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70
ACTION ARA-1C

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 DHA-02 STCT-01 PA-01 PDS-01

USE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 BS-15 ISQ-00 INRE-00

NSC-05 NSCO-00 DODE-00 0043 W

02110572 JUN 76
PM ANINBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5573
INFO ANINBASSY LA PAZ IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652  CD8
TAGS: PFRG. PINS. AR
SUBJECT: EX-PRESIDENT TORRES OF BOLIVIA REPORTEDLY KIDNAPPED
REF: SMITH/ZAMBITO DLECTON

1. WIFE OF EX-PRESIDENT JUAN JOSE TORRES OF BOLIVIA LAST NIGHT
REPORTED TO POLICE THAT HER HUSBAND MISSING, APPEARENTLY HE
DEPARTED HOUSE ON SEVERAL CALLS YESTERDAY, BUT WAS TO RETURN
HOME SHORTLY. HE REPORTEDLY MADE FIRST CALL AND THEN DISAPPEARED.
AS OF MOMENT NO FURTHER WORD HAS BEEN HEARD FROM HIM. WIFE, OF
COURSE, FEARS HE KIDNAPPED OR WORSE.

2. ACCORDING TO NEWS SOURCE, MRS. TORRES WENT TO BOLIVIAN EMBASSY
THIS MORNING TO REPORT EX-PRESIDENT'S DISAPPEARANCE AND TO RE-
QUEST EMBASSY's INTERVENTION WITH GOA IN LOCATING HIM AND HAVING
HIM RETURNED SAFELY. SAME NEWS SOURCE INDICATES EMBASSY AGREED TO
TAKE ACTION ON HIS BEHALF. WHETHER THEY DO OR NOT REMAINS TO BE
SEEN.

3. PRIVately, GOA SOURCES HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER TORRES' DISAPPEARANCE. THEY INSIST GOA NOT RESPONSIBLE BUT THEY WELL
AWARE THAT IT WILL BE BLAMED. HENCE, THEY EXPRESS HOPE THAT TORRES CAN BE FOUND AND RETURNED SAFELY AS QUICKLY
AS POSSIBLE.

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4. COMMENT: GGA SOURCES ARE PROBABLY CORRECT. UNLESS TORRES FOUND QUICKLY, HIS CASE MAY QUICKLY REPLACE THAT OF MICHELINI AND GUTIERREZ RUIZ AS CAUSE CELEBRE.