SUBJECT: OVERVIEW OF TERRORIST SITUATION IN ARGENTINA

FROM RSO BECKETT

SUMMARY: THIS REPORT IS SUBMITTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF KEEPING SECURITY ELEMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT INFORMED AS TO LOCAL CONDITIONS WHICH MAY AFFECT THE PENDING VISIT OF THE SECRETARY. THIS REPORT WILL COVER SHORT SUMMARIES OF SPECIFIC TERRORIST ACTIONS BETWEEN 1 JANUARY AND 28 JANUARY, 1975; A CONDENSED ASSESSMENT ANALYSIS OF THE TERRORIST POSTURE WITHIN ARGENTINA AND A COMPOSITE OF WEAPONS AND THE TECHNIQUE OF THEIR EMPLOYMENT CURRENTLY BEING USED BY TERRORIST ELEMENTS.

1. FOLLOWING IS A CHRONOLOGICAL LISTING OF VIOLENT INCIDENTS ACCREDITED TO TERRORISM IN ARGENTINA FROM 1 JANUARY THROUGH 28 JANUARY, 1975. THE INFORMATION FURNISHED CANNOT NECESSARILY BE CONSIDERED ALL INCLUSIVE SINCE THE INCIDENTS CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT ARE THOSE WHICH HAVE KNOWN TO BE REPORTED. THE SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION COMES FROM THE LOCAL NEWS MEDIA, REPORTS TO THE RSO'S OFFICE FROM THE FEDERAL POLICE GOA (FPA) AND THE LEGAL ATTACHE'S OFFICE.

JANUARY 2, 1975
IN MENDOZA BOMBS WERE PLACED AT THE HOMES OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY’S SECRETARY GENERAL, A LEADER OF THE PERONIST UNIVERSITY YOUTH AND FORMER ADVISOR OF GOVERNOR ALBERTO MARTINEZ BOCA.

THE OFFICES OF THE EVENING NEWSPAPER LA TARDE WERE BOMBED.

JANUARY 3, 1975

FEDERAL POLICE OFFICER WAS STANDING ON A STREET CORNER WAITING FOR A BUS, THREE MEN AND A WOMAN APPROACHED HIM WITH WEAPONS IN HAND, ORDERED HIM TO LIE FACE DOWN ON THE PAVEMENT AND MACHINE GUNNED HIM. THEY REMOVED AND TOOK WITH THEM HIS WEAPON AND BADGE.

JANUARY 8, 1975

IN LA PLATA INDUSTRIALIST RUDOLF LEANDRO SAURNIER WAS KIDNAPPED WHEN HE STOPPED AT A TRAFFIC LIGHT. KIDNAPPING WAS EXECUTED BY ARMED MEN EMPLOYING THREE VEHICLES.

JANUARY 10, 1975

FIVE BODIES (UNIDENTIFIED) WERE FOUND IN A BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE. BODIES HAD BEEN BLOWN TO PIECES IN TWO SEPARATE DYNAMITINGS.

JANUARY 13, 1975

EDITORIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES OF THE NEWSPAPER EL ATLANTICO WERE DESTROYED BY A BOMB.

JANUARY 15, 1975

A BOMB ATTACK WAS CARRIED OUT AGAINST A FORD MOTOR COMPANY SHOWROOM I ADROUDE. THE NIGHT WATCHMAN WAS SLIGHTLY INJURED AND HOSPITALIZED AS A RESULT OF THE BOMBING.

JANUARY 17, 1975

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A GROUP OF TERRORISTS MACHINE Gunned the residence of the mayor of San Miguel de Tucumán. After completing the machine gun attack against the mayor’s residence, the terrorists tossed Molotov bombs, causing minor damages. The Montonero guerrilla organization claimed credit for this action. A BAPP officer was ambushed by terrorists in San Justo, BAP.

An FPA officer was killed and another wounded when they attempted to question individuals distributing leftist propaganda near the Floresta railroad station.

January 20, 1975

A band of approximately 24 armed individuals dressed in green fatigue combat uniforms kidnapped and executed a farm worker in Tucumán. Subsequently, this same band set fire to a station of the Tucuman Provinicial Police (TPP), which was unoccupied.

TPP officials believe that the perpetrators of these acts were members of the ERP.

The residence of a construction worker official was machinegunned in Cordoba.

In Salta the residence of a former official of the municipal government was bombed.

The ERP took over a local television broadcasting station in Cordoba and broadcast propaganda for a short period of time utilizing a taped message.

January 21, 1975

A group of terrorists took over and burned the San Rafael railroad station in Tucumán.

In La Plata, the residence of a BAPP officer was forcibly entered and the credential and badge of this officer were stolen.
TWO UNOCCUPIED HOUSES WERE BOMBED BY TERRORISTS IN TUCUMAN. IN BAHIA BLANCA, BAP, A BOMB ATTACK WAS CARRIED OUT AGAINST A PRIVATE RESIDENCE.

IN CORRIENTES BOMB ATTACKS WERE CARRIED OUT AGAINST TWO BROTHERS, WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE PROVINCIAL POLICE. THE MONTONEROS CLAIMED CREDIT FOR THESE BOMB ATTACKS.

JANUARY 23, 1975

A DOCTOR WAS KIDNAPPED AND SUBSEQUENTLY FOUND MURDERED IN TUCUMAN.


JANUARY 24, 1975


IN TUCUMAN THE BODIES OF TWO ERP MEMBERS WERE DISCOVERED. MEMBERS OF THE ERP BROKE INTO THE RESIDENCE OF A PRIVATE CITIZEN AND SERIOUSLY WOUNDED HIM DURING AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT.

IN CORDOBA THE BODY OF RAFAEL GUSTAVO GIGENA WAS DISCOVERED IN VILLA CARLOS PAZ, CORDOBA PROVINCE. THE VICTIM WAS THE BROTHER OF ENRIGUE GIGENA, WHO WAS KILLED ON NOVEMBER 20, 1974, DURING A SHOOTOUT WITH THE CORDOBA PROVINCIAL POLICE.
January 25, 1975

An FPA officer was robbed of his gun and badge in Rafael Calzada, BAP.

A bomb attack was carried out against the director of "El Diario", an afternoon newspaper published in La Plata. In Bahia Blanca, BAP, the law office of a local attorney was machine gunned.

In Tucuman the residence of a sugar workers union officer was bombed.

A Santa Fe provincial police officer was kidnapped by several armed individuals. He was subsequently released after being subjected to a beating. His service revolver and police credentials were stolen.

January 26, 1975

The residence of a construction worker was bombed in...
CORDOBA

JANUARY 27, 1975

A BOOKSTORE WAS BOMBED IN THE FC.

IN VIEDMA THE RESIDENCE OF A PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL WAS BOMBED.

FOUR PRESUMED TERRORISTS FORCIBLY ENTERED A GARAGE IN NUNEZ, BAP, AND STOLE TWO AUTOMOBILES. IN NEARBY MUNRO, BAP, SIX ARMED INDIVIDUALS PRESUMED TO BE TERRORISTS FORCIBLY ENTERED A GARAGE AND STOLE FOUR AUTOMOBILES. AN OFFICIAL OF THE BAPP ADVISED THAT THE THEFT OF AUTOMOBILES BY TERRORISTS USUALLY IS A WARNING SIGN THAT SOME MAJOR TERRORIST ACT WILL OCCUR WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

IN CORDOBA SIX POUNDS OF HIGH EXPLOSIVES, TOGETHER WITH BLASTING CAPS AND FUSES, WERE STOLEN FROM A CONSTRUCTION SITE BY PRESUMED TERRORISTS.

JANUARY 28, 1975

IN THE SUBURB OF B. A. ARMANDO CANZIANI, NATIONAL DIRECTOR FOR REGIONAL DELEGATIONS OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOR AND HIS BODYGUARD WERE ASSASSINATED BY GUNMEN FROM A MOVING CAR.

11. ON JANUARY 28TH, 1975 A ROUTINE LIAISON MEETING WAS HELD BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY OFFICE AND SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE FPA. THE TOPIC OF DISCUSSION WAS WEAPONRY AND ITS EMPLOYMENT AS KNOWN TO BE IN USE BY TERRORIST ELEMENTS.

1. CONVENTIONAL HAND/SHOULDER WEAPONS: TERRORIST ELEMENTS (ERP AND MONTONEROS) HAVE IN THEIR POSSESSION AN EXTENSIVE QUANTITY OF HAND GUNS AND SHOULDER WEAPONS OF THE CONVENTIONAL TYPE. THESE WEAPONS ARE OF VARIOUS CALIBRES AND MAKES. ASSASSINATIONS TO DATE HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT USING HAND GUNS, SHOT GUNS, AND SUB MACHINE GUNS.
2. CREW SERVED WEAPONS: THE TERRORISTS HAVE MORTARS, RECOILLESS RIFLES, BAZOOKAS, HEAVY MACHINE GUNS, ROCKET LAUNCHERS, ANTI-TANK GUNS AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPONS.

A. THE ROCKET LAUNCHERS ARE KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN USED ON AT LEAST FOUR OCCASIONS WITHIN THE METROPOLITAN AREA OF BUENOS AIRES I.E. ATTACK ON US EMBASSY SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BUENOS 00698 02 OF 03 301419Z


B. NO INFORMATION WAS FURNISHED CONCERNING THE USE OF CREW SERVED MACHINE GUN, RECOILLESS RIFLE OR ANTI-TANK AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS FOR ASSASSINATIONS.

C. FPA REPRESENTATIVES STATED THAT THE BAZOOKA HAD NOT BEEN USED FOR ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT TO DATE. THEY ADVISED THAT THE BAZOOKA WAS BEING MANUFACTURED BY LOCAL TERRORISTS. ACCORDING TO THE FPA, AMMUNITION FOR THE BAZOOKA (ROCKETS) ARE BEING SUPPLIED BY CUBA. THE DETONATOR OF THE ROCKET IS ALSO BEING SUPPLIED FROM CUBA BUT ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY. ATTEMPTS BY TERRORISTS TO SUCCESSFULLY MANUFACTURE A DETONATOR WHICH IS RELIABLE HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL TO DATE. IT WAS THE VOLUNTEERED OPINION OF THE FPA REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE TERRORISTS WERE SAVING THE USE OF THE BAZOOKA FOR A "SPECTACULAR". THEY ALSO STATED THAT THE FPA HAD TESTED ONE OF THE ROCKETS WHICH WAS CONFISCATED DURING THE COURSE OF A RAID AND FOUND THAT AT 100 METERS IT WOULD PENETRATE 50 MILIMETERS OF ARMOR.
PLATING.

D. BOMBS. THE FPA ADVISED THAT BOMBS HAD BEEN EMPLOYED IN THE LAST SIX TO EIGHT MONTHS IN THE ASSASSINATION OR ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF WELL KNOWN PERSONALITIES. I.E. GENERAL PRATT, SEPTEMBER 30, 1974, CHIEF, FPA, ALBERTO VILLAR, NOVEMBER 1, 1974, AND ATTEMPTED ASSASS-
SECRET

PAGE 04 BUENOS 00698 02 OF 03 301419Z

INATION OF CHIEF FPA LUIS MARGARIDA, DECEMBER 23, 1974. IN THE PRATT CASE THE BOMB WAS AFFIXED TO THE AUTOMOBILE WITH A MAGNETIC DEVICE AND FIRED BY A MECHANICAL TIMER. IN THE VILLAR INCIDENT THE BOMB WAS ATTACHED TO THE BOTTOM OF A MOTOR CRUISER AND DETONATED BY RF SWITCH. THE ATTEMPT ON MARGARIDA WAS CARRIED OUT BY EMPLOYING A "CLAYMORE" DETONATED BY RF SWITCHING.

1. ACCORDING TO FPA THE BOMB PRESENTING THE GREATEST THREAT IS THE CLAYMORE. TERRORIST FACTIONS HAVE RECEIVED CONSTRUCTION INFORMATION AND EMPLOYMENT TECHNIQUES ON THESE WEAPONS FROM CUBA WHICH IN TURN OBTAINED ITS INFORMATION FROM THE VIETNAM CONFLICT.

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SECRET

PAGE 01 BUENOS 00698 03 OF 03 301443Z

53

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2. THE CURRENT TREND OF EMPLOYMENT IS THAT OF ATTACHING THE BOMB TO THE SIDE OF A VEHICLE, DRIVING THE VEHICLE INTO POSITION ALONG A KNOWN ROUTE TRAVELED BY A DIGNITARY AND DETONATING IT AS THE DIGNITARY PASSES. THEY WERE OF THE OPINION THAT THE BEST DEFENSIVE TECHNIQUE AGAINST THE USE OF THIS BOMB AND THE TYPE OF M0 DESCRIBED IS THAT OF TRAVELING LARGE WELL USED STREETS; BECAUSE, IT WOULD NOT BE IN THE TERRORIST INTERESTS TO BRING ABOUT MASS KILLINGS OF BYSTANDERS.

3. THE TYPE OF EXPLOSIVES USED IN THE CLAYMORE VARIES. IN SOME CASES "PLASTIQUE" IS BEING EMPLOYED, ON THE OTHER HAND THE TERRORISTS ARE MAKING USE OF BLACK POWDER AND OTHER EXPLOSIVES (FERTILIZER BASED) WHICH CAN BE EASILY COMBINED AND MANUFACTURED IN THEIR OWN WORKSHOPS. IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE DESIRED EFFECTS OF EXPLOSION THE TERRORISTS VARY THE SIZE OF THE CLAYMORE.

4. THE EXPLOSIVE EXPERTS OF THE FPA ADVISED THAT THEY WERE BEGINNING TO STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF BOMBING FROM "TUNNELING". TO DATE THEY HAD NO INFORMATION INDICATING SUCH AN OPERATION HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT IN BUENOS AIRES.

5. THE MAJOR CONCERNS OF THE FPA REPRESENTATIVES ARE THE TECHNIQUES OF DETECTION AND CONCEALMENT OF CLAYMORES IN BUILDINGS SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BUENOS 00698 03 OF 03 301443Z

STRUCTURES, STREETS, ETC. FOR FUTURE ACTIVATION.

CONDENSED ANALYSIS OF TERRORISM AS RELATED TO LEFT WING GROUPS IN ARGENTINA.

1. AT PRESENT, THERE ARE TWO LEFT-WING TERRORISTS GROUPS IN ARGENTINA WHICH HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO ENGAGE IN MORE THAN SPORADIC ACTS OF VIOLENCE. THEY ARE THE PEOPLES REVOLUTIONARY ARMY
2. THE MONTONEROS, WHICH ABRUPTLY DECIDED TO GO UNDERGROUND IN SEPTEMBER 1974 AS A RESULT OF UNOFFICIAL GOVERNMENT AND RIGHT WING PERONIST REPRESSION, ARE INVOLVED IN EFFORTS TO CONSOLIDATE THEIR FORCES AND ORGANIZE THEMSELVES FOR A PROTRACTED STRUGGLE AGAINST THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT. THUS, WHILE THE MONTONEROS CONTINUE TO CARRY OUT ISOLATED TERRORIST ACTS—SUCH AS THE ASSASSINATION OF FORMER POLICE CHIEF ALBERTO VILLAR AND THE ABDUCTION OF THE BORN BROTHERS, THE PRINCIPAL FOCUS OF THEIR ACTIVISTS THUS FAR HAS BEEN ON INTERNAL ORGANIZATION AND POLITICAL ACTION TO GAIN ADHERENTS AMONG SUPPORTERS OF PERONISM. RECENT INFORMATION INDICATES THAT THE MONTONEROS ARE IN CONTACT WITH A SECTOR WITHIN THE ARGENTINE MILITARY WHICH IS SYMPATHETIC TO THE FORMATION OF "PERUVIAN-STYLE" MILITARY GOVERNMENT. ACCORDING TO THIS INFORMATION THE MONTONEROS FEEL THEIR BEST HOPE FOR ATTAINING POLITICAL POWER IN THE FUTURE RESTS WITH THE FORMATION OF AN ALLIANCE OF PROGRESSIVE MILITARY, LABOR AND YOUTH SECTORS. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE ANNOUNCED INTENTION BY THE PERONIST YOUTH TO FORM A "DESCAMISADO" POLITICAL PARTY IS AN EFFORT TO FORGE SUCH AN ALLIANCE. THUS, THE MONTONEROS ARE BELIEVED TO BE RELUCTANT TO BECOME TOO CLOSELY INVOLVED WITH THE RP, ALTHOUGH CERTAINLY CONTACT IS MAINTAINED BETWEEN THE GWO GROUPS, AND TO PARTICIPATE IN ACTIONS WHICH THE MONTONEROS JUDGE ARE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO THEIR LONG RANGE POLITICAL OBJECTIVES. WHILE FIRM INFORMATION ON THIS IS NOT AVAILABLE, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE MONTONEROS HAVE AN ARMED FORCE OF APPROXIMATELY 2,000 TRAINED COMBATANTS.

3. IN CONTRAST TO THE BASICALLY DEFENSIVE MILITARY POSTURE OF SECRET THE MONTONEROS, AND DESPITE THE PRESENT PERIOD OF REDUCED TERRORIST ACTIVITY, THE ERP CONTINUE TO DECLARE PUBLICLY ITS INTENTION OF ENGAGING IN ASSASSINATIONS, IDNAPPING AND OTHER ACTS OF VIOLENCE. THE TACTICAL PLANS OF THE ERP APPEAR TO BE BASED ON THE OBJECTIVES OF DIVIDING THE ARGENTINE BODY POLITICAL AND FOMENTING SUFFICIENT UNREST AND PUBLIC DISORDER TO BRING ABOUT A MILITARY COUP D'ETAT. IN THIS MANNER, AND ESPECIALLY THROUGH GROWING POLARIZATION OF POLITICAL FORCES, THE ERP HOEPS TO BE
ABLE TO ASSUME THE LEADERSHIP OF THE FORCES OF THE LEFT, INCLUDING THE MONTONEROS, FOR THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE EVENTUAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT.

4. THE CURRENT REDUCED TERRORIST ACTIVITY ON THE PART OF THE ERP IS BELIEVED TO BE RELATED TO TWO BASIC DEVELOPMENTS. FIRST, AND UNDOUBTEDLY MOST IMPORTANT IS THAT THE ERP IS BEING SUBJECTED TO STRONG REPRESSION BY THE ARGENTINE SECURITY FORCES. THE ERP HAS SUFFERED SUBSTANTIAL LOSSES IN MEN AND MATERIAL DURING THE PAST THREE MONTHS, IS QUITE OBVIOUSLY ON THE DEFENSIVE AND IS BUSILY ENGAGED IN PROTECTIVE MEASURES TO PREVENT ADDITIONAL REVERSALS. SECONDLY, THE ERP IS PROBABLY REASSESSING ITS TACTICS IN THE AFTERMATH OF ITS RANDOM ASSASSINATION CAMPAIGN AGAINST ARGENTINE ARMY OFFICERS. THERE IS EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT ERP LEADERS GROUNDEDLY CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE CAMPAIGN, WHICH WAS INITIATED IN RETALIATION FOR THE DEATHS OF APPROXIMATELY 16 ERP COMBATANTS FOLLOWING THE ABORTIVE ERP ATTACK ON A MILITARY REGIMENT IN THE PROVINCE OF CATA MPA IN AGU 1974 HAD BECOME A POLITICAL LIABILITY AND HAD RESULTED IN REDUCING THE IMAGE OF THE ERP AMONG THE GENERAL PUBLIC. ERP LEADERS REPORTEDLY DECIDED TO SELECT FUTURE TERRORIST TARGETS WITH MORE CARE AND TO PLACE MORE ATTENTION ON POLITICAL ACTION PROJECTS. RELATED TO THIS WAS THE ASSESSMENT BY THE ERP THAT THE ARGENTINE ECONOMY WOULD BEGIN TO SHOW SIGNS OF SIGNIFICANT DETERIORATION BY MID 1975. ACCORDINGLY, THE ERP HAS DECIDED TO UNDERGO PREPARATIONS FOR A NEW TERRORIST OFFENSIVE IN THE MARCH/APRIL 1975 TIMEFRAME. PURPORTEDLY, THIS OFFENSIVE IS TO BE DIRECTED PRIMARILY AGAINST THE ECONOMIC BASE OF THE COUNTRY, INCLUDING SABOTAGE AGAINST ESSENTIAL INDUSTRIES, AND DESIGNED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE EXPECTED ECONOMIC DETERIORATION.

5. SUCH PREPARATIONS ARE NOT EXPECTED TO RESULT IN A COMPLETE HIATUS OF ERP TERRORISM DURING THE PERIOD LEADING UP THE SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 BUENOS 00698 03 OF 03 301443Z

PROJECTED NEW OFFENSIVE. THE ERP WILL UNDOUBTEDLY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ANY OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE DISCORD IN THE COUNTRY AND BRING ADDITIONAL PRESSURES ON THE GOVERNMENT STABILITY. FOR EXAMPLE RECENT REPORTING HAS INDICATED THE ERP WAS CONSIDERING SOME TERRORIST ACTION IMMEDIATELY PRECEDEING OR DURING THE NOW POSTPONED MEETING FOR FOREIGN MINISTERS IN BUENOS AIRES, WHICH WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN MAR 1975. THE PURPOSE OF SUCH

6. AS WITH THE MONTONEROS, FIRM INFORMATION ON THE NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF THE ERP IS NOT AVAILABLE. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE ERP HAS SOME 400 TO 800 TRAINED COMBATANTS. AGAIN, AS WITH THE MONTONEROS, THIS NUMBER ONLY REFERS TO ARMED AND TRAINED TERRORISTS AND DOES NOT INCLUDE SUPPORT PERSONNEL AND SYMPATHIZERS.

IV. SUBSEQUENT SUMMARY REPORTS WILL BE SUBMITTED EVERY SEVEN TO TEN DAYS AS MATERIAL IS COLLECTED. SERIOUS INCIDENT REPORTS SHOULD SUCH OCCURE WILL BE PROVIDED ON AN IMMEDIATE BASIS. HILL

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