PAGE 01 BUENOS 02795 1617422
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAIE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02 TRSE-00 IO-13 MCT-01 /066 W
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O 161617Z APR 77 FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0049

BUENOS AIRES 2795

TAGS: PINS, SHUM, AR

SUBJ: ARMY ACKNOWLEDGES TIMERMAN'S ARREST

ARGENTINA PROJECT (5200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Graefeld, Director
☐ Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny
Exemption(s):
☐ Declassify: ( ) In Part ☒ In Full
( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to
Date_______ Declassify on ________ Reason_____

1. FRIDAY EVENING, APRIL 15, THE ARGENTINE ARMY ANNOUNCED THE ARREST OF LA OPINION'S PUBLISHER JACOBO TIMERMAN AND SAID THAT HE WAS AT THE DISPOSAL OF MILITARY JUSTICE IN CONNECTION WITH THE GRAIER CASE.

2. TIMERMAN AND THE NEWSPAPER'S NUMBER TWO MAN, URUGUAYAN-BORN ENRIQUE JARA, WERE TAKEN FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE HOMES IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF APRIL 15. AN ARMED GROUP FIRST REMOVED JARA FROM HIS HOME AND THEN COMPELLED HIM TO DIRECT THEM TO TIMERMAN'S RESIDENCE, WHERE TIMERMAN WAS PLACED UNDER ARREST. THE TERSE ARMY COMMUNIQUE MADE NO MENTION OF JARA, HOWEVER, AND THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL INFORMATION CONCERNING HIS WHEREABOUTS AS OF 1100 HOURS APRIL 16.

MENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DETENTION OF THE TWO MEN. IN MAKING
THE REQUEST, DIAMENT STATED THAT THE MANAGEMENT’S AIM WAS TO ATTEMPT
TO ENSURE FAIR JUDICIAL PROCEDURE AND GUARANTEES FOR TIMERMANN
AND JARA WHILE THE AUTHORITIES INVESTIGATED ALLEGED CONNECTIONS
BETWEEN THE NEWSPAPER AND THE GRAIVER FINANCIAL EMPIRE. (DIAMENT
ADMITTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN GRAIVER LOANS TO LA OPINION IN THE
PAST). DIAMENT EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE DETentions MIGHT BE THE
FIRST STEP TOWARDS CLOSING DOWN THE PAPER. HE ALSO THOUGHT THERE
MIGHT BE AN ANTISEmitIC UNErCURRENT TO THE GRAIVER INVESTIGATION.
NEVERTHELESS, HE SUSPECTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN DEALINGS BETWEEN
GRAIVER AND TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS AND THEREFORE REASONABLE CAUSE
FOR AN INVESTIGATION.

4. DIAMENT STATED THAT HE HAD ALSO ASKED THE LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE TO OBTAIN STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT IN
THE US.

5. ON APRIL 14, THE DAY BEFORE THE ACTION AGAINST
TIMERMANN, THE ARMY’S FIRST CORPS ANNOUNCED THE ARREST OF 15
OTHER PERSONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE GRAIVER INVESTIGATION, INCLUDING
MEMBERS OF GRAIVER’S IMMEDIATE FAMILY. THE IMPEGS BEHIND THE
INVESTIGATION SEEMS TO BE COMING FROM FIRST CORPS COMMANDER GENERAL
SUAREZ MASON AND BUENOS AIRES PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR, RETIRED GENERAL
IBERICO SAINT JEAN. WHILE THERE MAY BE SOME SUBSTANCE TO THE
ALLEGATIONS AGAINST GRAIVER, SEVERAL OF OUR USUALLY INFORMED SOURCES
BELIEVE THAT THE INVESTIGATION IS PRIMARILY AN ATTEMPT TO SETTLE OLD
SCORES ON THE PART OF HARDLINERS IN THE MILITARY AGAINST THOSE WHOM
THEY REGARD AS BEING SOFT ON TERRORISM OR LEFTIST. RUMORS HAVE BEEN
LEAKED TO THE PRESS THAT THE INVESTIGATION HAS UNCOVERED UNSAVORY
LINKS BETWEEN GRAIVER AND EX-PRESIDENT LANUSSE AND OTHER PROMINENT
INDIVIDUALS, BUT WE ARE UNCERTAIN AS TO THE MOTIVES AND ULTIMATE
TARGETS OF THOSE WHO INITIATED THE INVESTIGATION. THERE HAVE BEEN
REPORTS, NOT YET CONFIRMED, THAT PRESIDENT VIDELA FIRST TRIED,
UNSUCCESSFULLY, TO TURN OFF THE INVESTIGATION. HE NOW APPEARS TO
BE ATTEMPTING TO GAIN CONTROL OVER THE PROCESS. ACCORDING TO
NEWS REPORTS, VIDELA ORDERED THE INVESTIGATION CENTRALIZED AND HE

HAS NAMED ARMY GENERAL BARTOLOME CALLINO TO TAKE CHARGE. WE ASSUME
THAT IT IS DUE TO PRESSURES FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE THAT THE
ARMY ACKNOWLEDGED TIMERMANN’S DETENTION LAST NIGHT.

6. WE BELIEVE THAT DIAMENT’S REQUEST HAS BEEN LARGELY OVERTAKEN

Current Class: [Redacted]
BY THE ARMY’S ADMISSION OF TIMERMAN’S DETENTION. JARA’S
DISAPPEARANCE
STILL REMAINS UNRESOLVED, BUT THE GOVERNMENT IS IN A HIGHLY EXPOSED
POSITION SINCE THE JOINT ARREST OF TIMERMAN AND JARA IS NOW PUBLIC
KNOWLEDGE. I BELIEVE OUR POSITION SHOULD BE NO COMMENT UNTIL
FURTHER CLARIFICATION OF THIS IMPORTANT EVENT OCCURS. EMBASSY
WILL REPORT ANY SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS THIS WEEKEND.
HILL

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