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HUMAN RIGHTS HIGHLIGHTS

ARGENTINA-PERU: ATTEMPTED REPATRIATION OF MONTONEROS APPARENTLY FOILED

SOURCES: Buenos Aires 5020; Lima 5455; 5475; 5519; 5570;

[REDACTED]

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B1, ~~SECRET~~

[REDACTED]

Quick media exposure has at least temporarily foiled an attempt by Peruvian and Argentine security agencies to return covertly to Argentina suspected Argentine terrorists detained in Peru. Our information remains incomplete. Nonetheless, from the reports of Embassy contacts in Lima and Buenos Aires and [REDACTED] the following sequence of events appears to have taken place:

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-In the process of investigating domestic subversives,

Peruvian security elements located a small group of suspect Argentines who had entered Peru illegally, and

who, <sup>the Peruvian police</sup> with the aid of Argentine security agents, <sup>the Argentines</sup> were identified as Montonero terrorists.

-On June 12, Peruvian and Argentine agents detained three <sup>or</sup> (and) possibly four) of the alleged Montoneros.

-Plans/calling for their covert transfer to Argentina were abandoned when the detentions were exposed in the media in Peru and Argentina.

-On June 17, three detainees were officially expelled to Bolivia as "undesirable aliens."

[REDACTED]

reported that as of June 16 the

Argentine and Peruvian security officials planned to turn the three suspects over to the Bolivians who would immediately transfer custody to Argentine agents, we have no information about what happened to the three once they entered Bolivia. None of the information available suggests that the detainees have been physically mistreated.

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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)  
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS  
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director  
( ) Release (X) Exclse ( ) Deny  
Exemption(s): B1  
Declassify: (X) In Part ( ) In Full  
(N) Classify as S ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to  
Date 9/28/01 Declassify on Reason 25X1

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[REDACTED]

The media spotlight will provide a continuing measure of protection. More importantly from the Bolivian ~~angle=angle~~ angle, media efforts have been supplemented by an expression of concern from the UNHCR representative in La Paz and by the reported efforts of five Peruvian politicians who traveled to La Paz on June 18-19 to intercede with Bolivian authorities on behalf of the deported Argentines.

[REDACTED] An official Peruvian ~~statemen~~ statement on June 19 acknowledged only the arrest and deportation of three alleged Montoneros who, according to the government, entered Peru illegally and were involved with Peruvian subversives.

[REDACTED] INR Comment: One of the more troublesome aspects of this affair is the discrepancy in numbers. Well informed official sources in Lima ~~en~~ and Buenos Aires specifically cited the detention of four suspects, but only three entered Bolivia.

This incident is not unique. In recent years, there have been several similar cases that attest to a high degree of cooperation among the INR/IAA: J. Buchanan intelligence and security agencies of the southern South American countries and to their tendency to resort to illegal means in treating suspected subversives.

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