DECEPTIONED

E.O. 12065: XDS-1 19/6/2000 (CHAPLIN, MAXWELL) OR-M
TAGS: PORS, SHUM, AR, PE
SUBJECT: ARGENTINE INVOLVEMENT IN LIMA "KIDNAPPINGS"

REF: LIMA 5455, LIMI 5475

1. (U) THE BUENOS AIRES PRESS DURING THE PAST SEVERAL
   DAYS HAS GIVEN CONSIDERABLE PLAY TO THE STORIES OUT OF
   LIMA DESCRIBED REFTELS THAT THREE OR FIVE ARGENTINES
   WERE
   ARRESTED BY PERUVIAN AUTHORITIES.

2. (U) DURING A CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF A MEMBER OF THE
   ARGENTINE INTELLIGENCE SERVICE CONFIRMED THAT ARGENTINE
   SECURITY OFFICIALS IN COOPERATION WITH THEIR PERUVIAN
   COUNTERPARTS HAD PICKED UP FOUR ARGENTINES (DESCRIBED
   AS IMPORTANT MEMBERS OF THE MONONERO HIERARCHY) IN LIMA. THE
   OPERATION HIT A SNAG WHEN NEWS OF THE APPREHENSION HIT THE
   MEDIA. (APPARENTLY THE ABDUCTED ARGENTINES HAD EARLIER
   SET UP A QUICK AND EFFICIENT SYSTEM TO SPREAD THE WORD
   IN THE CASE OF APPREHENSION.) BECAUSE OF THIS DEVELOPMENT
   IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO TRANSFER THE FOUR ARGENTINES TO
   THIS COUNTRY WITHOUT PUBLIC NOTICE. IT WAS THEREFORE
   ARRANGED THAT THEY BE HELD IN PERU AND THEN EXPelled TO
3. TODAY'S PAPERS HERE IN BUENOS AIRES (JUNE 19) REPORTED THAT THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES REPRESENTATIVE IN LA PAZ HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR THE WELFARE OF THE FOUR ARGENTINES AND SUGGESTED THAT BOLIVIA GRANT THEM ASYLUM. EMBASSY HAS NO KNOWLEDGE WHETHER SOME ARRANGEMENT MIGHT EXIST BETWEEN ARGENTINE AND BOLIVIAN SECURITY OFFICIALS WHICH MIGHT ENABLE THE ORIGINAL PLANNED OPERATION TO BE COMPLETED.

CASTRO