

6/7/76  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REF FILE 97776 7 June 1215

# TELEGRAM

INDICATE  
 COLLECT  
 CHARGE TO

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FROM AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES CLASSIFICATION [REDACTED]

11652: N/A  
TAGS: SBEF, AR  
SUBJECT: VISIT OF UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE

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CU 48

ACTION: SecState WASHDC  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

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ATTENTION [REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 3742

REF: Santiago 5218 (NOTAL)  
1. Dr. Gilbert Jaeger, representative of the High Commissioner for Refugees visited Buenos Aires May 20-27 to review the situation of refugees in Argentina. With the local representative of the UN Commission, he called on the Ambassador May 24 to express his concern about the abduction and murder of two Uruguayan political asylees, Michelini and Gutierrez (septel), and the general state of refugees in Argentina. Beyond expressing his anxiety and the need for additional funds for the refugees, Jaeger had no clear point to make, other than he found that the attitude of the Director of International Policy in the Foreign Office (Pereyra) unsympathetic.  
2. At Jaeger's request, the Norwegian Ambassador convened a meeting on the same day of representatives of the Western European countries, Australia, Canada and the US. Jaeger described group as representing

APPROVED BY: [Signature]  
M. Chaplin  
FRANCES

DRAFTING DATE June 7, 76 TEL. EXT. 180 CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: Amb: RCH11

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DECONTROL [REDACTED]

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)  
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS  
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny

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21/185

Exemption(s):  
Classify ( ) In Part (X) In Full  
Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to  
Date Declassify on Reason

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friendly countries and those regularly receiving immigrants. This time his presentation was more coherent. He expressed his concern over the hostile atmosphere (just like Chile), said that opportunities must be found to place about one thousand urgent cases of refugees who must be resettled outside Argentina, and notified the audience that approximately \$1.1 million will be needed in 1976 beyond what is currently allocated in the UNHCR budget to support the refugees now in Argentina.

3. At the Ambassador's request, Jaeger returned to the Embassy May 25 to report the results of his meeting with the Minister of Interior. He was received by a subsecretary of interior (an Air Force Colonel) and a legal advisor from the Foreign Office. The Argentine officials, after listening to his representations, questioned the standing of the UNHCR to make representations on behalf of persons considered by the GOA as illegal aliens. They noted that the GOA had approved the 1951 convention on refugees with a hemispheric exception, but that the GOA did acknowledge the status of asylees, as distinct from refugees. The meeting was completely inconclusive.

4. Muller observed that the Argentine officials did not make their observations in the form of a statement of GOA policy, but in a conversational manner- He did not press the point that their apparent position was inconsistent with that of FonMin Guzzetti who had formally stated that there would be no forcible repatriation of refugees. He

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believed that the Argentines (or at least the Air Force officer) had been completely ignorant of any international conventions on refugees, and were stalling for time and taking ~~WIX~~ his measure. He said it seemed clear that the GOA was irritated by international pressure on refugees and wanted to proceed to deal with them with as free a hand as possible. Nevertheless, he said he was not rejected by the officials, who invited him to continue the discussion at a later date.

5. We did not get the impression that Jaeger X was effective with the GOA. His reported insistence that the UNHCR had standing with the GOA under its statute rather than under the convention would not appeal to those he was trying to convince. He had no specific example of cases of forced repatriation, and consequently his representations consisted of general expressions of anxiety about refugees. The Embassy's general comments on refugees follow by septel.

~~X~~  
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