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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
USIA-06 DHA-02 L-03 H-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SCS-03
DODE-00 SCA-01 ARAE-00 PM-04 /062 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3241

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

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 7119

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, AR
SUBJECT: CONTINUING TERRORISM PROBLEMS

REF: BUENOS AIRES 6675

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: TERRORISM CONTINUED TO PLAGUE ARGENTINA THIS PAST WEEKEND (OCT. 24-27) AS NEWS MEDIA REPORTED AT LEAST NINE DEAD AND THREE KIDNAPPED. THE RISE IN TERRORIST ACTIVITIES, COMMENCING WITH FORMOSA ATTACK (REFTEL A) BROUGHT HINTS YESTERDAY FROM JUSTICE MINISTER ERNESTO CORVALAN NANCLARES THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THE STATE OF SIEGE WILL BE BROADENED IN SCOPE. END SUMMARY.

2. FIVE FEDERAL POLICEMEN WERE KILLED IN A BUENOS AIRES SUB-URB SUNDAY MORNING (OCT. 26). THE FIVE WERE ATTACKED WHILE PASSING BY THE SAN ISIDRO CATHEDRAL IN TWO PATROL CARS. FOUR OTHER SECURITY AND MILITARY PERSONNEL WERE ALSO REPORTED KILLED IN CLASHES WITH SUBVERSIVES IN VARIOUS PARTS OF ARGENTINA DURING PAST FEW DAYS. ASSISTANT FEDERAL POLICE CHIEF HORACIO ALBERTO ROJAS WAS ALSO ATTACKED BY A GUERILLA FORCE LATE THURSDAY NIGHT (OCT. 25), ACCORDING NEWS ACCOUNTS. NO INJURIES WERE RECORDED AS THE HEAVILY-ARMED TERRORISTS FLED ON ARRIVAL OF SUPERIOR SECURITY FORCES. THIS IS REPORTED TO BE THIRD ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE HIGH-LEVEL POLICE OFFI-

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CIAL IN ALMOST A YEAR.

3. TWO EXECUTIVES OF LARGE COMPANIES WERE REPORTED KIDNAPPED OVER THE WEEKEND WHILE A THIRD WAS RELEASED AFTER PAYMENT OF UNDISCLOSED RANSOM. ARTURO BULLRICH, OF A CATTLE AUCTION COMPANY, AND H. FRANZ METZ, MERCEDES-BENZ PRODUCTION ENGINEER, WERE KIDNAPPED IN TWO SEPARATE INCIDENTS OVER THE WEEKEND. THE SCANT INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM PRESS SOURCES INDICATED THE BULLRICH CASE APPEARS TO BE NOT POLITICAL AS ONLY MONEY HAS BEEN DEMANDED. IN METZ' CASE REPORTS CLAIM DEMANDS MADE BY GUERRILLAS INCLUDE REHIRING OF 300 DISCHARGED EMPLOYERS.

4. MRS. REBECCA MADANES DE FRIEDENTHAL, 70, WAS RELEASED THIS WEEKEND AFTER PAYMENT OF UNDISCLOSED RANSOM FOLLOWING KIDNAPPING THURSDAY (OCT. 23). MOTIVATION, POLITICAL OR COMMON CRIMINAL, WAS NOT CLEAR.

5. FOLLOWING CABINET MEETING YESTERDAY (OCT. 27), THE GOA INDICATED TO NEWS MEDIA THAT AN EXTENSION AND BROADENING OF THE PROVISIONS OF STATE-OF-SIEGE IS NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION. NO DETAILS OF THE PLAN WERE REVEALED. THE IDEA IS DOUBTLESS A RESULT OF THE RECENT PROCLAMATIONS TO CARRY OUT FULL SCALE WAR AGAINST SUBVERSION. LA OPINION OCT 28 SPECULATES THAT "BROADENING OF PROVISIONS" MAY INCLUDE IMPOSITION OF SOME DEGREE OFFICIAL CENSORSHIP OF PRESS.
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