

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1979BUENOS03757

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Channel: n/a

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ACTION ARA-15
INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 ACDA-12 AID-05 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00
HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 MCT-02
MCE-00 SY-05 /107 W

-----129341 102325Z /70
P 102052Z MAY 79
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 622

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 3757

E.O. 12065: XDS-1 5/9/09 (CHAPLIN, MAXWELL) OR-M
TAGS: SHUM AR
SUBJECT: (U) EFFORTS TO ACCOUNT FOR THE DISAPPEARED

1. [REDACTED] - ENTIRE TEXT.)
2. WE HAVE RECENT EVIDENCE THAT THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT MAY BE, AFTER ALL, ATTEMPTING TO LIST AND TABULATE THE DISAPPEARED.
3. [REDACTED] IT IS REPORTED THAT BOTH A MEMBER OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE AND ANY ARMY SOURCE STATED THEIR SERVICE IS ASSEMBLING LISTS OF THE CONFINED, DEAD AND MISSING. PROBLEMS ORIGINATE, BOTH OFFICERS REPORTED, FROM THE NEED TO FLOAT INFORMATION UPWARD FROM UNITS WHICH OPERATED WITH CONSIDERABLE DELEGATED AUTHORITY DURING THE MOST INTENSE PERIOD OF TERRORIST ACTIVITY.
4. AN INTELLIGENCE SOURCE TOLD THE REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICER THAT "GOA MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICES" WERE INVESTIGATING DISAPPEARANCE CASES. HE SAID THAT THE GOA HAS LISTS OF MONTONEROS AND ERP MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN KILLED, BUT THAT GOA COULD NOT ACCOUNT FOR A LONG LIST OF DISAPPEARANCE

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
() Release (X) Rec'dse () Deny
Exemption(s): [REDACTED]
Declassify: (X) In Part () In Full
() Classify as (X) Extend as C () Downgrade to
Date 4/30/01 Declassify on Reason 25X1
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CASES. IN ORDER TO BE BETTER PREPARED ON THIS COUNT SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE SERVICES ARE CONTACTING THE FAMILIES OF THE

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DISAPPEARED TO OBTAIN INFORMATION AS TO WHEN THE PERSON DISAPPEARED AND UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES. THIS WILL ENABLE INVESTIGATORS TO LEARN THE ZONE OF OPERATION OF A DISAPPEARANCE AND THEN CHECK WITH ZONE COMMANDERS. IN LOCATIONS WHERE INVESTIGATORS WERE ABLE TO DISCOVER RECORDS OF INTERROGATIONS DETAILED QUESTIONS ARE BEING ASKED OF THE INTERROGATORS.

5. ACCORDING TO THE SAME ARMY INTELLIGENCE SOURCE THESE INVESTIGATIONS HAVE BEEN GOING ON FOR ABOUT THREE TO FOUR WEEKS, BUT WITH LIMITED SUCCESS SINCE IT APPEARS THAT SECURITY FORCES HAVE DESTROYED RECORDS WHICH SERVED AS EVIDENCE THAT THERE HAD BEEN CONTACT BETWEEN A DISAPPEARED PERSON AND THAT PARTICULAR BRANCH OR UNIT.

6. IN CONNECTION WITH AVAILABILITY OF LISTS, RECORD KEEPING ETC. FORMER FIRST CORPS (BUENOS AIRES AND SURROUNDING AREA) COMMANDER SUAREZ MASON RECENTLY TOLD A FOREIGN AMBASSADOR THAT HE HAD SIGNED "FIFTY TO A HUNDRED DEATH WARRANTS PER DAY" OVER A LONG PERIOD. (ASKED WHETHER THIS WAS NOT AN OVERHELMING RESPONSIBILITY SUAREZ MASON REPLIED THAT NO, IT WAS NOT, SINCE IN ALL CASES PERSONS HAD CONFESSED TO SOME ASSOCIATION WITH TERRORISM.) WHAT INTERESTS US ESPECIALLY THAT THIS POINT IS THE IMPLICATION THAT EXTENSIVE RECORDS EXIST (OR HAVE EXISTED) ACCOUNTING FOR PERHAPS SEVERAL THOUSAND DEATHS.

7. COMMENT: IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT THE OUTCOME OF THE GOA'S EFFORTS, GIVEN THE POSSIBILITIES FOR AND INSTITUTIONAL REASONS FOR COVER-UP AT EVERY LEVEL OF OPERATION. ALTHOUGH WE CAN ACCEPT THAT MANY TERRORISTS DIED IN ARMED

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CONFRONTATIONS DURING 1976 AND, TO A LESSER EXTENT, DURING 1977-- AND THAT, AS ONE ARMED FORCES ARGUMENT GOES [REDACTED] TERRORISTS KILLED HAD COLLECTIONS OF FALSE IDENTITY DOCUMENTS -- OUR VIEW IS THAT FAR LARGER NUMBERS WERE SYSTEMATICALLY LIQUIDATED DURING OR AFTER LENGTHY, ROUTINE INTERROGATIONS. RECORDS OF THESE CASES WERE PROBABLY KEPT IN SOME INSTANCES, BUT WE DOUBT THEY WILL EVER SEE THE LIGHT OF DAY.

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