S. America: Anti-Refugee Action

The security organizations of several South American countries may be
organizing in actions against political
refugees in Argentina.

Early this month, several men re-
sorted the offices of the Argentine
Catholic Commission on Immigrants
and made reports containing informa-
tion on thousands of refugees and immigrants.
Argentine police did not investigate the
crime and dismissed it as a simple
robbery.

Two days later, 36 Uruguayans and
Chilean refugees, many of whom were the
victims of Communist fleeing, were kid-
napped and tortured for several hours.
Some of the refugees later identified their
interrogators as security officers from
Chile and Uruguay. Presumably, a
Chile-Uruguayan operation could not
have been undertaken without the
approval of the Argentine security forces.

In the past few weeks, two prominent
Uruguayan political groups and a former
leadership president of Bolivia have been
lived under mysterious circumstances.
In Argentina, Argentine Minister of
Interior Leonardo de la Rúa stated that
Argentina was not responsible for
the murder of ex-President Torres and
assassination—without providing evidence—
that leftist extremists had attributed
"not of their own.

Chilean leftist leader Vergara Eyzaguirre,
who was arrested by Argentine security
forces on April 10, was subsequently
released over to the Chileans and is
now in Argentina. Meanwhile, Argentina
has opened up to
Chilean authorities a Brazilian political
act named by Eyzaguirre.

In early 1974, security agencies from
Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay,
and Bolivia were in Buenos Aires to
prepare coordinated actions against sub-
version targets.

Since then,

the Argentines have con-
ducted joint counterintelligence operations
with the Chileans and with the
Uruguayans. Until recently, however,
there was no evidence that this coopera-
tion was extensive or very effective.