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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ORM-02 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 SCCT-01 IO-13 /080 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5663
INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 3234

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, AR, CI
SUBJECT: CHILEAN REFUGEES IN ARGENTINA

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
() Release () Excise () Deny
Exemption(s): _____
Declassify: () In Part () In Full
() Classify as ___ () Extend as ___ () Downgrade to ___
Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

REF: STATE 116688

1. IN RESPONDING TO INQUIRIES CONCERNING FATE OF CHILEANS (AND OTHER ALIENS) IN ARGENTINA IN WAKE OF CHANGE OF GOVT, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE UNDERSTAND WHAT WE MEAN BY "REFUGEE." WE ASSUME THAT WE ARE REFERRING TO PERSONS LIVING IN ARGENTINA WHO CANNOT FOR POLITICAL REASONS RETURN TO CHILE (OR PARAGUAY, ETC., AS THE CASE MAY BE), AND WHO ARE NOT ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN TERRORIST OPERATIONS AGAINST EITHER THE GOA OR NEIGHBORING GOVERNMENTS. AS FAR AS WE KNOW, THE GOA HAS NOT DEPORTED SUCH REFUGEES, AND IT WOULD BE ACCURATE TO SAY THAT WE HAVE NO CONFIRMED REPORTS THAT ANY CHILEAN REFUGEES IN ARGENTINA HAVE BEEN DEPORTED TO CHILE OR ELSEWHERE. WE BELIEVE THAT IF SUCH PERSONS BEHAVE THEMSELVES WHILE IN ARGENTINA, THE GOA ATTITUDE TOWARD THEM WILL BE BENINGN.

2. THE SITUATION IS QUITE DIFFERENT IN THE CASE OF INDIVIDUALS SUCH AS ENRIQUEZ, MUNOZ, AND BENADO. ENRIQUEZ, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS A FOUNDER AND LEADER OF THE MOVEMENT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY LEFT (MIR), THE CHILEAN TERRORIST ORGANIZATION. IT CAN BE ASSUMED THAT HE WAS ILLEGALLY IN ARGENTINA,

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ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN SUBVERSIVE/TERRORIST OPERATIONS AGAINST CHILE, AND IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE ARGENTINE GUERRILLA ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE ERP, WITH WHICH MIR IS FORMALLY LINKED. ENRIQUEZ COULD HARDLY BE CONSIDERED A "REFUGEE," AND WE UNDERSTAND IN FACT (PROTECT INFORMATION) THAT HE WAS PROBABLY KILLED RECENTLY IN AFTERMATH OF GUERRILLA FIGHTING WITH THE ARGENTINE SECURITY FORCES.

3. MUNOZ AND BENADO ARE BOTH LISTED IN MISSION FILES AS BEING DEEPLY INVOLVED WITH THE EXTREME CHILEAN LEFT, AND BOTH ARE QUITE PROBABLY IN THE MIR. IF MUNOZ IS INVOLVED IN SAME KINDS OF ACTIVITIES AS ENRIQUEZ WAS, INTIMATELY LINKED TO ARGENTINE GUERRILLAS WHO ARE REGULARLY ASSASSINATING MILITARY AND POLICE PERSONNEL, IT IS ONLY LOGICAL TO ASSUME THAT HE IS BEING SOUGHT BY ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES AND THEY WILL INDEED KILL HIM IF HE RESISTS ARREST. UNTIL WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE OTHERWISE, WE MUST ASSUME THAT ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES CAPTURING CHILEAN TERRORISTS VIOLATING ARGENTINE LAW WILL TRY THEM IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARGENTINE LAW.

4. FYI. WE KNOW THAT THERE IS LIAISON BETWEEN THE CHILEAN AND ARGENTINE SECURITY FORCES, AND COOPERATION IN TRYING TO CONTROL GUERRILLA AND TERRORIST FORCES OPERATING JOINTLY ACROSS BORDER. WE SUSPECT THAT IN SOME CASES, PROBABLY FEW, THE GOA MIGHT SECRETLY TURN OVER A PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT CHILEAN TERRORIST CAPTIVE ON REQUEST TO THE CHILEAN AUTHORITIES, AND PROBABLY VICE VERSA. WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT THIS HAS ACTUALLY BEEN DONE, HOWEVER, AND NO SPECIFIC CASE TO WHICH TO REFER. END FYI.

5. WE REASONABLY CERTAIN THAT THE ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES HAVE ARRESTED SOME CHILEANS, REFUGEES AND OTHERS, RESIDING IN ARGENTINA, JUST AS THEY HAVE ARRESTED CONSIDERABLE NUMBERS OF ARGENTINES WHO HAVE VIOLATED SECURITY LAWS OR WHO ARE SUSPECTED OF HAVING DONE SO.

6. WE SUGGEST, THEREFORE, THAT DEPT TELL INQUIRERS THAT WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT GOA IS FORCIBLY REPATRIATING REFUGEES TO CHILE, AND THAT GOA HAS ASSURED UNHCR THAT IT WILL NOT DO SO. INQUIRERS SHOULD ALSO BE TOLD, HOWEVER, THAT IN CASES WHERE FOREIGN EXTREMISTS IN ARGENTINA VIOLATE LOCAL LAW OR ASSOCIATE

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THEMSELVES WITH ARGENTINE GUERRILLA GROUPS, GOA WILL TREAT THEM AS IT DOES ARGENTINES IN SAME CIRCUMSTANCES.

7. WE UNDERSTAND THAT NUMBERS OF PERSONS ASSOCIATED WITH EXTREMIST MOVEMENTS HAVE BEEN LEAVING ARGENTINA VOLUNTARILY BECAUSE OF ANTI-TERRORIST PRESSURES EXERTED BY THE GOA SINCE THE MARCH COUP.
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