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INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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APR 29 1980

DIA R18-23

COUNTRY: Argentina (AR)

REPORT NO: (b)(3):10 USC 424

TITLE: Terrorism - Possible Schism in Montonero Terrorist Organization (U)

DATE OF INFO: 800411
(YY MM DD)

REPORT DATE: 800421
(YY MM DD)

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

REQ REFERENCES: (b)(3):10 USC 42

SOURCE: Embassy Official

222

SUMMARY: (U) This report forwards AMEMB cable CN 3058, which indicates that the Montonero movement has suffered a schism. It also indicates that seven people listed as being among the disappeared have been identified abroad.

DETAILS: (U) None

ORIG CMIS: ~~(S)~~ The information in the report is sketchy but such information cannot be disregarded. If true, it could lead to further infighting within the Montonero movement. Also of interest is the fact the splinter group leaders were on the list of disappeared presented to the State Department. Argentine Army officers claim, and events are proving them correct, that a percentage of the people on the disappeared lists are as a result of one of the following: (1) Eliminated by the Argentine government and no notice given to next of kin; (2) Killed in clashes with government forces but had false documents or numerous documents and could not be identified; (3) Killed by their own group members when they started to get 'cold feet'; (4) Escaped from Argentina because of fear of government forces; (5) Escaped from Argentina because of fear of reprisals from their own movement. Argentine security forces, while not talking openly about number (1), can give examples of the other 4-cases to explain people who have been listed as being "disappeared."

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REVIEW ON: 21 April 20000

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DATA

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INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT
SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

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PROJECT NO: N/A

COLL MGMT CODES: N/A

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: DIRC ☐ Y ☒ N

PREPARED BY: (b)(3):10 USC 424;(b)(6)
(name, rank/grade, position)

APPROVED BY: (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424
(name, rank/grade, position, signature)

REQUEST EVALUATION: ☐ Y ☒ N
Request Evaluation Releasable To:

1 ENCLOSURE(S):

1. AMEMB cable CN 3058 dtg 112031Z APR 80,
5 pgs, 1 cy, (e)

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SUMMARY.

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TERRORISTS WHO WERE INVOLVED IN THE UNSUCCESSFUL
1973 ATTEMPT TO SEIZE THE BUENOS AIRES ARMY MEDICAL
COMMAND~~X~~ LOST THEIR APPEAL AGAINST THE DECISION OF
A LOWER COURT. THE APPEALS COURT SENTENCED THE 13
TO TERMS FIVE TO TWENTY-THREE YEARS. ONE APPELLANT,
HOWEVER, WAS FREED. THE ONLY EVIDENCE AGAINST HIM
WAS SUPPLIED BY ONE OF THOSE INVOLVED IN THE ATTACK
AND WAS THEREFORE INSUFFICIENT TO CONDEMN HIM. THIS
FREED DEFENDANT HAD ADMITTED TO BEING A MEMBER OF
ERP ~~XXXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX~~ BUT HAD
COMPLETED HIS SENTENCE FOR ILLICIT ASSOCIATION, AND
THUS SHOULD BE RELEASED, THE COURT SAID. IN SO
ACTING~~X~~ THE COURT UNDOUBTEDLY UPHELD THE RULE OF LAW
AND DEMONSTRATED ITS INDEPENDENCE. HOWEVER, DESPITE
THE APPARENT JUSTICE OF THE DECISION, FREEING THE MAN
IN QUESTION CAN ONLY STRENGTHEN THE DEEPLY ROOTED
DOUBTS OF SOME MILITARY OVER THE ROLE OF JUDICIAL
SYSTEM IN COMBATTING TERRORISM.

2. ~~(LOU)~~ POLICE CONDEMNED: TWO POLICEMEN WERE SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT IN ROSARIO FOR THE 1977 MURDER OF A MAN THEY ARRESTED, BEAT, AND FINALLY KILLED, "FOR PLEASURE". THESE SENTENCES SEEM TO BE PART OF WHAT APPEARS AS AN EFFORT BY THE GOVERNMENT

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TO REIN IN UNAUTHORIZED CRIMINAL ACTIVITY BY MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY FORCES BY SIGNALING WHAT CAN BE IN STORE FOR INFRACTORS.

3. (U) JOURNALISTS ARRESTED: TWO PHOTOGRAPHERS AND A REPORTER WORKING FOR THE ARGENTINE WIRE SERVICE NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS WERE BRIEFLY DETAINED LAST WEEK IN WIDELY PUBLICIZED INCIDENTS. THE TWO PHOTOGRAPHERS WERE ARRESTED IN A BAR APRIL 2, BUT LET GO SOON AFTER. THEN ON APRIL 7 THE JOURNALIST WAS PICKED UP AND FREED WITHIN HOURS. ACCORDING TO THE MANAGER OF NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS THE JOURNALIST AND PHOTOGRAPHERS WERE UNRELATED AND HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE ISSUE OF PRESS FREEDOM. THE PHOTOGRAPHERS WERE ARRESTED FOLLOWING AN ARGUMENT WITH A POLICEMAN OVER WOMEN. THE REPORTER WAS DETAINED DUE TO A CONFUSION OVER HIS IDENTITY DOCUMENTS. HOWEVER, ONE OF THE INTERESTING ASPECTS OF THESE INCIDENTS WAS THE SPEED WITH WHICH THE PRESS HERE REPORTED THEIR ARRESTS, INDICATING BOTH ITS GROWING COVERAGE AND ITS CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE GOA INTIMIDATION.

4. (U) SWEDES GET NO ANSWER: THE LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THAT THE SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTER DECLARED IN PARLIAMENT RECENTLY THAT THE GOA HAS REFUSED TO ACCEPT ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR, OR EVEN ADMIT KNOWLEDGE OF THE FATE OF SWEDISH-ARGENTINE NATIONAL DAGMAR

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HAGELIN, WHO DISAPPEARED IN 1977. THE SWEDES' ATTEMPT TO PRIZE AN ADMISSION OF RESPONSIBILITY FROM THE GOA BY REFERRING TO SWORN TESTIMONY BY A FORMER GOA PRISONER WHO STATED SHE SAW HAGELIN WHILE IN CUSTODY HAS PRODUCED NO CHANGE IN THE ARGENTINE POSITION. THE DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT THE SWEDES PRESENTED THIS INFORMATION TO THE GOA LAST JANUARY, REPORTEDLY IN A LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT VIDELA.

5. ~~(C)~~ THE GOA'S UNWILLINGNESS TO BE MOVED BY THE TESTIMONY OF A FORMER PRISONER IS NOT VERY SURPRISING. THE PUBLIC CONFIRMATION OF THE ARGENTINES INFLEXIBILITY, EVEN IN THE FACE OF SUCH A CHALLENGE, COMES AT A TIME WHEN THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED THE FIRST OF WHAT MAY BE MANY REQUESTS THAT WE USE OTHER STATEMENTS BY FORMER PRISONERS WHO CLAIM TO HAVE SEEN CERTAIN PERSONS IN DETENTION TO TRY TO PERSUADE THE GOA TO GIVE US SOME ANSWERS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THESE SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS. WE HAVE RESPONDED BY STATING THAT WE BELIEVED THAT SUCH AN APPROACH WOULD PRODUCE NOTHING--AND MIGHT WELL BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. THE SWEDISH EXPERIENCE WOULD APPEAR TO CONFIRM OUR JUDGMENT.


6. (U) A MONTONERO SPLIT?: PRESS REPORTS FROM MEXICO STATE THAT THE MONTONERO MOVEMENT THERE HAS SUFFERED A SCHISM. THE BREAKAWAY GROUP, ACCORDING TO THE SKETCHY INFORMATION AVAILABLE HERE, ACCUSES THE

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MONTONERO LEADERSHIP OF RELYING ON MILITARISM AND ALIENATING ITSELF FROM THE "MASSES". THE NEW ORGANIZATION, WHICH CALLS ITSELF "THE SEVENTEENTH OF OCTOBER MONTONEROS," APPARENTLY WANTS TO ENGAGE IN POLITICAL AND LABOR ACTIVITIES RATHER THAN RELYING ON TERRORIST TACTICS. (THE DATE REFERS TO AN INCIDENT OF THE 1940'S HALLOWED IN PERONIST LORE.) THE SEVENTEEN PEOPLE WHO REPORTEDLY LEAD THE NEW ORGANIZATION INCLUDE TWO PEOPLE WE HAVE LISTED AMONG THE DISAPPEARED: SYLVIA BERMAN AND JAIME DRI. BERMAN, WHO REPORTEDLY DISAPPEARED IN 1976, WAS ON AN AMERICAN ACADEMY FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE LIST OF DISAPPEARED PRESENTED TO THE DEPARTMENT. DRI, A FORMER PERONIST LEGISLATOR, DISAPPEARED IN MONTEVIDEO IN 1977, ~~AT AN EVENT~~ ~~AND A CASE~~ THAT STIRRED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST. HIS WIFE, OLYMPIA DIAZ, WHO WAS LIVING IN PANAMA MADE SEVERAL APPROACHES TO OUR EMBASSY THERE SEEKING OUR INTERVENTION ON DRI'S BEHALF.

CASTRO 

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