

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION DHA-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 PM-05 L-03 H-01 NSC-05
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06
PRS-01 SP-02 /060 W

-----116132 302243Z /72

R 301614Z AUG 77
FM AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5272
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/TPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

Release () Excise () Deny
Exemption(s): _____
Declassify: () In Part In Full
() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to
Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

[REDACTED] RIO DE JANEIRO 4146

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS : SREF SHUM AR BR US
SUBJECT : ARGENTINE REFUGEES IN BRAZIL

REF: RIO DE JANEIRO 4065

1. CONGEN POLOFF SOUGHT OUT UNHCR ACTING REPRESENTATIVE HERRERA
AUGUST 26 TO CLARIFY AND TO SEEK ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING
CHARGES SHE HAD MADE IN EARLIER CONVERSATION ABOUT DETERIORATION
IN SECURITY OF ARGENTIVE POLITICAL REFUGEES HERE (REFTEL).

2. MS HERRERA PASSED ON COPIES OF WRITTEN STATEMENT BY GUILLERMO
CESAR TORRES CASTANOS, ARGENTINE NATIONAL WHO CLAIMED HE HAD
BEEN KIDNAPPED AND TORTURED, AS WELL AS UNHCR CASE HISTORY OF
TORRES CASTANOS, HIS WIFE, AND CHILD. BASED ON TORRES
CASTANOS' REPORT TO UNHCR, HE ALLEGED THAT HE WAS KIDNAPPED
DURING EVENING OF JULY 24, TAKEN TO LOCATION ABOUT ONE HOUR
FROM COPACABANA (WHERE HE HAD BEEN ABDUCTED), BEATEN ABOUT THE
FACE AND BODY AND GIVEN ELECTRIC SHOCKS, BY MIXED GROUP OF
BRAZILIANS AND ARGENTINES. HE CLAIMS LATTER IDENTIFIED THEM-
SELVES AS MEMBERS OF ARGENTINE FEDERAL POLICE. HE WAS QUESTIONED

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ABOUT VARIOUS ARGENTINES IN BRAZIL. ON JULY 28, HE ESCAPED.
 (EMBASSY COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST INDICATION WE HAVE HAD THAT
 ARGENTINE AND BRAZILIAN FEDERAL POLICE MIGHT REPEAT MIGHT BE
 INVESTIGATING ARGENTINE CITIZENS IN BRAZIL AND POSSIBLY
 COOPERATING ON REFOULEMENT.)

3. UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE PRIM SUBSEQUENTLY REPORTED THIS INCIDENT
 TO FEDERAL POLICE IN RIO DE JANEIRO. AUGUST 18, SOCIAL AND
 POLITICAL POLICE (DPPS) REPRESENTATIVE CAME TO UNHCR OFFICES TO
 REQUEST THAT TORRES CASTANOS MAKE DEPOSITION CONCERNING INCIDENT
 AT DPPS HEADQUARTERS. TORRES CASTANOS LATER STATED THAT WHILE
 BEING INTERROGATED HE WAS TOLD BY DPPS OFFICIAL THAT HIGH
 ARGENTINE POLICE OFFICIAL HAD JUST CONCLUDED VISIT HERE FOR
 PURPOSES OF IDENTIFYING ARGENTINES FOR RETURN TO ARGENTINA.
 HE ALSO CLAIMED TO RECOGNIZE DPPS HEADQUARTERS AND DPPS OFFICIALS
 FROM PERIOD WHEN HE HAD BEEN SEQUESTERED.

4. MS HERRERA SAID THAT TORRES CASTANOS, WITH HIS FAMILY,
 DEPARTED BRAZIL FOR SWEDEN ON AUGUST 21. FOREIGN MINISTRY
 HAD IN INTERIM SUMMONED UN REPRESENTATIVE IN BRASILIA FOR
 MEETING WHERE MINISTRY OFFICIAL INDICATED THAT TORRES CASTANOS'
 DEPARTURE AS PLANNED WOULD NOT BE CONVENIENT. MINISTRY OFFICIAL
 DID NOT INDICATE THAT DELAY IN ORDER TO PERMIT WOUNDS TO HEAL
 WAS REASON FOR REQUEST. MS HERRERA SAID THAT UN REP TOLD FONMIN
 THAT A DELAY WOULD PROBABLY DRAW GREATER ATTENTION TO KIDNAPPING
 INCIDENT THAN WOULD A NORMAL DEPARTURE AS SCHEDULED SINCE
 SWEDISH OFFICIALS EXPECTED FAMILY'S DEPARTURE ON AUGUST 21.
 AT THE TIME OF HIS DEPARTURE, ONLY MARKS FROM THE INCIDENT WERE
 CUTS AROUND WRISTS FROM CHAINS HE WORE DURING KIDNAPPING.

5. COMMENT: FROM FOREGOING, IT IS EVIDENT THAT ALLEGATIONS
 CONTAINED RIO REFTEL ORIGINATED FROM SINGLE SOURCE -- TORRES
 CASTANOS. IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT TORRES CASTANOS MAY HAVE
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FABRICATED INCIDENT IN ORDER TO SPEED UP HIS DEPARTURE FROM
 BRAZIL (ALTHOUGH HIS CASE HAD BEEN APPROVED BY UNHCR PRIOR
 TO INCIDENT). WHILE UNHCR IS INTERESTED IN OBTAINING USG
 PARTICIPATION IN ARGENTINA REFUGEE PROGRAM, UNHCR IS BELIEVED
 TO HAVE REPORTED TO GENEVA AND CONGEN INCIDENT CITED IN GOOD
 FAITH.

6. EMBASSY CONCURS.

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