

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)  
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS  
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director  
 Release  Excise  Deny  
Exemption(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Declassify:  In Part  In Full  
 Classify as \_\_\_  Extend as \_\_\_  Downgrade to \_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Declassify on \_\_\_\_\_ Reason \_\_\_\_\_

1/10/79

Y001B R

Attachment 2  
Buenos Aires A-3  
January 10, 1979

Buenos Aires, April 10, 1978

Messrs.  
Associated Press

Dear Sirs:

The undersigned, Horacio Domingo Maggio, Argentine, National Identity Card No. 6.308.359, ex-delegate general, member of the internal trade union committee of the Provincial Bank of Santa Fé, Main Branch, is writing your office in order to let you know of the bitter experiences that I had to go through when I was kidnapped by the Argentine Navy.

My attitude stems basically from two facts: my being a Christian and also an activist in the Montonero Peronist Movement; as well as my conviction that the press must have at its disposal all the information on what has gone on in our country since March 24, 1976, to be able to inform -- as it has always done -- the public in spite of the menaces and kidnappings that newspapermen have also suffered.

I was kidnapped in Buenos Aires on February 15, 1977 while I was walking on Rivadavia Street, one block away from Flores Park. The group which kidnapped me identified itself as Joint Forces (Fuerzas Conjuntas). Needless to say, while I was carried away forcefully I was beaten.

From there I was taken to a place which I later learned was the Navy Mechanical School. I, as well as most of the people there and those who still remain there, was subjected to torture ("electric rod" or "picana" and "the submarine"). Among others there were: Roberto Ahumada, from Santa Fé, national leader of Peronist Youth; Mrs. Osatinsky, widow of a Montonero leader and people's martyr, Marcos Osatinsky, murdered in 1976 in Cordoba City; Alicia Millin de Pirles from Santa Fé; Mrs. Orsci, sociologist, ex-dean of the Tourism School of Mar del Plata. Others who were removed from there were newspaperman Jara; Jaime Dri, the national leader of the Peronista Montonero Movement who had been kidnapped in Uruguay; Mrs. Alicia Eguren, wife of John Williams Cooke. etc.

On March 17, 1978 I was able to escape from that place.

During the 13 months I spent there, I suffered and watched the most brutal and savage activities of this endless dictatorship, which is trying unsuccessfully to reduce to submission our whole country.

Such is the case of the two French nuns Alice Domcn and Renee Duquet.

I had a chance to talk personally with Sister Alice, as she was taken, together with Sister Renee, to the third floor where the officer's mess is located, and where I was kept prisoner. This took place around the 11th or 12th of December, 1977.

During these conversations she told me that they had been kidnapped and that they had been made, under torture, to write a letter by hand in French, addressed to the Superior of their Order, and that photographs had been taken of them in what they thought was the basement of the above mentioned building.

She also told me that 11 other persons had been kidnapped with them. They remained at the Navy Mechanical School for about ten days and later were "transferred" with eleven other persons to an unknown place. I use quotation marks because there were many cases like this and later no one knew of their whereabouts. Because of the haste with which they were taken away there were rumors that the 13 people might have been killed.

Something similar happened with Mrs. Norma Esther Arrostito, a leader of the Montonero Movement, who was presumed to be dead, but was actually alive until January 15, 1978, holding up heroically and stoically during more than one year of detainment and mental and physical pressure of the Navy officers. On that day, she fainted in a peculiar way and was then given an injection and died, according to rumors, in the Navy Hospital(?). The fact is that she never returned to her cell.

Another similar case was that of Dr. Hidalgo Solá, Argentine Ambassador to Venezuela. According to rumors that were going around on the third floor, the group that operated out of the Navy Mechanical School was responsible for this action.

A young Swedish girl, who disappeared in January 1977, was also there; she was semi-handicapped because of a bullet wound in her head.

The living conditions in that place are similar to those prevailing before the Assembly of 1813.

We were forced to lie down 24 hours a day on mattresses on the floor. These mattresses were separated from each other by wooden partitions, or we were kept in cells with up to four persons in each cell. We all had shackles on our legs and had hoods or glasses which did not allow you to see. Besides the place was infested with rats.

The methods used by these people to rid themselves of the thousands of kidnapped people have changed. At the beginning when this para-military group was formed, whose code name is Task Group 3.3.3. (T.G. 3.3.3.) in order to differentiate itself from other groups which report to the Army and the Air Force, they used to get five or six people in a car, shoot them and then set fire to the car in the PanAmerican Highway area. Later, the method was changed and the prisoners were hanged in the Mechanical School and the corpses thrown into the river. At present, they are given a big injection of a sleeping drug and they are wrapped in a piece of canvas and thrown in the sea. For the two latter procedures a helicopter is used. One of the kidnapped people was told all this by a petty-officer known as "Chispa."

This followed a certain pattern that some of us had noticed. During the days in which the so-called "transferences" took place, the disciplinary measures and the physical treatment of the prisoners hardened. At times there was corporal punishment with rubber batons or it was prohibited to use the bathrooms.

One time I was able to see by lifting the hood which covered my head, a young man around 20-30 years old being placed semi-conscious on a white piece of canvas. Another factor was that after the "transfers" were made, usually on Wednesdays, the noise of a helicopter could be heard.

The people directly responsible for this are those who make up the para-military group which is located inside ESMA and specifically the officers mess which they call "El Dorado." They are, in a hierarchical order:

1. Jacinto Chamorro, Rear Admiral, Director of the Escuela de Mecanica de la Armada, alias "Delfin" or "Maximo."
2. Captain..... alias "Gaston"

3. Lt. Commander Acosta, alias "Tigre" or "Santiago", for all practical purposes the leader of the group. He has a brother who is a Captain or Major in the Army and who at times visits the concentration camps.
4. Lieutenant Commander.....alias "Leon"
5. Lieutenant Jorge Perren, alias "Puma" or "Octavio." This man is presently in Paris, France, working in a clandestine way in the Pilot Center and connected with the Argentine Embassy there. While I say clandestine I mean they all have faked personal documentation.
6. Lieutenant J.G..... alias "Mariano"
7. Lieutenant J.G. Antonio Fernias, alias "Trueno" or "Martin." Also presently in France. This man travelled to France at the end of February or beginning of March, presumably to replace Perren who was returning to the country.
8. Coast Guard Commander or Deputy Commander alias "Daniel" This person, after I escaped from prison, went to my parent's home and subtly menaced them and all the others who had stayed behind me in prison in ESMA (about 150 people) should I ever make any type of public statement.
9. Lieutenant or Lieutenant Colonel, his last name is Coronel, born in Tucumán alias "Maco." Was discharged from the Army at the end of 1977. He has a wound in one of his legs and limbs.
10. Captain (Retired) Williams Womond or Guamond, alias "Pablo." Presently working at the Ministry of Foreign Relations (Press Section) with Captain Perez Florio (Froio?). The latter, as well as a Navy Commander alias "El Coara" or "Negro"; Foreign Minister Montes; Under Secretary of Foreign Relations Gualter Allara and many others, visited and inspected the concentration camp.
11. Lieutenant Commander or Commander (Retired) alias "Felipe," his last name maybe Spinelli or something similar. Also working at the Ministry of Foreign Relations, Press Section.

12. Ensign or Lieutenant J.G. alias "Sergio", his last name may be Luna. Presently in France working at the Pilot Center.
13. Ensign.....his last name could be Actis or Atis, alias "Cuervo" or "Rubio". Also in France.
14. Coast Guard officer, alias "Chispa" or "Omar."
15. Police station chief Boero, Federal Police, alias "Armando."
16. Officer of the Federal Police, alias "Federico"
17. Member of the Federal Police, alias "Tiburón"
18. Member of the Federal Police, alias "Angosto"
19. Officer of the Federal Police, alias "Juan Carlos"
20. Officer of the Penitentiary Police, alias "Fragote"
21. Member of the Penitentiary Police, alias "Paco"
22. Member of the Penitentiary Police alias "Yoli" or "Eduardo"
23. Officer of the Federal Police. alias "Bicho"

I am aware that by denouncing all this I put the life of my wife and children, my parents, my sister, parents-in-law and other relatives in danger, as well as that of those who are still in that institution. For that reason should anything happen to my family (kidnapping or death) and/or to the people who remain in prison, I make the Argentine Military Junta and those Navy officers operating in ESMA responsible.

Sincerely,

Horacio Domingo Maggio  
D.N.I. No. 6.308.359

Attachment 2  
Buenos Aires A-3  
Page 6

P.S. Enclosed you will find photostats of some of the documents I was able to steal when I escaped and that would prove the relationship between that para-military group and the Ministry of Foreign Relations. I also have undebatable proofs of my stay in the officer's meseroom at ESMA. Also, I wish to provide the phone number 701-4418. of the concentration camp.

A letter similar to this was sent also to H.E. The French Ambassador; the Press Counselor in the French Embassy; H.E. the Ambassador of the U.S. of America; H.E. Monsignor Raul Primatesta; H.E. Monsignor Vicente Zazpe; to the Conference of the Argentine Episcopate; to the Director of France Presse Agency; to the Secretary General of the United Nations; to the International Labor Organization; to Argentine and foreign news agencies; to newspapers and magazines; entrepreneurs, businessmen, intellectuals, politicians; to the Military Junta, etc.

I enclose blueprints of the concentration camp.