

UNCLASSIFIED

8/19/77

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ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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P 191930Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1840
INFO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
 Release () Excise () Deny
Exemption(s): _____
Declassify: () In Part In Full
() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to _____
Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 6137

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: INTERIOR MINISTER SEES JACOBO TIMERMAN;
CONGRESSMAN GILMAN ALSO TO BE
PERMITTED INTERVIEW WITH TIMERMAN

1. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED FROM HECTOR TIMERMAN THAT LESS THAN TWO HOURS AFTER US HUMAN RIGHTS COORDINATOR PATRICIA DERIAN DISCUSSED ON AUGUST 10 THE MISTREATMENT OF ARGENTINE EDITOR JACOBO TIMERMAN WITH MINISTER OF INTERIOR GENERAL ALBANO EDUARDO HARGUINDEGUY, HARGUINDEGUY ACCORDING TO HECTOR ORDERED THAT TIMERMAN BE CLEANED UP, SHAVED AND DRESSED AND BROUGHT TO HIS OFFICE FREE OF HANDCUFFS. TIMERMAN WAS BROUGHT TO THE MINISTRY IN AN OFFICIAL CAR.

2. THE MEETING LASTED ALMOST AN HOUR. HARGUINDEGUY FIRST ASKED TIMERMAN IF HE WAS RELATED TO PATRICIA DERIAN, TO WHICH TIMERMAN ANSWERED THAT THEY WERE FRIENDS. THE MINISTER THEN ASKED TIMERMAN HOW HE HAD BEEN TREATED DURING HIS IMPRISONMENT, CREATING THE IMPRESSION HE HAD BEEN UNAWARE TIMERMAN HAD BEEN TORTURED UNTIL DERIAN TOLD

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3. TIMERMAN AT FIRST REFUSED TO ANSWER, CITING HIS FEAR OF "REPRISALS," BUT WHEN HARGUINDEGUY ASSURED HIM THERE WOULD BE NONE TIMERMAN SPELLED OUT IN DETAIL THE MISTREATMENT HE HAD RECEIVED IN PRISON AFTER HIS ARREST. HE ADDED THAT HIS JAILERS CONSTANTLY TAUNTED HIM BECAUSE HE IS A JEW.

4. ACCORDING TO TIMERMAN'S SON, WHO SAW HIS FATHER THE FOLLOWING DAY, HARGUINDEGUY GAVE HIS FATHER THE IMPRESSION--WITHOUT ACTUALLY SAYING THIS--THAT HE WOULD NOT BE BROUGHT BEFORE A MILITARY TRIBUNAL AND MIGHT SOON BE FREED. HE SAID "WE WILL RESOLVE THIS SITUATION." THIS THICKENS THE TIMERMAN PLOT CONSIDERABLY, SINCE AN EMBASSY OFFICER HAD BEEN TOLD ON THE SAME DAY "ON GOOD AUTHORITY, FROM NAVAL INTELLIGENCE SOURCES" THAT TIMERMAN HAD "CONFERRED TO BEING A COMMUNIST AND A SOVIET SPY, AND THAT HE WOULD BE TRIED ON THESE CHARGES BY A MILITARY TRIBUNAL." WHEN, HOWEVER, AUGUST 18 MEMBERS OF CONGRESS GILMAN AND LAGOMARSINO REQUESTED TO KNOW WHAT CHARGES HAD BEEN MADE AGAINST TIMERMAN A REPLY WAS RECEIVED LATE IN THE EVENING FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS THAT HE IS BEING HELD FOR "CRIMES OF ECONOMIC SUBVERSION." (COMMENT: ALL THIS PROBABLY DEMONSTRATES THAT THE FORCES HOLDING TIMERMAN HAVE NOT IN FACT DECIDED JUST WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEIR INCREASINGLY WELL KNOWN PRISONER.)

5. CONGRESSMAN BENJAMIN GILMAN PRIVATELY ASKED MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR AN INTERVIEW WITH TIMERMAN, WHICH HAS TENTATIVELY BEEN SET FOR EARLY EVENING AUGUST 19. AFTER INTERVIEW WE MAY HAVE A BETTER IDEA

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OF STATE OF PLAY AND WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT.

6. AS FOR TIMERMAN'S FAMILY, MEMBERS WERE TAKEN ABACK AT MINISTER HARGUINDEGUY'S NEW STANCE. WHAT THEY FEAR IS THAT HE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO PREVENT REPRISALS AGAINST JACOBO. THEY HAVE STRONGLY ENDORSED GILMAN'S VISIT WITH HIM.
 CHAPLIN

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INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 6173

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REF: BUENOS AIRES 6137

CHANGE CLASSIFICATION CONTROL ON
BUENOS AIRES 6137 TO XGDS-4.

INFORMATION CONTAINED REFTEL MUST BE PROTECTED.
ITS DISCLOSURE WOULD PLACE SUBJECT INDIVIDUAL
IN IMMEDIATE JEOPARDY OF HIS LIFE AND COULD ALSO
HAVE A DELETERIOUS EFFECT ON US-ARGENTINE
RELATIONS.
CHAPLIN

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