD. ACCORDING TO THE MINISTRY, NINETEEN OF THE  
PERSONS WERE UNDER EXECUTIVE DETENTION, 4 HAD  
BEEN GRANTED THE RIGHT OF OPTION, ONE WAS UNDER  
HOUSE ARREST, 24 HAD BEEN RELEASED, 4 UNDER  
INDICTMENT, AND 35 WERE IN THEIR HOMES.

MINISTER HARGUINDEGUY EARLIER HAD INFORMED  
UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM THAT 109 PERSONS FROM  
THE LIST HAD BEEN LOCATED AND PRESENTED A  
DIFFERENT BREAKDOWN OF 55 DETAINED, 36 RELEASED,  
7 DEAD, 9 COMMONCRIMINALS, AND 2 FUGITIVES.  
EMBASSY WAS NOT ABLE TO ACCOUNT FOR THE DIS-  
CREPANCY, BUT WE BELIEVE THE MINISTER MAY  
HAVE SPOKEN FROM EARLIER, UNEVALUATED  
INFORMATION.

IN ONE CASE KNOWN PERSONALLY TO AN  
EMBASSY OFFICER A NINTEEN YEAR OLD STUDENT--  
CARLOS HUGO CAPITMAN-- WHOAPPEARED ON THE LA PRENSA  
LIST WAS REPORTED AS HAVING BEEN RELEASED BY  
THE MININT. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO HIS FAMILY,  
HE HAS NOT BEEN HEARD FROM SINCE HIS DIS-

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APPEAREANCE IN MARCH 1976.  
WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE MINISTRY IS USING  
INTERPOL'S SERVICES TO TRY TRACK DOWN  
PERSONS ON THE LA PRENSA LIST WHO MAY BE  
LIVING ABROAD.  
THE PRESS PLAY ON THE LIST HAS BEEN SMALL.  
ONLY THE HERALD AND LA PRENSA HAVE RUN STORIES.  
LA PRENSA HAS PUBLISHED A NUMBER OF FOLLOW-UP

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ADS FROM FAMILIES REGARDING LOST RELATIVES  
AND ONE ADVERTISEMENT STATING THAT THE PERSON  
ON THE LIST WAS AT HOME WORKING FOR HIS FAMILY  
AND HIS COUNTRY.

22. TIMERMAN CASE  
ACCORDING TO THE TIMERMAN FAMILY, RECENT  
PROCEDURAL DECISION OF THE COMMISSION ON  
PATRIMONIAL REPONSIBILIY (CONAREPA) WHICH  
IS INVESTIGATING THE ACUIQISION OF ALL  
TIMERMANS CAPITAL ASSETS POINT TO A LONG  
DRAWN OUT INVESTIGATION. CONAREPA ACCEPTED  
TIMERMANS PROOFS OF THE ACQUISITON OF HIS  
CAPITAL GOODS BUT REQUIRED THE PRESENTATION  
OF DETAILED OPERATING INFORMATON FROM THE  
LEDGERS OF THE FOUR CORPORATIONS IN WHICH TIMERMAN  
OWNS SHARES. THIS REQUEST WILL TAKE A NUMBER  
OF MONTHS TO FULFILL.

A BITTER COVER STORY INTHE APRIL EDITON  
OF THE EXTREME RIGHT WING MAGAZINE, CABILDO  
AND ANOTHER FEATURE STORY IN A POPULAR WEEKLY  
ABOUT HOW TIMERMAN LIVES UNDER HOUSE ARREST  
HAVE, ACCORDING TO THE PUBLISHERS FAMILY,  
CAUSED INCREASED CONCERN BY FEDERAL POLICE  
OFFICIALS REGARDING TIMERMANS SAFETY. OVER  
FIFTY POLICEMEN ARE ENGAGED IN GUARDING  
TIMERMAN. TO DATE, THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR  
HAS PERMITTEDTIMERMAN ONLY ONE VISITOR BESIDES  
HIS IMMEDIATE FAMILY AND HIS RABBI - THE ISRAELI  
AMBASSADOR. TIMERMANS LAWYER HAS PROTESTED  
TO CONAREPA THAT THE MINISTRY OFINTERIOR  
HAS NOT PERMITTED VISITS BY TIMERMANS LEGAL  
COUNCIL AND DOCTORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
THE GOVERNMENTS OWN HOUSE ARREST REGULATIONS.  
LOCAL PUBLICITY ON THE CASE CONTINUES.

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THE BUENOS AIRES HEARLDFRONT-PAGE CONGRESS-

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MAN CONTE APRIL 18 HOUSE FLOOR STATEMENT  
CALLING FOR THERMANS IMMEDIATE RELEASE.  
THE HERALD FOLLOWED UP WITH A STRONG EDITORIAL  
ENTITLED "A DESERVING PLEA." THE EDITORIAL  
PLACED THE CONTE STATEMENT IN THE PERSPECTIVE  
OF HAVING COME FROM A CONSERVATIVE SUPPORTER  
AND A FRIEND OF ARGENTINA.

23. FOREIGN HUMAN RIGHTS INTEREST  
RELATIVES OF 22 FRENCH NATIONALS EITHER  
JAILED OR DISAPPEARED IN ARGENTINA ACCORDING  
TO PRESS ACCOUNTS PLAN TO APPEAL TO THE POPE  
FOR AID IN SECURING THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS

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FREEDOM. ANOTHER PRESS STORY REPORTS THAT  
A GROUP OF FRENCH LAWYERS REPRESENTING SEVERAL  
HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS MADE A MID-MONTH  
APPEAL DIRECTLY TO THE MEMBERS OF THE JUNTA  
FOR THE RELEASE OF THE 22 FRENCH CITIZENS

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DETAINED OR MISSING IN ARGENTINA.  
A BELGIAN DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE  
INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR THE RIGHTS OF MAN  
VISITED BUENOS AIRES IN MID-MAY. THE GROUP  
WAS HEADED BY FORMER SOCIALIST MINISTER OF JUSTICE VERVEYLEN  
AND CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT  
SENATOR RIJCKMANS. THE BELGIUM EMBASSY  
HERE HAS NO INFORMATION REGARDING THE GROUPS  
FINDINGS.

ON MAY 1, ACCORDING TO THE SWEDISH  
AMBASSADOR HERE, THE SWDISH FOREIGN MINISTER  
MADE A STRONG ORAL DEMARCHE TO THE ARGENTINE  
AMBASSADOR IN STOCKHOLM REGARDING THE HUMAN  
RIGHTS SITUATION IN ARGENTINA. A COPY OF THE  
PREPARED TALKING POINTS IS BEING POUCHED TO DEPART-  
MENT AND AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM.

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24. SAN MARTIN BOMBING

[REDACTED] TOLD EMBOFF THAT TWO PERSONS  
WERE APPREHENDED IN CONNECTION WITH HAVING  
PLACED A BOMB IN THE SAN MARTIN CULTURAL CENTER  
PARKING BASEMENT. ONE WAS A MEDICAL DOCTOR.  
[REDACTED] HEARD STORIES TO THE EFFECT THE  
ARRESTED PERSONS DIED UNDER INTERROGATION  
SOON AFTER THEIR ARREST.

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25. REPORTED DISAPPEARANCES IN LA PLATA  
A DOCTOR WITH WIDE COMMUNITY CONTACTS IN  
LA PLATA, CAPITAL OF BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE,  
GAVE AN EMBOFF ON MAY 15 A LIST OF 74 DISAPPEAREDS  
AND 12 KILLED AS A RESULT OF SECURITY ACTIONS  
BETWEEN MARCH 1976 AND FEBRUARY 1978. THE  
DOCTOR, WHOSE OWN SON AND DAUGHTER IN LAW  
DISAPPEARED IN OCTOBER 1976, SAID MOST OF THOSE  
LISTED WERE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS. HE ASSERTED  
THEREHAD BEEN BETWEEN 3500 AND 7000 DISAPPEAREDS  
IN LA PLATA. THE EMBASSY CANNOT CONFIRM THESE  
NUMBERS.

THE DOCTOR ALSO REPORTED THE ABDUCTION  
AND RELEASE OF A MRS. NELVA MENENDEZ DE FALCONE  
AND HER HUSBAND, A FORMER LA PLATA MAYOR.  
(MRS. FALCONE IS ONE OF THE LEADERS  
OF THE MOTHERS OF THE PLAZA DE MAYO.) HE SAID

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THE COUPLE WAS TAKEN IN JANUARY OF THIS YEAR AND HELD FOR SIX WEEKS. THE DOCTOR SAID THAT MRS. FALCONE TOLD HIM THAT SHE HAD BEEN TORTURED WITH PICANA ON THE LEGS, MOUTH, AND GENITALS. SHE SAID SHE WAS QUESTIONED ABOUT HER 16 YEAR

[REDACTED]

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OLD DAUGHTER, WHO DISAPPEARED SEPTEMBER, 1976 AND HER SON WHO IS BELIEVED TO HAVE GONE INTO HIDING. THE EMBASSY HAD A SIMILAR REPORT FROM THE MOTHERS GROUP.

SOURCE ALSO REPORTED THAT THE SON OF A FAMILY CALLED VILLAREAL HAD REPORTED THAT WHILE HE WAS HELD AT A DETENTION FACILITY ON THE ESTANCIA LARMONIA NEAR THE LA ARANA RAILROAD SHEDS, HE LEARNED OF THE SHOOTING OF SOME 50 PERSONS IN AN ATTEMPTED JAIL BREAK IN LATE FEBRUARY. (THERE HAS BEEN NO CONFIRMATION OR OTHER REPORTS OF THIS INCIDENT TO THE EMBASSY.)  
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