

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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This report contains unprocessed information. Plans and/or policies should not be evolved or modified solely on basis of this report.

1. COUNTRY: URUGUAY (UR)

2. REPORT NUMBER:

3. TITLE: (U) TERRORISM-POISONING OF OPPOSITION LEADER'S WIFE

4. PROJECT NUMBER: N/A

(b)(3):10 USC 424

5. DATE OF INFORMATION: 780906

6. DATE OF REPORT: 780925

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7. DATE & PLACE OF ACQUISITION: 780906, Buenos Aires

8. REFERENCES:

(b)(3):10 USC 42

9. ASSESSMENT: SOURCE                                 

10. ORIGINATOR:

11. REQUEST EVALUATION           , QPQ           

12. PREPARING OFFICER:           

13. APPROVING AUTHORITY:           

(country)

(b)(3):10 USC 424

14. SOURCE: Amembassy Montevideo Telegram 2969

15. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

D I R C YES  NO

16. SUMMARY:

(U) This IR forwards Amembassy Montevideo Telegram 2969 concerning the death of the wife of an Uruguayan opposition leader by apparent terrorist poisoning.

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(b)(3):10 USC 424

17. SUBJECT AND AREA CODES:  
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18. DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR:  
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19. DOWNGRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION DATA:

20. ENCLOSURES:

1 Enclosure

1. Amembassy Montevideo 2969, DTG 061341Z Sep. 78, 1 cy, 2 pgs (C)

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Authority: EO 13526  
DIA FOIA & Declassification Services Offices  
Date: Oct 19, 2018

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~~SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF EO 1.652~~  
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Classification/Control Markings

21. This IR contains 1 pages.

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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7162  
INFO RUESAS/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION 1504  
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~~E.O. 11652: GDS~~

(b)(3):10 USC 424

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, UY  
SUBJ: PROMINENT OPPOSITION LEADER'S WIFE DIES OF APPARENT TERRORIST POISONING

1. THE WIFE OF BLANCO TRIUMVIRATE MEMBER MARIO HEBER USHER DIED OF APPARENT POISONING MID-DAY SEPT. 5 AFTER DRINKING FROM ONE OF THREE "GIFT" BOTTLES OF WINE ADDRESSED TO PARTY LEADERS DAYS PREVIOUSLY.
2. ACCORDING TO BLANCO DELEGATION WHICH CALLED ON POLOFF SHORTLY FOLLOWING DEATH, BOTTLES WERE FOUND ON BACK DOOR-STEP OF EX-LEGISLATOR LUIS A. LACALLE HERRERA ON MORNING OF AUGUST 29. ADDRESSED TO LACALLE, HEBER, AND FELLOW TRIUMVIR CARLOS JULIO PEREYRA, THEY WERE ACCOMPANIED BY NOTE READING: "THURSDAY THE 31ST AT MID-DAY LET US DRINK TO THE NATION IN ITS NEW STAGE." NOTE WAS SIGNED "M. DE N." AS THIS WAS PERIOD OF HEAVY RUMORS REGARDING IMMINENT POLITICAL CHANGES, RECIPIENTS ASSUMED BOTTLES WERE A FRIENDLY TIP-OFF OR JEST FROM A PARTISAN.

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3. OF THREE BOTTLES, THE FIRST WAS OPENED ON SEPT. 3 BY LACALLE, BUT THROWN AWAY BECAUSE OF A "PREMONITION" OF HIS WIFE. SECOND BOTTLE OPENED WAS HEBER'S. WHEN HE WAS UNEXPECTEDLY UNABLE TO LUNCH AT HOME SEPT. 5, HIS WIFE REPORTEDLY DRANK A SMALL AMOUNT ALONE, BECAME VIOLENTLY ILL AND, IN A MATTER OF MINUTES, FELL DEAD. REMAINDER OF THIS BOTTLE WAS TAKEN BY POLICE, WHILE PEREYRA'S UNOPENED BOTTLE (WITH SMALL HOLE IN CORK INDICATING POSSIBLE INJECTION OF FOREIGN SUBSTANCE) WAS TURNED OVER TO HIGH-LEVEL JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES. RESULTS OF AUTOPSY ARE NOT YET KNOWN. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO LACALLE, PRIVATE LAB TESTS OF BOTTLE HE RECEIVED SHOWED EVIDENCE OF POISON.

4. EARLY MORNING SEPT. 6, AUTHORITIES ISSUED THREE COMMUNIQUE WHICH APPEARED IN ALL MORNING DAILIES SUBSTANTIALLY CONFIRMING INFORMATION PROVIDED BY BLANCOS, INCLUDING FACT THAT BOTTLES CONTAINED HIGHLY TOXIC PHOSPHATE-BASED POISON --FOSDRIN. COMMUNIQUE ALSO CALLED ON POPULATION FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO POSSIBLE SUSPECTS IN CRIME.

5. COMMENT: BLANCO PARTY MEMBERS ARE ALREADY CONVINCED THAT MRS. HEBER WAS VICTIM OF A TERRORIST ACT, AND THAT ITS PERPETRATORS ARE THE ULTRA-RIGHTISTS. THE GOU'S MODERATES, WHO GAINED GROUND OVER THE EXTREMISTS IN THE GEN. PRANTL AFFAIR, NOW FACE ANOTHER CRISIS. THEY MUST MOVE RAPIDLY AND FORCEFULLY BY A POLITICAL ACT AND/OR THROUGH THEIR INVESTIGATION OF THIS CASE TO PROVE TO DOUBTERS THAT THEY ARE SEEKING THE PERPETRATORS. OUR INFORMATION IS THAT THE POLICE ARE TAKING THIS CASE VERY RPT VERY SERIOUSLY. WIRE SERVICES ARE GIVING THE STORY HEAVY PLAY. EXILES ABROAD WILL UNQUESTIONABLY SEIZE UPON IT TO ADD ANOTHER BLOT TO URUGUAY'S IMAGE.

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