

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

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

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full

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

Date Declassify on Reason

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OF SUBJECT 5032/1 125 1528

BY 0000 73H

D 011027 JUL 88

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO RUEHOC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1850

INFO RUEHBA/AMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY 4374

RUEHLE/AMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY 5339

RUEHNY/MISSION GENOVA PRIORITY 595

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LIMA 5032

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P.O. 18368; CBS 7/2/88; (ENLAUREMAN, HARRY W.) OF-
TACT; RPT, CHUN, AP, PL, PP

SUBJECT: MONTENEGRO; AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORTS CLAIMS
3 KILLED IN PERU; FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS FURTHER.

REF: LIMA 5032

1. SUMMARY. THE CASE OF THE DISAPPEARING MONTENEGROS
HAS TAKEN AN EVEN HIGHER TURN WITH REPORTS FROM AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL SOURCES THAT TWO OR THREE OF THESE
PEOPLE WERE UNDER INTERROGATION WHILE STILL IN PERU. THE
FOREIGN MINISTER HAS RECALLED PUBLICLY THAT HIS MINISTRY
HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE MATTER PRIOR TO THE ISSUANCE OF
THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR'S COMMUNIQUE. THE DISAPPEARANCES
SEEM TO COMPLICATE PERU'S RELATIONS WITH BOLIVIA AND
ARGENTINA, IN THE LATTER CASE PARTICULARLY IF VIDELA GOES
THROUGH WITH HIS PLAN TO ATTEND ESPALDA'S INAUGURATION.
PERU'S FOREIGN MINISTER WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO
ENACT RESPONSIBILITY. END SUMMARY.

2. ON JULY 1 EDITION OF LEFTIST DAILY "EL DIARIO DE
LABOR" FRONT-PAGED AFRITELY DATED LONDON WHICH
REPORTED AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CHARGE THAT SOME OF
THE ARGENTINE "MONTENEGROS" DETAINED IN PERU (SEE
PARA 1 OF LIMA 5032) WERE TORTURED TO DEATH. WIRE
HEADLINE CLAIMED THAT 2 WERE "ASSASSINATED"
IN QUITO, AND 1 OTHER WERE SECRETLY TRANSPORTED TO
ARGENTINA. HOWEVER, IN THE BODY OF THE ARTICLE, 3
PEOPLE (GIANNI ROGER GIACOTTI DE NOLEING, FEDERICO
ERIAN ALBERTI, AND JULIA INES SANTOS DE ACERVAL) WERE
SAID TO HAVE DIED AS A RESULT OF TORTURE. ACCORDING
TO THE REPORT, ALL 5 WERE ALLEGEDLY TORTURED AT A
PERUAN ARMY DETENTION CENTER NEAR LIMA.

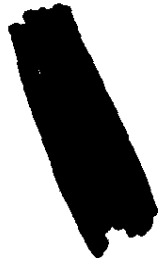
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3. (U) JULY 1 EDITION OF OFFICIAL GOB GAZETTE "EL PERUANO" PUBLISHED ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS ON THE GROWING CONTROVERSY BY FOREIGN MINISTER GARCIA. GARCIA ASSERTED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD "NO PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT HAPPENED" IN THE CASE OF THE DEPARTED ARGENTINES. POINTING OUT THAT THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT IS A DEPENDENCY OF THE INTERIOR MINISTRY AND NOT OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, GARCIA DECLARED THAT HE WAS FIRST AWARE OF THE INCIDENT WHEN HE SAW THE COMMUNIQUE FROM THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE GAVE THE BOLIVIAN AMBASSADOR IN PERU A DOCUMENT JUNE 20, REPORTEDLY SIGNED BY A BOLIVIAN INSPECTOR OF IMMIGRATION, WHICH CERTIFIED THE DELIVERY OF 3 ARGENTINES TO BOLIVIAN AUTHORITIES ON JUNE 17. REGARDING A POSSIBLE CHANGE IN PRESIDENT GUELLER'S PLANS TO ATTEND THE BELLAUNDE INAUGURATION BECAUSE OF THIS INCIDENT (SEFTEL), GARCIA SAID THAT HE HAD RECEIVED NOTHING TO CONTRADICT THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT WHICH INDICATED THAT SHE WILL ATTEND.



4. (U) AGUSTIN MAYA, A LEADER OF THE MARXIST UDP, TOLD "MARXA" THAT THE BOLIVIAN MINISTER OF INTERIOR HAD ASSERTED TO A VISITING DELEGATION OF PERUVIAN LEFTISTS THAT THE "RECEIPT" FOR THE THREE ARGENTINES TO WHICH GARCIA REFERRED HAD BEEN OBTAINED FROM THE BOLIVIAN AUTHORITIES "BY FORCE". MAYA ALSO CALLED FOR THE RESIGNATIONS OF PRIME MINISTER RICHIER AND GARCIA, THE FIRST BECAUSE HE AUTHORIZED THE OPERATION AGAINST THE MONTONEROS AND THE SECOND BECAUSE OF HIS "INCOMPETENCE." ACCORDING TO "MARXA", THE LEFT WILL HOLD A MANIFESTATION JULY 10 AT WHICH, INTER ALIA, ARGENTINE PRESIDENT VIDELA AND HIS PROPOSED VISIT HERE WILL BE "REFUDIATED".

5. [REDACTED] GUILHERME DA CUNHA, LIMA REP CORRESPONDENT TOLD EMBASSY HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER JULY 2 THAT UNHCR HAS CONFINED THAT ONE OF THE ARGENTINE "MONTONEROS" (NOMEN KETTER GIANNOTTI DE MOLENO) WAS A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE OF MOTHERS OF THE PLAZA DE MAYO, AND THAT SHE HAD TESTIFIED BEFORE THE UNHCR IN GENEVA WITHIN THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS. HE INDICATED THAT BECAUSE OF THIS, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES IS VERY INTERESTED IN THE CASE AND WILL PROBABLY CONTACT PRESIDENT MORALTE PERUDEZ DIRECTLY VERY SOON. DA CUNHA STATED THAT PERUVIAN FORMIN STILL HAS NOT RESPONDED TO HIS DIPLOMATIC NOTE REQUESTING INFORMATION ABOUT THE CASE). DA CUNHA SAID THAT HE AND LOCAL AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SECS WERE COMPLETELY SURPRISED BY THE APT ITEM IN "EL DIARIO DE MARXA", INDICATING THAT AI LONDON HAD NOT CLEARED THE STATEMENT WITH ITS LIMA SECS. (AI LIMA REP LAURA CALLES IBERICO TOLD HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER JULY 1 THAT SHE HAD CALLED LONDON FOR A CLARIFICATION, BUT AS OF JULY 2 SHE HAD NOT RECEIVED AN ANSWER FROM AI HOS.)

6. [REDACTED] DA CUNHA'S PERUVIAN SOURCES (NOT IDENTIFIED TO US) TOLD HIM THAT FEDERICO FRIAS ALBERCA WAS DETAINED IN ARGENTINA BY GOA SECURITY FORCES AND BROUGHT TO PERU TO IDENTIFY THE ARGENTINES DETAINED IN LIMA (THE 3 NAMED IN GOB COMMUNIQUE AND AN ADDITIONAL UNKNOWN ARGENTINE). ACCORDING TO THESE SOURCES, ALL 5

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WERE TAKEN TO PLAYA HONORABLE PERUVIAN ARMY RECREATION CENTER NEAR LIMA, WHERE THEY WERE INTERROGATED AND TORTURED IN THE PRESENCE OF 8 ARGENTINE SECURITY OFFICERS AS WELL AS PERUVIAN SECURITY OFFICIALS. HOWEVER, DA CUNHA DID NOT HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT WHO ACTUALLY ADMINISTERED THE TORTURE, BUT HE INDICATED THAT THE ENTIRE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN GREAT DETAIL IN A LEFTIST PAPER IN LIMA THIS WEEK. AS A RESULT OF THE ALLEGED TORTURE, DA CUNHA WAS TOLD 2 ARGENTINES DIED (JULIA SANTOS DE ACERAL AND FREDRICO FRIAS ALBERGO).

7. COMMENT: THE FOREIGN MINISTER TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE WAS OBLIGED TO MAKE HIS STATEMENTS AS A RESULT OF HAVING BEEN CONFERRED AT THE FUNERAL OF THE HISTORIAN JORGE BASADRE. GARCIA SAID THAT HE STILL KNOWS NOTHING MORE ABOUT THE CASE THAN WHAT HAS BEEN RELEASED PUBLICLY. HE DESCRIBED THE CASE AS A "VERY SERIOUS MATTER" -- WHICH IT CLEARLY IS. MANY OF THE DETAILS ARE STILL OBSCURE, BUT THERE SEEMS TO BE LITTLE DOUBT THAT THE PERUVIAN ARMY, ACTING IN CONCERT WITH ITS ARGENTINE COUNTERPART, RESORTED TO THE KINDS OF ILLEGAL REPRESSIVE MEASURES MOST FAMILIAR IN THE SOUTHERN CONE THAN HERE. (INTERESTINGLY, AND PROBABLY ACCURATELY, "MARKA" CONTINUES TO ABSOLVE PRESIDENT MORALES BERNARDEZ OF ANY GUILT.) MAY THE NORMALLY CAUTIOUS RIGHTER AND HIS INTELLIGENCE PEOPLE REACTED SO UNCHARACTERISTICALLY IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE IS NOT APPARENT. AT LEAST A FEW SENSITIVE POINTERS HAVE BEEN DETECTED IN PERU FROM TIME TO TIME OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS. (THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR CLAIMS THAT THERE ARE ABOUT 100 IN LIMA NOW.) IN ANY EVENT, RIGHTER IS LIKELY TO FIND IT DIFFICULT TO WALK HIS WAY OUT OF THIS PROBLEM. THAT HE SHOULD HAVE CAUGHT HIMSELF UP IN THIS BUSINESS IS DEBATEABLE GIVEN THE CENTRAL AND CONSTITUTIVE ROLE HE PLAYED IN RESTORING DEMOCRACY TO PERU.

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