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TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

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FOR AMB. ONLY FROM ASST. SEC. SHLAUDEMAN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, AR, US

SUBJECT: GUZZETTI'S VISIT TO THE U.S.

REF: BUENOS AIRES 6871

1. AS IN OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES YOU HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY ENCOUNTERED IN YOUR DIPLOMATIC CAREER, GUZZETTI HEARD ONLY WHAT HE WANTED TO HEAR. HE WAS TOLD IN DETAIL HOW STRONGLY OPINION IN THIS COUNTRY HAS REACTED AGAINST REPORTS OF ABUSES BY THE SECURITY FORCES IN ARGENTINA AND THE NATURE OF THE THREAT THIS POSES TO ARGENTINE INTERESTS. AN EXAMPLE OF THE FILTER HE EMPLOYED (OR PERHAPS A REFLECTION OF HIS POOR GRASP OF ENGLISH) IS THE QUOTATION ASCRIBED TO AMBASSADOR MARTIN ON "BEING CAREFUL" ABOUT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH. WHAT HE SAID WAS THAT IF PRIESTS WERE GUILTY OF CRIMES, THEY SHOULD BE ARRESTED AND TRIED -- BUT IF THEY SIMPLY DISAPPEARED OR WERE SHOT THAT COULD NEVER BE ACCEPTED IN THIS COUNTRY.

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2. AS FOR THE "CONSENSUS OF THE MEETING," ON OUR SIDE IT WAS THAT GUZZETTI'S ASSURANCES THAT A TRANQUIL AND VIOLENCE-FREE ARGENTINA IS COMING SOON MUST PROVE A

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
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REALITY IF WE ARE TO AVOID SERIOUS PROBLEMS BETWEEN US.

GUZZETTI'S INTERPRETATION IS STRICTLY HIS OWN. WITH RESPECT TO "UNDERSTANDING" ARGENTINA'S PROBLEMS, WE DID INDEED TAKE COGNIZANCE OF THE VIOLENT ASSAULT ON ARGENTINE SOCIETY FROM THE OTHER SIDE AND EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT WE COULD CONTINUE TO BE HELPFUL IN THE TASK OF RESTORING ARGENTINA'S ECONOMY.

3. ON THE HARKIN PROBLEM, THE SECRETARY WARNED GUZZETTI THAT WE WOULD BE FORCED TO VOTE AGAINST ARGENTINE LOANS ABSENT AN IMPROVEMENT IN CONDITIONS. WE HAVE TOLD THE ARGENTINES THAT WE WOULD NOT VOTE NEGATIVELY AT THE MOMENT IN LIGHT OF OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY, BUT MIGHT BE FORCED TO ABSTAIN. (IF OUR IMPRESSION THAT COUNTER-TERRORISM HAS DECLINED RECENTLY IS ILL-FOUNDED, PLEASE CORRECT IT.) THE GOA HAS POSTPONED A \$30 MILLION INDUSTRIAL-CREDITS LOAN, BUT NOT AS GUZZETTI INDICATED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. THE LOAN SHOULD COME UP AGAIN WITHIN A FEW WEEKS.

4. FINALLY, WITH RESPECT TO GUZZETTI'S "JUBILATION" AND ITS EFFECT, WE DOUBT THAT THE GOA HAS SUCH ILLUSIONS. IT WAS OBVIOUS IN OUR CONTACTS THAT GUZZETTI KNEW HIS COUNTRY HAS A PROBLEM--ONE THAT REQUIRES A SPEEDY SOLUTION. AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO IMPRESS ON ARGENTINE REPRESENTATIVES HERE, AS WE EXPECT YOU TO DO THERE, THAT THE USG REGARDS MOST SERIOUSLY ARGENTINA'S INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS. THERE SHOULD BE NO MISTAKE ON THAT SCORE. I RECOMMEND THAT YOU READ AND BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE GOA THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH OF OCTOBER 19 BEFORE THE SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL OF AMERICA AS A BASIC STATEMENT OF OUR POLICY OF PRACTICAL EFFORTS TO ENHANCE RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS--IN ARGENTINA OR ELSEWHERE. KISSINGER

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