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Human Rights Summary

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

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

Argentina: Response to IAHR Report

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

() Release (X) Excise () Deny

Source: []

[] b1

Exemption(s): B1

Declassify: (X) In Part () In Full

(X) Classify as S () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date 3/13/01 Declassify on Reason 25X1

Argentina has decided upon a general strategy for responding to the Inter-American Human Rights Commission's (IAHRC) report compiled after the Commission's September 1979 visit, according to a generally reliable clandestine source. One Argentine official working on the ~~reply~~ reply reportedly stated in late January that Argentina would challenge:

- the IAHRC's practice of allegedly drawing conclusion from unverified information about isolated cases; and
- the Commission's authority to judge the constitutionality of laws and decrees promulgated as part of the counterterrorist fight.

The Argentine response will reportedly be ready by late February.

INR Comment: The Argentines were prepared for a critical IAHRC report but not for anything quite as negative as they apparently received. We have not seen the report, but the Argentines are reportedly especially disturbed with scant treatment accorded the terrorist menace in Argentina and the inclusion of the names of alleged torturers in the text. Two of the targets of Argentina's displeasure over the report have been the US--because of the suspicion that the US influenced the report's contents through the US citizen member of the IAHRC--and OAS Secretary General Alejandro ~~Orfila~~ Orfila--because of the notion that Orfila, having encouraged the government to accept the visit, should have somehow tempered the Commission's draft.

INR/RAR: J. Buchanan

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