

4/27/78

CLASSIFICATION: CONF
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TELEGRAM

BB093

FROM: AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES
CLASSIFICATION: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:
ACTION:
REASON:
EXEMPTION(S):
DECLASSIFY: () In Part (X) In Full
() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to
Date: _____ Reason: _____
Release () Excise () Deny

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Maggio - '78 - R

GDS
ASEC, PINS
LETTER ACCUSING ARGENTINE NAVY OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS--
POSSIBLE PROVOCATION

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 3244

1. On April 20 the Embassy received a registered letter of ten pages and three pages of enclosures purportedly written by a Montonero who had recently escaped from 13 months imprisonment in the ~~XXXX~~ Naval Mechanics School in Buenos Aires. The letter cites cases of a number of prominent Argentines who have disappeared and tortured over the past year who were held and ~~XXXXXX~~ at the Mechanics School. It states that the two French Nuns who disappeared in December 77 were also held there. The letter gives partial or complete names of a number of security officers who are said to be assigned to the detention and interrogation center and states that several of them have travelled to France to work against Montonero activists there. The enclosures to the letter are drawings showing the location and layout of the detention center in the

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S20000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
(X) Release () Excise () Deny

APPROVED BY: MChaplin/pm
DRAFTING DATE: 4/27/78
TEL. EXT.: 202
CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED: Amb Castro

SY:RKelly (draft)
POL/R:DSmock (draft)
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Officer's Club at the Mechanics School. On April 25 the Embassy received a call from someone purporting to be the author of this letter who inquired if the Ambassador (who was out of the city) had received it.

2. A review of the letter purportedly signed by Horacio Domingo Maggio raised suspicions in our minds that it may be some sort of provocation. It seems only too convenient for many of the most prominent atrocities of the past year to have been the work of one Naval unit. The telephone call attempting to confirm the Ambassador's receipt of the letter also suggests that the sender has some role for the US Embassy to play in his plans. The letter states copies were being sent to the French Embassy and Press Counselor, the Argentine Episcopal Conference, the Secretary General of the United Nations, Amnesty International, the military JUNTA, and many others, including the international press services. We are trying to confirm that other copies of the letter exist. The Embassy is actively seeking informed Argentine opinion about this letter and will report promptly when sufficient information has been received.

3. In the meantime, should this letter surface in the

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international press circles or human rights groups and become the source of questions to the Department, the Embassy recommends that the Department acknowledge that such a letter has been received, that it is one of many containing a wide variety of allegations, and that the Department has no information to confirm or disprove the charges in it.

Raimundo Castro
CASTRO

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