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R 231151Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7102
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS
COMNAVINTCOM ALEXANDRIA VA

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM AR PINS
SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS ROUNDUP

REF: BUENOS AIRES 5656

PART I -- NEW EVENTS AND INDICATORS (THROUGH AUG 15)

1. REAPPEARANCE REPORTS INCREASING----

SINCE THE END OF THE MUNDIAL, THERE HAVE BEEN ELEVEN REAPPEARANCES REPORTED TO US (SEE ITEM 4B). (INFORMATION REGARDING PERSONS PICKED UP FOR INTERROGATION BY SECURITY FORCE ELEMENTS AND LATER RELEASED IS GENERALLY UNDER REPORTED.)

THE FOLLOWING ARE RECENT REAPPEARANCE CASES:
-- IN EARLY JUNE, DR. FRANCISCO BERDICHEVSKY, SERGIO SIMEON CUMZINSKI, CARLOS PABLO BENGELSDORF, NCND CARLOS QERNER, ALL MEMBERS OF THE ARGENTINE COMMUNIST PARTY APPEARED. THE FIRST THREE ARE NOW UNDER EXECUTIVE DETENTION AFTER FIVE DAYS OF INTERROGA-

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TION. THE LATTER WAS RELEASED.
-- GRACILELA SCOTTA DE BONAVITTA, COUSIN OF A

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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
() Release (X) Excise () Deny
Exemption(s): B1
Declassify: (X) In Part () In Full
(X) Classify as C () Extend as () Downgrade to
Date 5/9/94 Declassify on 5/9/11 Reason 15X6

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MEMBER OF THE ARGENTINA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FOOTBALL TEAM, WAS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN PICKED UP AND RELEASED AFTER INTERROGATION DURING JUNE. HER HUSBAND, NELSON ORLANDO BONAVITTA, AN ARMY DRAFTEE WHO WAS TAKEN AT THE SAME TIME, HAS NOT BEEN REPORTED RELEASED.

-- ALBERTO C. GARRITANO REPORTED TO HAVE DISAPPEARED ON JANUARY 17, 1978 WAS PLACED UNDER THE PEN ON JUNE 10.

-- ANDRES MARCHELLO DE NUCCIO AND TWO OTHER FORMER STUDENTS AT THE CARLOS PELLIGRINI HIGH SCHOOL, WHO WERE ARRESTED ON MAY 5, 1978, HAVE APPEARED IN LA PLATA PRISON AFTER 48 DAYS OF UNRECOGNIZED DETENTION. THEY HAVE NOT YET BEEN FORMALLY PLACED UNDER THE PEN.

-- ALEJANDRO LUIS TRAVERSO - A YOUNG DRAFTEE WAS ALLEGEDLY PICKED UP IN FRONT OF THE CAMPO DE MAYO MILITARY BASE BY ARMY INTELLIGENCE. HIS FATHER REPORTED TO US HE WAS INTERROGATED AND TORTURED FOR TWO DAYS ABOUT HIS HIGH SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT WITH THE MAOIST LINE PCR PARTY. HE WAS LATER RELEASED AND ACCORDING TO HIS FATHER, IMMEDIATELY ARRESTED BY HIS ARMY UNIT ON CHARGES OF HAVING STOLEN A PISTOL.

-- MILTON GABRIEL MARINELLI SEGUEIRO, A VENEZUELAN STUDENT, DISAPPEARED IN TUCUMAN ON MAY 5, 1978. ON AUGUST 12, NEWSSTORIES ANNOUNCED THAT HE WAS BEING EXPELLED.

2. DISAPPEARANCE CASES IN THE PRESS----

PERHAPS ENCOURAGED BY THE EASING OF PRESSURES ON THE PRESS AND THE MAY 17 ADVERTISEMENT IN LA PRENSA LISTING 2,500 NAMES OF DISAPPEARED PERSONS, THE ARGENTINE PRESS HAS BEGUN TO PRINT INFORMATION REGARDING INDIVIDUAL DISAPPEARANCE CASES. THE

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FOLLOWING DISAPPEARANCE CASES HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN THE PRESS SINCE EARLY JULY:

- MARIA ERNESTINA GIACHIETTI - COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBER ABDUCTED ON MAY 6, 1978;
- DR. OSCAR CESAR FURMAN - MEDICAL DOCTOR, UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR, AND FORMER PERONIST YOUTH MEMBER, ABDUCTED ON DECEMBER 26, 1976;
- ALEJANDRO JUDITY NAFTAL - YOUNG WOMAN TAKEN FROM HER HOME ON MAY 9, 1978;
- JULIAN DELGADO - EDITOR OF CRONISTA COMMERCIAL, DISAPPEARED ON JUNE 4. (INTERIOR MINISTER HARGUINDEGUY STATED THAT DISAPPEARANCE DUE TO DELGADO'S POOR

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"(MENTAL)" HEALTH NOT TO A CRIME.);
-- ALFREDO MARIO GARCIA - TWENTY-FIVE YEAR OLD
STUDENT AND TOBACCO COMPANY EMPLOYEE, DISAPPEARED
ON JULY 5;
-- ROLDOFO NANNI - PARTIDO COMUNISTA REVOLUCIONERIO
MEMBER DISAPPEARED ON JULY 6;
-- ENRIQUE APPEL - GARMENT FACTORY OWNER DISAPPEARED
ON JULY 13;
-- ADAM PEDRINI - FORMER CHACO PROVINCE PERONIST
LEADER, DISAPPEARED ON JULY 14;
-- CARLOS DIEGO BARREDA - CARPENTER AND PCR UNION
ACTIVIST "ARRESTED" IN LA PLATA ON JULY 14;
-- RUBEN VERA - LAWYER DISAPPEARED ON JULY 20;
-- MAURICIO ALBERTO POLTARAK - REPORTED DISAPPEARED
ON JULY 21;
-- RODOLFO TISCORNIA - UNIVERSITY STUDENT PICKED
UP IN LA PLATA ON JULY 21;
-- ENRIQUE ESTABAN - CLARIN CORRESPONDENT IN NEUQUEN,
"ARRESTED" ON JULY 23. HIS WIFE WAS RELEASED FIVE
HOURS LATER AND REPORTED THAT THEY WERE QUESTIONED
ABOUT PERSONS LIVING IN LA PLATA. MINISTER OF
INTERIOR AND ARGENTINE PRESS HAVE EXPRESSED
CONCERN ABOUT THIS CASE;
-- LUIS PABLO CORDOBA AND HIS WIFE ELICIA RIOS -
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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JOURNALIST FOR THE SANTA FE PROVINCIAL NEWSPAPER,
EL LITORAL, DISAPPEARED ON JULY 27;
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-- DOMINGO RUSO BERAZATEGUI - REPORTED TO HAVE
DISAPPEARED IN EARLY AUGUST;
-- BEATRIZ PEROSIO - PRESIDENT OF THE BUENOS AIRES
ASSOCIATION OF PSYCHOLOGY, REPORTEDLY TAKEN FROM
HOME ON AUGUST 8;
-- ALFRED SMITH AND WIFE - SECRETARY FOR PRO-
FESSIONAL AFFAIRS OF THE BUENOS AIRES ASSOCIATION
OF PSYCHOLOGY; THE COUPLE WAS REPORTED TO HAVE
BEEN TAKEN FROM THEIR HOME IN THE SECOND WEEK OF
AUGUST.

SEVERAL EARLIER DISAPPEARANCES
CONTINUE TO RECEIVE CONSIDERABLE
PRESS ATTENTION. MOST NOTABLE WAS A RECENT ADVER-
TISEMENT BY THE WIFE OF MISSING ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR
AND RADICAL PARTY LEADER, HECTOR HIDALGO SOLA, WHICH
APPEARED IN FOUR BUENOS AIRES AND NINE PROVINCIAL
PAPERS. MRS. SOLA'S MOVING AND PATRIOTIC APPEAL
CALLED FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THE WHEREABOUTS
OF HER HUSBAND ON THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF HIS
DISAPPEARANCE. THE HERALD FEATURED EDITORIALS ON
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[REDACTED]

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RODOLFO PONDAL, EDGARDO SAJON AND HECTOR SOLA WHO
HAVE DISAPPEARED IN WHAT THE HERALD REFERS TO AS
THE "ARGENTINE TRIANGLE".)

3. THREE NEWSPAPERS ALLEGEDLY PRESSURED----
THE BUENOS AIRES HERALD, LA PRENSA AND LA PLATA'S
EL DIA -- WHICH HAVE BEEN MOST ACTIVE IN PRINTING
DISAPPEARANCE STORIES AND ADVERTISEMENTS -- HAVE
EACH HAD RECENT DIFFICULTIES WHICH SOME HUMAN
RIGHTS LEADERS SEE AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE DAILIES'
INCREASED COVERAGE OF DISAPPEARANCES. THE ENGLISH
LANGUAGE HERALD HAS BEEN ASKED TO CHECK ITS DIS-
APPEARANCE STORIES PRIOR TO PUBLICATION WITH THE
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. (COMMENT: A REASONABLE
REQUEST, IT SEEMS TO US.) A BOMBBB WAS PLACED AT

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THE ENTRANCE OF THE LA PRENSA BUILDING ON AUGUST 10 BUT WAS DEFUSED BEFORE EXPLODING (NOT AN UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE IN BUENOS AIRES). THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF BUENOS AIRES HAS WITHDRAWN ITS ADVERTISING FROM EL DIA AND THE PAPERJS JOURNALISTS HAVE HAD DIFFICULTIES IN COVERING OFFICIAL NEWS STORIES. (COMMENT: HOWEVER, EL DIA'S DIRECTOR HAS TOLD US THAT HIS PROBLEMS WITH PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES ARE "POLITICAL," BUT UNRELATED TO THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.)

4. STATISTICS

SINCE THE BEGINNING OF 1978 THROUGH JULY 31 THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR REPORTED THE FOLLOWING PEN DECISIONS:

A. PEN DETAINEES

A) ADDED TO PEN LISTS:

JANUARY 98

FEBRUARY 75

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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MARCH 70

APRIL 49

MAY 8

JUNE 29

JULY 18

TOTAL 347

B) TAKEN FROM PEN LISTS:

JANUARY 19

FEBRUARY 47

MARCH 99

APRIL 81

MAY 36

JUNE 102

JULY 62

TOTAL 442

C) ALLOWED TO LEAVE UNDER RIGHT OF OPTION:

JANUARY 8

FEBRUARY 5

MARCH 17

APRIL 3

MAY 6

JUNE 10

JULY 7

TOTAL 56

D) EXPELLED:

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JANUARY 5
FEBRUARY 3
MARCH 6
APRIL 2
MAY 0
JUNE 2
JULY 3
TOTAL 21

ON AUGUST 11, 1978 MINISTRY OF INTERIOR ANNOUNCED THAT AN
ADDITIONAL 17 PERSONS WERE REMOVED FROM PEN, 5 WERE AUTHORIZED TO
LEAVE THE COUNTRY AND 3 WERE WXPELLED.

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NOTE: EMBASSY'S ESTIMATE OF THE NUMBER OF PEN
PRISONERS AS OF AUGUST 15, 1978 IS 3406. THIS
NUMBER IS BASED ON THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR'S
ANNOUNCED PRISONER POPULATION OF DECEMBER 24,
1977 OF 3607 ADJUSTED BY THE MINISTRY'S PERIODIC
ANNOUNCEMENTS THROUGH AUGUST 15, 1978. EMBASSY'S
NUMBER DOES NOT ATTEMPT TO RECONCILE VARIANCE
BETWEEN DECEMBER 1977 TOTAL OF PEN PRISONERS

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AND NUMBER OF NAMES ACTUALLY ANNOUNCED BY GOA EARLY IN 1978. ALTHOUGH MININT DATA REFLECTS LEGAL STATUS OF PRISONERS, IT IS OFTEN LATE. [

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] RECENTLY AFFIRMED TO US THAT MINISTRY OF INTERIOR'S INFORMATION ON PEN PRISONERS AND THEIR EXACT LOCATION IS OFTEN NOT ACCURATE.

B. DISAPPEARANCES AND REAPPEARANCES

SINCE THE BEGINNING OF 1978 THROUGH AUGUST 15, THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING DISAPPEARANCE AND REAPPEARANCE CASES:

	DISAPPEARANCES	REAPPEARANCES
JANUARY	19	-

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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FEBRUARY	16	-
MARCH	28	-
APRIL	17	-
MAY	45	-
JUNE	28	4
JULY	31	6
AUGUST (PART)	3	1

(NOTE: THE REPORTING MONTH IS THE DATE OF THE EVENT AND NOT THE MONTH OF THE REPORT. THERE IS GENERALLY A LAG IN FAMILIES REPORTING OF DISAPPEARANCE CASES AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT A SIZABLE NUMBER OF REAPPEARANCE CASES ARE NEVER REPORTED TO THE EMBASSY.)

PART II - FOLLOW-UPS, UPDATES AND REVERBERATIONS

5. LAMBRUSCHINI BOMBING AFTER SHOCKS----

POLITICIANS, HUMAN RIGHTS WORKERS, AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, HAVE ALL EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT THE TRAGIC BOMBING OF ADMIRAL LAMBRUSCHINI'S APARTMENT IN WHICH HIS 15 YEAR OLD DAUGHTER AND TWO OTHER PERSONS WERE KILLED IS A SERIOUS SETBACK FOR POLITICAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRESS HERE.

A GROUP CLAIMING TO BE MONTONEROS ACCEPTED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE BOMBING BUT THERE IS SUSPICION IN SOME QUARTERS THAT SOME MILITARY OR SECURITY FORCE MAY HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE. NOTWITHSTANDING THIS UNDERCURRENT OF SPECULATION THE BOMBING SEEMS TO HAVE REINFORCED THE VIEW OF THE HARDLINERS THAT CONTINUED TOUGH MEASURES ARE NECESSARY TO ELIMINATE THE TERRORIST THREAT.

TEN TERRORISTS WERE REPORTED IN THE PRESS AS HAVING BEEN KILLED IN MAR DEL PLATA IN THE DAYS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE BOMBING. SIX PERSONS WERE

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KILLED IN SHOOT OUTS WITH GOVERNMENT FORCES; FOUR
OTHERS WERE REPORTED KILLED WHEN A BOMB THEY ALLEGEDLY

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WERE CONSTRUCTING IN A BEACH SHACK BLEW UP. HUMAN
RIGHTS OBSERVERS INTERPRETED THESE EVENTS IN MAR DEL
PLATA AS RETALIATION BY NAVY ELEMENTS FOR THE BOMBING,
BUT WE HAVE NO INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION OF THIS NOR
IS THERE EVIDENCE OF ANY FURTHER EXTRAORDINARY
MEASURES BEING TAKEN IN THE WAKE OF THE LAMBRUSCHINI
TRAGEDY.

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6. TIMERMAN CASE----

A SENIOR NAVY OFFICIAL ASSERTED TO EMBOFF ON
AUGUST 15 THAT IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, ADMIRAL
MASSERA WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO RAISE TIMERMAN'S RELEASE
WITH THE JUNTA. THE LAMBRUSCHINI BOMBING AND THE
STRONG ACTIONS AGAINST ARGENTINA BY THE U.S., MAKE
ANY INITIATIVE IMPOSSIBLE NOW, HE ALLEGED.

THE ARGENTINE PRESS RAN A UPI STORY ON JULY 26
REPORTING THAT RICHARD MAAS, PRESIDENT OF THE

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AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE, HAD TELEGRAPHED PRESIDENT VIDELA URGING HIM TO RELEASE JACOBO TIMERMAN IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE DECISION OF THE ARGENTINE SUPREME COURT.

7. CRIMINAL LIABILITY FOR JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES PARENTS-----
IN ANOTHER LEGAL STEP AGAINST THE JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES, A COURT OF APPEALS IN GREATER BUENOS AIRES DENIED THE "DERECHO DE AMPARO" REQUEST OF MR. LUIS VELTRA, THE FATHER OF A JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES STUDENT WHO WAS EXPELLED FROM SCHOOL FOR FAILURE TO HONOR NATIONAL

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SYMBOLS. THE COURT'S DECISION AFFIRMED THE POWER OF THE STATE TO INVESTIGATE THE FATHER'S ACTIVITIES TO DETERMINE IF HE AS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS CHILD'S ILLEGAL ACTIVITY. IN ADDITION, THE APPEALS COURT AUTHORIZED A JUVENILE COURT INVESTIGATION TO SEE IF THE CHILD SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM THE PARENTS' CUSTODY AS THERE APPEARED TO BE PRIME FACIE EVIDENCE THAT THE FATHER'S BEHAVIOR WAS CAUSING IMMEDIATE HARM TO THE SECURITY AND MORAL HEALTH OF HIS DAUGHTER.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THIS IS THE ONLY REPORT THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED OF JUDICIAL ACTION AFFECTING PARENTS IN THESE CASES. IN OTHER CASES THE FAILURE OF THE STUDENTS TO HONOR THE NATIONAL SYMBOLS HAS RESULTED MERELY IN THEIR EXPULSION. END COMMENT.

8. ANTI-DISCRIMINATION PROPOSAL FROZEN-----
THE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL PUT FORWARD BY THE PRESIDENCY LAST YEAR WITH GREAT FANFARE TO MAKE RELIGIOUS OR RACIAL DISCRIMINATION A CRIMINAL OFFENSE IN ARGENTINA TO DATE HAS NOT EMERGED FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAL). JEWISH COMMUNITY LEADERS FEAR IT MAY HAVE BEEN GIVEN A QUIET BURIAL IN THE CAL.

9. LIST OF THE DEAD NOT MOVING-----
THERE HAS BEEN NO FURTHER INFORMATION IN THE PRESS OF THE NAVY'S REPORTED PROPOSAL THAT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLISH A LIST OF THOSE PERSONS KILLED IN ACTION DURING THE WAR AGAINST THE TERRORISTS. (AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, THE PRESS CARRIED THE SUBSTANCE OF A JULY 1 CABLE FROM GENERAL VIDELA AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMY TO ALL ARMY FORCES STATING THOJT THERE WAS

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NO VALID REASON TO PUBLISH ANY LIST OF THE DEAD AS THE

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PERSONS WHO HAD BEEN KILLED IN ACTIONS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT'S FORCES HAD BEEN ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY OR PRIVATELY TO THEIR FAMILIES.)

10. LEGAL ACTION BROUGHT IN MOLDAVSKY DISAPPEARANCE
THE FAMILY OF "FITO" MOLDAVSKY HAS BROUGHT A LAW SUIT AGAINST THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT FOR ILLEGAL DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY ONE YEAR AFTER HIS DISAPPEARANCE. THE COMPLAINT WHICH WAS FILED ON JULY 10 RESTS PRINCIPALLY ON THE TESTIMONY OF DR. ALVARO ARAGON, A MEDICAL COLLEAGUE OF DR. MOLDAVSKY. DR. ARAGON BELONGED TO THE SAME "POLITICAL DISCUSSION GROUP" AS DR. MOLDAVSKY AND WAS DETAINED AND HELD WITH DR. MOLDAVSKY IN A DETENTION CENTER IN BUENOS AIRES LAST YEAR. HOWEVER, DR. ARAGON WAS PLACED UNDER THE PEN AFTER 20 DAYS OF CLANDESTINE DETENTION AND IS PRESENTLY IN THE LA PLATA PENITENTIARY. THERE HAS BEEN NO WORD FROM DR. MOLDAVSKY AND ONE OTHER MEMBER OF THE DOCTOR'S DISCUSSION GROUP.
CASTRO

[REDACTED]
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