ARGENTINA PROJECT (S0000006)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, AFR/TPS

R 0118432 AUG 78
PM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6771

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E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS SHUM, AR
SUBJECT FOLLOW UP TO HUMAN RIGHTS ROUNDUP

REF: A BUENOS AIRES 5656, B STATE 189696

THE FOLLOWING ARE RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONS RAISED
IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF REFTEL B:
A. DATES OF MISTREATMENT OF PRISONERS:
   -- PEREZ ESQUEVIL MISTREATED ABOUT JUNE 1, 1978
   -- PERMANENT ASSEMBLY MISTREATED IN 3RD QUARTER
   OF 1977
   -- FEMALE PSYCHOLOGIST MISTREATED IN EARLY JUNE 1978
   -- MRS. EGEA MISTREATED IN EARLY JULY 1978

B. NEW DRUG REPORTED INTRODUCED:
IN THE PAST YEAR THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED REPORTS
REGARDING THE USE OF CURARE FROM AN ARGENTINE SECURITY
CONTACT, HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS.
INFORMATION REGARDING THE INTRODUCTION OF KETALAR IS
FROM A HUMAN RIGHTS SOURCE WHO IS A MEDICAL DOCTOR AND
WHO RECEIVED THIS INFORMATION FROM A LONGTIME
FRIEND--A MILITARY PHYSICIAN. HUMAN RIGHTS
SOURCE HAS REPORTED RELIABLY IN THE PAST ON OTHER
HUMAN RIGHTS INCIDENT. EMBASSY

WILL REPORT ANY FURTHER INFORMATION OF THE DRUG'S
USE TO THE DEPARTMENT IF AND WHEN RECEIVED.
C. JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES PROBLEMS:
IN EMBASSY'S JUDGEMENT, OVERT HARASSMENT OF
JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES IS AN OPERATIONAL DECISION
MADE AT LOCAL POLICE AND DISTRICT SCHOOL LEVELS.
CLEARLY, GOA AND PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION AND
PRONOUNCEMENTS AGAINST JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES
ENCOURAGE LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS AND POLICE
AUTHORITIES TO TAKE ACTIONS TO EXPEL WITNESS
STUDENTS AND ARREST AND HARASS INDIVIDUAL AND
SMALL GROUPS OF WITNESSES. ACCORDING TO WITNESSES' LOCAL
LEADER, THE HAVE BEEN ADDITIONAL SCHOOL EXPULSION BUT NO
ARREST DURING JULY.

D. EMBASSY'S CONTACTS WITH FORMER PEN PRISONERS
TEN TO SUPPORT FINDING THAT MOST PEN PRISONERS
WERE TORTURED DURING THEIR INTERROGATION. AS
PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT
CURRENT OPERATIONAL SECURITY PRACTICES ENTAIL
TORTURING OF TERRORIST SUSPECTS. INFORMATION CURRENTLY
AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY INDICATES NO CHANGE
IN THIS PROCEDURE, ALTHOUGH THE OVERALL TREND IN THE
NUMBER OF DETENTIONS SEEMS TO BE DOWNWARD.

3. ESTIMATED PRISON POPULATION:

EMBASSY CALCULATES THAT
CURRENT TOTAL PEN PRISONER POPULATION IS 3,455.
GOA ANNOUNCED THAT IT HELD 3,607 PEN PRISONERS IN

DECEMBER 1977. SINCE THAT TIME, 446 PERSONS HAVE
BEEN REMOVED FROM PEN STATUS, 347 ADDED, 21 HAVE
BEEN EXPULSED, AND 54 AUTHORIZED TO LEAVE THE
COUNTRY.

F. MAGNITUDE OF ELIMINATION TERRORISTS; AND
NUMBER OF UNRECOGNIZED DAM PRISONERS
INFORMATION ABOUT THE DISAPPEARED--THOSE HELD
IN CLANDESTINE DETENTION AND THOSE ELIMINATED BY
SECURITY FORCES--IS VERY LIMITED. INFORMATION
REGARDING THE ELIMINATION OF TERRORISTS AND SUB-
VERSIVES IS UNDERSTANDABLY AN AREA OF GREAT
SENSITIVITY WITHIN THE GOA AND IS VERY CLOSELY
HELD. CONSEQUENTLY, THE EMBASSY HAS NO CURRENT
INFORMATION REGARDING THE MAGNITUDE OF ELIMINATIONS
OF TERRORISTS AND SUBVERSIVES AS REQUESTED IN PARA-
GRAPH B.
HOWEVER, THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED SOME LIMITED
INFORMATION REGARDING NON RECOGNIZED DAM PRISONERS
WHICH DEDUCTIVELY PROVIDES SOME INDICATORS REGARDING
THE ELIMINATION OF TERRORISTS AND SUBVERSIVES.
INFORMATION REGARDING DAM PRISONERS ALTHOUGH
CLASSIFIED AS SECRET IS NOT AS TIGHTLY CONTROLLED
WITHIN THE GOA.
IN CHOOSING BETWEEN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL’S CLAIM
THAT THERE MAY BE AS MANY AS 8,000 UNACCOUNTED FOR
PRISONERS IN ARGENTINA AND THE RECENT SECURITY
FORCE SOURCE STATEMENT THAT THE TOTAL DAM PRISONERS
TOTAL DOES NO EXCEED 500, WE BELIEVE THAT THE LOWER
FIGURE IS PROBABLY MUCH CLOSE TO ACTUAL FACTS FOR
SEVERAL REASONS. FIRST, WE SEE NO OPERATIONAL
JUSTIFICATION FOR THE GOA HOLD A LARGE NUMBER OF
CLANDESTINE PRISONERS AFTER THEY HAVE BEEN INTERROGATED
AND ADJUDICATED. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A SMALL NUMBER
OF PRISONERS WHO SERVE AS TRUSTEES DOING MENTAL WORK
IN INTERROGATION CENTERS OR WHO ARE UTILIZED AS

INFORMANTS AND SPOTTERS FOR THE SECURITY FORCES, WE
BELIEVE PRISONERS DEEMED TO BE RECUERABLE WILL
EITHER BE RELEASED OR PLACED AT THE DISPOSITION OF
THE EXECUTIVE POWER. SECONDLY, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF
THE UNCOMMISSIONED ARMY PRISON IN JUNIN, BUENOS AIRES
PROVINCE, THE EMBASSY HAS NO HARD INFORMATION OF ANY
DETESSION FACILITY WHICH COULD HOLD A LARGE NUMBER
OF UNRECOGNIZED DAM PRISONERS. IT IS OUR CURRENT
JUDGEMENT THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE REPORTED
"CONCENTRATION CAMPS" OFTEN ARE IN FACT INTERROGATION
CENTERS. FURTHERMORE, WE BELIEVE THAT A NUMBER OF

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THESE REPORTED CENTERS HAVE BEEN CLOSED DOWN AS THE ARGENTINE SECURITY FORCES HAVE REDUCED THE SCALE OF THEIR ANTI-SUBVERSIVE OPERATIONS.

IT IS THE EMBASSY'S CONTINUING JUDGMENT THAT INDIVIDUALS DEEMED TO BE TERRORISTS OR SUBVERSIVES LINKED WITH TERRORISM ARE ROUTINELY ELIMINATED BY ARGENTINE SECURITY FORCES AFTER A SUMMARY ADJUDICATION.


G. ACCESS TO TIMERMAN:
TIMERMAN'S LAWYER IN HIS PROCEEDINGS BEFORE

THE COUNCIL OF PATRIMONIAL RESPONSIBILITY, IGNACIO OAKLANDER, RECEIVED ONE TIME PERMISSION TO VISIT TIMERMAN ON THURSDAY, JUNE 27. ACCORDING TO HIS FAMILY, TIMERMAN'S OTHER REQUESTS FOR PROFESSIONAL VISITS FROM HIS DOCTOR AND DENTIST HAVE NOT BEEN APPROVED. TIMERMAN'S REPORTED PRESENT MAJOR MEDICAL PROBLEM IS AN ALLERGIC REACTION AFFECTING VISION IN HIS ONE FUNCTIONING EYE.