

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
MESSAGE CENTER

CASSETTE NO. 770868 FRAME NO. 1443 RELAY LEVEL MESSAGE

VZCZCPSA619ILN616 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ZYUW

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PACS

ACTION

DIA:

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CJCS DJS J3(14) J5(02) J31NMCC SECDEF(07) SECDEF:

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FM (b)(3):10 USC 424

TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASH DC/RCT-1

INFO RULPALJ/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

RULPAFA/24TH COMPH HOWARD AFB CZ/IN

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SUBJ: THIS IS IR (b)(3):10 USC 424

1. ARGENTINA (AR)

2. (b)(3):10 USC 424

3. (U) INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY - DISAPPEARANCE OF
LAWYERS AND AMBASSADOR SOLA

4. N/A

5. 770811

6. 770815

7. 7708, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

8. D-S6A-49397/CONTINUES

9. B-2

10. (b)(3):10 USC 424

11. NO

12. (b)(3):10 USC 424

13.

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15. DIRECT NO: NOFORN TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT TO HOST GOVT
16. SUMMARY: (U) THE DISAPPEARANCE OF ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR
TO VENEZUELA HIDALGO SOLA CONTINUES TO MISTIFY THE HIGHEST
LEVELS OF THE ARMED FORCES. THERE CONTINUE TO BE RUMORS THAT
THE NAVY OR ARMY SECURITY ELEMENTS HAVE KIDNAPPED SOLA,
BUT BOTH GENERAL VIDELA AND ADMIRAL MASSERA HAVE SAID THEY
HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WHEREABOUTS.

Sec.
3.3(b)
(1)

22. DETAILS: ~~(S-NOFORN)~~

A LENGTHY DISCUSSION ~~(S-NOFORN)~~ ABOUT THE NEGATIVE IMPACT
THAT THE DISAPPEARANCE OF SOLA AND SEVERAL LAWYERS IN THE
LA PLATA AREA IS HAVING ON THE DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL
IMAGE OF THE VIDELA GOVERNMENT ~~(S-NOFORN)~~ DURING A
RECENT MEETING OF ALL THE ACTIVE DUTY ARMY GENERALS, THE SOLA
CASE HAD BEEN THE PRINCIPAL ISSUE. SOURCE A SAID THAT
EACH OF THE GENERALS HAD DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THE SOLA
DISAPPEARANCE. ONE GENERAL HAD THREATENED TO RETIRE AT
THAT MOMENT IF THE ARMY COULD NOT GET A BETTER HANDLE ON WHERE
SOLA IS, AND WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS DISAPPEARANCE.

Sec.
3.3(b)
(1)

2. ~~(S-NOFORN)~~ SOURCE B, DURING A DISCUSSION THAT HE HAD
INITIATED CONCERNING THE VISITS OF MS. PATRICIA DERIAN,
ASSIST. SEC. STATE TODMAN, AND TWO CODELS, SAID THAT
DURING A RECENT JUNTA MEETING IN WHICH HE WAS PRESENT, THE
CINC OF THE NAVY, ADMIRAL MASSERA, WAS CONFRONTED BY GENERAL
VIDELA AND BRIGADIER AGOSTI TO EXPLAIN THE PERSISTANT RUMORS
THAT THE NAVY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KIDNAPPING OF SOLA, AND
THE LA PLATA LAWYERS. SOURCE B SAID THAT MASSERA DENIED ANY
KNOWLEDGE OF THE KIDNAPPINGS, AND LITERALLY SWORE ON THE
BIBLE THAT THE NAVY IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY OF THE
DISAPPEARANCES. SOURCE B THEN WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT THE
JUNTA IS VERY AWARE AND CONCERNED WITH THE IMPACT THESE
DISAPPEARANCES ARE HAVING ON THE GOVERNMENT'S IMAGE, BOTH AT
HOME AND ABROAD. SOURCE B CONFIDED THAT THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE
AND MODERATION IN THE GENERAL GUIDELINES PROVIDED TO
SECURITY FORCES FOR COUNTER-SUBVERSIVE OPERATIONS. WHEN

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SUGGESTED THAT THESE DISAPPEARANCE MIGHT BE A REACTION BY SOME OF THE SECURITY FORCES TO THE MORE STRICT GUIDELINES, SOURCE B SAID THAT HE REALLY HAD NOT THOUGHT ABOUT IT, BUT THAT THE

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POSSIBILITY EXISTED. HE SAID THAT IN HIS JUDGEMENT THE DISAPPEARANCES WERE NOT THE RESULT OF AN AUTHORIZED COUNTER-SUBVERSIVE OPERATION. HE THEORIZED THAT THE GROUPS WHICH GAINED THE MOST FROM THE DISAPPEARANCES ARE THE SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS, AND THEREFORE IT SHOULD NOT BE DISCOUNTED THAT THEY HAVE BOTH SOLA AND THE LAWYERS. SOURCE B THEN SAID THAT PERHAPS SOLA HAD CAUSED HIS OWN KIDNAPPING IN ORDER TO LATER RE-APPEAR, BLAME EITHER THE GOVERNMENT, OR ONE OF THE SUBVERSIVE GROUPS, AND REAP HUGE POLITICAL BENEFITS FOR THE FUTURE. SOURCE B FINISHED HIS DISCUSSION ON THIS TOPIC BY STATING THAT THERE ARE ONLY TWO FACTS TO DEAL WITH IN THE SOLA: A. SOLA HAS DISAPPEARED, AND B. NONE OF THE SENIOR MILITARY LEADERS WILL ADMIT TO KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE DISAPPEARANCE. EVERYTHING ELSE IS SPECULATION.

3. ~~(S-NOFORN)~~ SOURCE C, IN AN EARLIER DISCUSSION OF THE SOLA CASE, (b)(3):10 USC 424 ALTHOUGH HE IS SUPPOSED TO GIVE APPROVAL FOR ALL ARGAF SECURITY OPERATIONS, HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THE SOLA MATTER, OR WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO THE LAWYERS. WHEN [] SUGGESTED THAT THE RUMORS ABOUT THE ARMY OR NAVY HAVING RUN THE OPERATIONS SOURCE SHRUGGED HIS SHOULDERS

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SOURCE C ADDED THAT IN HIS JUDGEMENT THE ARMED FORCES LEADERSHIP DOES NOT KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO SOLA.

COMMENT: ~~(S-NOFORN)~~ BUENOS AIRES IS ALIVE WITH SPECULATION AND THEORIES ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LAWYERS, AND TO SOLA, AND WHY. SOURCE B'S COMMENT ABOUT THE ONLY TWO FACTS IN THE SOLA CASE IS PROBABLY TRUE. FROM THAT POINT ON, ALL IS CONJECTURE. THE SIZE AND COMPLEXITY OF AN OPERATION THAT COULD SUCCESSFULLY KIDNAP SOLA WOULD REQUIRE MORE RESOURCES THAN THE SUBVERSIVES MIGHT BE WILLING TO RISK FOR THIS TYPE OF ACTION. IN THE CONTEXT OF ARGENTINE POLITICAL MANEUVERING PERHAPS EVEN A "SELF-KIDNAPPING" CAN NOT BE RULED OUT, ALTHOUGH AMBASSADOR SOLA'S FAMILY AND PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES MAKE THIS THE LEAST

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LIKELY POSSIBILITY. (b)(3):10 USC 424

THERE HAS BEEN A NEW SET OF GUIDELINES ON
COUNTER SUBVERSIVE OPERATIONS ISSUED TO THE SECURITY FORCES.
THESE GUIDELINES ARE REPORTEDLY SIGNIFICANTLY MORE RESTRICTIVE
AND MODERATE, AND REQUIRE A GREAT DEAL MORE CONTROL AND
APPROVAL THAN HAS BEEN THE CASE PREVIOUSLY. IT IS FEASIBLE
THAT A UNIT OR UNITS OF POLICE, OR FROM ONE OF THE SERVICES, AS

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A REACTION AGAINST THE MORE MODERATE GUIDELINES, HAS KIDNAPPED
SOLA AND THE LAWYERS AS ACTS OF DEFIANCE. THIS SCENARIO
WOULD EXPLAIN THE EASE WITH WHICH THE OPERATIONS WERE CARRIED
OFF, AND COULD ALSO EXPLAIN WHY THE SENIOR MILITARY LEADERSHIP
CLAIM TO HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED, REGARDLESS
OF WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DISAPPEARANCES. (b)(3):10 USC 424
INDICATIONS THAT THE ARMED FORCES ARE EXPENDING SIGNIFICANT
RESOURCES TO SOLVE THE MYSTERIES. THE IMPORTANT QUESTION WILL
BE WHAT ACTION THE GDA WILL TAKE AGAINST THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR
THE DISAPPEARANCES, IF THEY ARE FOUND TO BE AMONG THE SECURITY
FORCES.

THIS MSG HAS BEEN COORD W/EMBASSY.

~~OPS DEC 1982~~

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