BUENOS AIRES 7962

SUBJ: U) TIMMERMAN EXPELLED

1. (U) JACOBO TIMMERMAN WAS EXPELLED FROM ARGENTINA THE EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 25 BY THE MILITARY JUNTA. IN ACCORDANCE WITH A DECREES WHICH ALSO STRIPPED HIM OF HIS ARGENTINE NATIONALITY. HE DEPARTED AT 1915 HOURS ON AEROLINEAS ARGENTINAS FLIGHT 116 TO ROME WITH A TRAVEL DOCUMENT BEARING AN ISRAELI VISA. TIMMERMAN WAS DRIVEN TO THE DOWNTOWN BUENOS AIRES AIRPORT, AND THEN TRANSFERRED TO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT EZEIZA BY HELICOPTER, WITH AN ADDITIONAL ESCORT HELICOPTER WHICH LANDED BESIDE THE AEROLINEAS 747 WHICH TIMMERMAN IMMEDIATELY BOARDED. HE WAS REPORTEDLY ACCOMPANYED TO THE PLANE BY THE ISRAELI CHARGE. WIRE SERVICES REPORTED THAT TIMMERMAN TELEPHONED HIS WIFE IN NEW YORK DURING THE FLIGHT'S STOPOVER IN RIO DE JANEIRO AND THAT SHE WOULD BE JOINING HIM SOONLY IN ISRAEL.

2. (U) DURING HIS INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR CASTRO--WHICH WAS ALMOST SIMULTANEOUS WITH TIMMERMAN'S BOARDING AIRCRAFT--GENERAL VIOLA STRESSED THAT THE EXPULSION DECISION HAD CREATED BITTER DIVISIONS WITHIN THE MILITARY AND HAD "CAUSED DEEP WOUNDS WHICH WOULD TAKE A LONG TIME TO HEAL." VIOLA SHOWED STRAIN AND ANXIETY FROM THE TENSE DISCUSSIONS PRECEDING THE JUNTA DECISION AND COMPLAINED THAT THE TIMING OF THE COURT'S DECISION COULD HARDLY HAVE BEEN WORSE. HE IMPLIED THAT THE HARD-LINERS HAD RESISTED THE DECISION BITTERLY AND THAT IT WOULD HAVE A POLITICAL IMPACT IN MANY OTHER AREAS. HE SAID THEY HAD EXPECTED A POSSIBLE ADVERSE DECISION EITHER WELL BEFORE THE IAHRC VISIT OR A MONTH AFTER, BUT THAT THE DECISION DURING THE VISIT TOGETHER WITH THE REVIVAL OF THE CAMPOZA ASYLUM ISSUE HAD SERIOUSLY OVERLOADED THE MILITARY'S CIRCUITS. HE VOLUNTEERED THAT THE CAMPOZA DECISION WOULD BE EVEN MORE DIFFICULT AND HE DID NOT KNOW HOW THAT WOULD TURN OUT.

3. (U) COA CERTAINLY COMPLIED WITH ITS PROMISE TO PROVIDE TIMMERMAN BEST PROTECTION. HIS MANNER OF TRAVEL TO THE AIRPORT IS USUALLY RESERVED FOR VISITING CHIEFS OF STATE. THE SUPREME COURT PUBLISHED ITS DECISION IN THE TIMMERMAN CASE ON SEPTEMBER 25. DECISION WILL BE SUBJECT OF SEPARATE REPORT. DETAILS OF OTHER SUBJECTS DISCUSSED BY SEPTELS.

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S2000000004)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/TPS
Margaret P. Graefeld, Director
( ) Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny
Exemption(s):

Declassify: ( ) In Part ( ) In Full
( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to
Date ________ Declassify on ________ Reason ________

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