E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, PINS, AR
SUBJECT: REFUGEE RECORDS STOLEN IN ARMED BREAK-IN


2. MR. PINTO, DEPUTY IN CHARGE AT UNHCR, WHICH WORKS CLOSELY WITH ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED WITH REFUGEES AND MIGRATION, REPORTED THE ROBBERY TO THE FEDERAL POLICE AND AN INVESTIGATION IS UNDER WAY. PINTO IS PROTECTING THE NAME OF A WITNESS, WHO APPARENTLY SAW THE OPERATION IN THE UNGUARDED OFFICES. THE PERPETRATORS SMASHED THE DOOR AND LOCKED CABINETS AND HAULED AWAY ALMOST EVERYTHING IN THE OFFICES. NO POLICE ARRIVED AND NO ONE WAS HURT.

3. THE DOCUMENTS CON ON AND PETITIONS FROM HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PERSONS, ACCORDING TO MR. PINTO, INCLUDING REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS RELOCATED IN ARGENTINA--Jews, EASTERN EUROPEANS FOLLOWING THE WAR, DROMONIC REFUGEES, POLITICAL EXILES AND OT DR PS WHO
HAVE AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER SOUGHT ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE
COMMISSION.

4. PINTO SAID HE THOUGHT THAT THE THIEVES STOLE "QSTHOUT
A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT THEY WANTED" SINCE SOME PAPERS
SIMILLAR TO THOSE TAKEN WERE LEFT STREWN AROUND THE ROOM.

5. THE ARGENTINE CATHOLIC COMMISSION ON
IMMIGRATION WORKS CLOSELY WITH UNHCR IN ARGENTINA AS DO
MANY ORGANIZATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS LOCALLY CONNECTED THROUGH
THE GOAL'S COORDINATING COMMISSION ON SOCIAL ACTION. IT IS
THE LOCAL BRANCH OF INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC COMMISSION ON
IMMIGRATION HEADQUARTERED IN GENEVA AND IS HEADED BY TWO LOCAL
BISHOPS.

6. THE DOCUMENTS AMASSSED DURING ITS 20-YEAR EXISTENCE
CAN BE REPLICAED THROUGH THE FILES IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS,
SAID DR. PINTO, BUT WILL REQUIRE ENORMOUS EFFORT.

7. COMMENT: THE OFFICIAL UNHCR STATEMENT AND POLICE
INVESTIGATION REFER TO THE CASE AS A SIMPLE ROBBERY, THOUGH
THE IMPLICATIONS ARE ENORMOUS, PARTICULARLY FOLLOWING THE
RECENT VIOLENT DEATHS OF PROMINENT POLITICAL EXILES FROM
NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. IT WILL LIKELY PROMPT A STRONG--
THOUGH PERHAPS NOT OFFICIAL--REACTION FROM THE CATHOLIC
CHURCH. UNHCR CONTACTS ARE WORRIED ABOUT DANGERS TO THOSE
WHOSE NAMES FIGURED IN THE STOLEN DOCUMENTS, WHICH INCLUDE
INDEX CARDS WITH NAMES AND ADDRESSES AND CONFIDENTIAL
LETTERS REQUESTING ASSISTANCE, FOR BOTH ECONOMIC AND
POLITICAL REASONS.

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