UNCLASSIFIED

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DE RUESDO #3866 3641108
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PM AMBASSAD MONTEVIDEO
TO RUEC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5625
INFO RUESA/AMBASSAD BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE 6672
RUDIC/AMBASSAD LONDON 15B
ST
MONTEVIDEO 5866
E.O. 11032 XGDS-2
TAGS: SHUM, UY
SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS: ARREST BY GOV OF PIANIST MIGUEL ESTRELLA
AND OTHER ALLEGED MONTENORES IN URUGUAY

REF: STATE 383335

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1. AS CONFIRMED BY OFFICIAL GOV PRESS ANNOUNCEMENTS,
MIGUEL ANGEL ESTRELLA AVILA BORGES WAS AMONG THOSE CAPTURED
IN THE DECEMBER 15-16 BLITZKRIEG AGAINST SUSPECTED ARGENTINE
MONTENORES HIDING OUT IN URUGUAY, IN THE COURSE OF THE RAIDS,
WHICH WERE SCATTERED THROUGHOUT MONTEVIDEO. FOUR PERSONS
WERE CAPTURED (INCLUDING ESTRELLA) AND COMMITTED
SUCIDE AT THE MOMENT OF ARREST BY INGESTING CYANIDE;
AND ONE WAS KILLED IN A GUNFIGHT. ALL FOUR OF THE SURVIVORS
WERE LATER INDICTED UNDER THE MILITARY PENAL CODE
FOR MEMBERSHIP IN A SUBVERSIVE ORGANIZATION, A CHARGE
WHICH CARRIES A SENTENCE OF FROM THREE TO EIGHTEEN YEARS.
CURRENTLY, THEY ARE AWAITING EXTRADITION BACK TO
ARGENTINA. A SMALL CACHE OF WEAPONS WAS REPORTEDLY
FOUND, ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT KNOWN IF THESE WERE CONNECTED
TO ESTRELLA'S PARTICULAR CASE.

2. THE STORY OF THE CAPTURE, AS EMBODIED IN OFFICIAL
PRESS RELEASES CARRIED VERBATIM IN ALL LOCAL DAILIES
AFTER THE ARRESTS AND AFTER THE INDICTMENTS, HERALDED
THE RAID'S TRIUMPHANTLY. THE PRESS STATEMENTS STRESSED
THE MONTENORES' SPECIAL SKILL IN BOMB-MAKING, THEIR
FANATICISM; THEIR COMPARTMENTIALIZED AND HENCE SECURE
INFRASTRUCTURE AND THEIR HEAVY FINANCING FROM INTERNATIONAL
TERRORIST SOURCES. IT ATTRIBUTED THEIR OVERTHROW TO THE
"COOPERATION OF THE URUGUAYAN PEOPLE, WHO DO NOT WANT TO
RETURN TO THE UNHAPPY PAST..." AND TO THE "UNCEASING
VIGILANCE OF THE SECURITY FORCES..."

3. ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL PRESS STATEMENT, ESTRELLA
IS A NATIVE ARGENTINIAN, BORN IN TUCUMAN PROVINCE ON
JULY 8, 1936. HE IS A WIDOWER. END UNCLASSIFIED

4. BEGIN

MORE THAN THE SEVEN ARGENTINES MENTIONED IN THE
OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT WERE INVOLVED AND THAT EIGHT
PRISONERS WERE TAKEN RATHER THAN THE FOUR NAMED IN THE
RELEASE.

WE DO NOT KNOW

WHETHER ALL THE ARGENTINES TAKEN PRISONER HAVE YET BEEN-
TURNED OVER TO GOV AUTHORITIES BUT WE HAVE BEEN ASSURED
BY GOV SOURCES THAT ALL, INCLUDING ESTRELLA, WILL SHORTLY
BE RETURNED TO ARGENTINA. WE WILL FOLLOW CLOSER AND
CONFIRM WHEN AND IF THIS TAKES PLACE. END

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