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10/4/76

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[] STATEMENT

CU132

The following comments were made by [] on October 4, 1976, during a private interview at [] verbatim notes. [] I tried to take []

A. Detention and Torture: On April 30, I boarded a bus to go home. I had left anti-government leaflets on a park bench to avoid having them on myself. I did not take into account that the next day was May 1 (Labor Day). I was arrested by plainclothes individuals and others in uniform. The bus was stopped, and they grabbed me by the hair and literally pulled me off the bus, and also a boy that was with me. A dozen eggs I was carrying were smashed. I began saying that I wasn't a terrorist. I was searched and taken to a police car. I said the young man had nothing to do with me. They found a paper I was carrying that had the names of people I studied with. I grabbed the paper to try to protect the names. I was hit violently. The bus was held up for quite a while; I was taken to the police station.

I had a conversation with an individual and tried to talk my way out of my problem. Then he slapped me. A soldier or policeman told me to talk or I'd be tortured. I was taken to a room in the police station -- it said Servicio de Informaciones. (This was probably SIDE - Servicio de Informaciones del Estado.)

I talked to one man. He said that I got black eye during the arrest.

From then on I don't remember clearly. I was blindfolded, my hands were tied and I was put against the wall. An electric device touched my hands. Next I was on the floor. It seemed I was being hit. I don't know. My clothes were being ripped off. Then I think I was on a table held down by 4 or 5 guys. They started using the picana (an electric prod.) Then they tied me down and threw water on me. I could feel a fan. They questioned me, but it was more just give it to her. There. There. There. In genital area. I was gagged. That's maybe when I bit myself. I must have been gagged later because I talked at first. They said they'd fix me so I couldn't have children.

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

() Release (X) Excise () Deny

Exemption(s): B6

Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

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At one point I sort of relaxed and they got scared. I was checked by a doctor. Then they commented she must be trained. They left.

(One girl, the night before, had been hung upside down and stung. Her pubic hairs had been pulled out and she had cigarette burns. She may have had terrorist friends, but she was not one. She was in a home that had been raided.)

I was left on the floor. They untied me, dressed me and left me on the floor. My mouth was dry but they did not give me water. They were afraid it might affect my nervous system.

I was taken to another room. Now and then I was visited, unblindfolded, given cigarettes or food. Other times I was hit or a gun was fired near me to scare me.

I kept fearing they would take me back to the torture room. I had to sleep with hands tied behind my back.

On the 5th or 6th (May) I was taken to the jail. I don't know how much time went by. I was finally allowed to take a shower.

Then I learned my husband was in jail. I did get a brief chance to talk to him. We sort of encountered each other in jail. He didn't think there were any charges. I think that he had come to look for me and been held. He said they had not touched a hair on his head.

The next afternoon I went back to the SIDE office. This time I was accompanied by a woman guard who stayed with me or near me. This seemed to protect me; I was only threatened. They would destroy my husband in front of me. I was hit over the ears very hard. Three hit me at the same time. They then began taking declaration. They started writing. They said we'd get you tonight. Then they started talking about getting others - my friends.

I was asked if I was going out with someone else. I am separated. There were someone else's belongings at my apartment. I gave his name and he is in prison.

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They said they were going to kill him. They made a display of their guns and bullets. They went out to place where my husband works. They came back with someone who simply had same first name as my husband. He already had a brother in prison. They pulled this individual's hair out.

That night or the same day my boyfriend was brought in. He apparently was not hurt. It is very arbitrary who gets hurt. They took me back to the jail, and I saw Consul Sherman the next day.

B. Consular Access: I was never told by the authorities that I could see the Consul. I was just taken to see him. I think I asked to see an Embassy official; I'm not sure. I was simply informed.

My husband probably told the USIS employee that I was in jail.

C. Charges: I admitted that I passed out literature but that was not really so. I left it on the park bench. They claimed I was throwing leaflets out of the bus.

The leaflets were PCR (Partido Comunista de Rosario) material. They were anti-Videla, May 1 leaflets calling for freedom of political prisoners. K

(In answer to my question, she said) Santucho was not on the cover. The police had ERP pamphlets but they were not mine. I was accused of being a member of the PRT. That's completely false. I had contact with one girl who gave me the PCR leaflets on April 30. The May 1 pamphlets were PCR pamphlets. I do not know if the girl was a PCR member or simply in touch with them. The PCR opposed terrorism. This was not in the pamphlets but the PCR opposed Montoneros and ERP. They felt that terrorism could only provoke a coup.

My husband is not a member of the PCR. He had some political books, including Marxist literature.

My boyfriend is even less a member.

I was close to PCR. There were very few people left out of leftist circles at the university. I was a student at University of Rosario.

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D. Subsequent Treatment: I remember saying on May 6 that I don't want to be tortured anymore.

On the 6th, I saw Sherman in the presence of the Argentines. We were required to speak Spanish and had a very short visit.

The Spanish Consul had visited a prisoner and ordered the Argentines out of the room.

The second time (May 26), the interview was in English.

I did not receive medical exams on May 8 or 13. I did talk to a doctor and told the second one I was tortured.

The number of girls in the prison in Rosario grew steadily, ranging from 32 to 38. At the end we were in a below ground detention area that may have been an infirmary at one time. At night we were locked up in an inside room which had 12 beds and 7 mattresses, that is 19 sleeping places. Except for the very sick, we slept two to a bed. We could not get out the room at night to go to the bathroom. We used a pail.

We were not allowed books, knitting or any sort of activity. Not even pens. Playing cards were taken away from us. We made things out of stew bones. I was allowed to keep my letters.

E. Mistreatment in Buenos Aires: I was taken to Buenos Aires for deportation and then told I was not leaving. At the end of my stay in Buenos Aires, I was put into a cell without light or food. It was cold and rainy. I was kept there for 40 hours. There was no blanket and no fresh air. There was no toilet. There was a concrete bench. I had to urinate on the floor. I cried and became hysterical during this period.

Comment: [] spoke to me very candidly. I promised to protect her confidences. B6

She often mentioned Consul [] whom she felt really cared about her. The [] family intends to thank [] who escorted [] to [] B6 B6 B6

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her departing flight and saw her off safely. She is obviously very grateful to [] and knows that he spoke several times to the police about her treatment and confinement. B6

Overall, [] is extremely thankful for what the Department and the Embassy did on her behalf. She cannot believe she is home and looks very well. B6

cc: ARA - Mr. Bray
ARA - Mr. Shlaudeman
ARA - Mr. Lister
ARA/PAF - Mr. Yohn
L - Mrs. Chester
L - Mr. Runyon
SCS - Mrs. Pelletreau
Amembassy B.A. - Mr. Chaplin
Amembassy B.A - Mr. Whitman

jr
Drafted:ARA/ECA:FERondon:jc

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