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10/20/76

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10/20/76:X29210
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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full

S/S - () Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to
Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

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IMMEDIATE

BUENOS AIRES

~~REDACTED~~ CAPTIONED

FOR ATTB. ONLY FROM ASST. SEC. SHLAUDEMAN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, AR, US

SUBJECT: GUZZETTI'S VISIT TO THE U.S.

REF: BUENOS AIRES 6871

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HWS

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S/S-

1. AS IN OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES YOU HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY ENCOUNTERED IN YOUR DIPLOMATIC CAREER, GUZZETTI HEARD ONLY WHAT HE WANTED TO HEAR. HE WAS TOLD IN DETAIL HOW STRONGLY OPINION IN THIS COUNTRY HAS REACTED AGAINST REPORTS OF ABUSES BY THE SECURITY FORCES IN ARGENTINA AND THE NATURE OF THE THREAT THIS POSES TO ARGENTINE INTERESTS. AN EXAMPLE OF THE FILTER HE EMPLOYED (OR PERHAPS A REFLECTION OF HIS POOR GRASP OF ENGLISH) IS THE QUOTATION ASCRIBED TO AMBASSADOR MARTIN ON "BEING CAREFUL" ABOUT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH. WHAT ED SAID WAS THAT IF PRIESTS WERE GUILTY OF CRIMES, THEY SHOULD BE ARRESTED AND TRIED -- BUT IF THEY SIMPLY DISAPPEARED OR WERE SHOT THAT COULD NEVER BE ACCEPTED IN THIS COUNTRY.

2. AS FOR THE "CONSENSUS OF THE MEETING," ON OUR SIDE IT WAS THAT GUZZETTI'S ASSURANCES THAT A TRANQUIL AND VIOLENCE-FREE ARGENTINA IS COMING SOON MUST PROVE A REALITY IF WE ARE TO AVOID SERIOUS PROBLEMS BETWEEN US.

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GUZZETTI'S INTERPRETATION IS STRICTLY HIS OWN. WITH RESPECT TO "UNDERSTANDING" ARGENTINA'S PROBLEMS, WE DID INDEED TAKE COGNIZANCE OF THE VIOLENT ASSAULT ON ARGENTINE SOCIETY FROM THE OTHER SIDE AND EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT WE COULD CONTINUE TO BE HELPFUL IN THE TASK OF RESTORING ARGENTINA'S ECONOMY.

3. ON THE HARKIN PROBLEM, THE SECRETARY WARNED GUZZETTI THAT WE WOULD BE FORCED TO VOTE AGAINST ARGENTINE LOANS ABSENT AN IMPROVEMENT IN CONDITIONS. WE HAVE TOLD THE ARGENTINES THAT WE WOULD NOT VOTE NEGATIVELY AT THE MOMENT IN LIGHT OF OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY, BUT MIGHT BE FORCED TO ABSTAIN. ~~{IF OUR IMPRESSION THAT COUNTER-TERRORISM HAS DECLINED RECENTLY IS ILL-FOUNDED, PLEASE CORRECT IT.}~~ THE GOA HAS POSTPONED A \$30 MILLION INDUSTRIAL-CREDITS LOAN, BUT NOT AS GUZZETTI INDICATED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. THE LOAN SHOULD COME UP AGAIN WITHIN A FEW WEEKS.

4. WITH RESPECT TO YOUR CLOSING ADMONITION ABOUT THE FUTILITY OF REPRESENTATIONS, WE DOUBT THAT THE GOA HAS ALL THAT MANY ILLUSIONS. IT WAS OBVIOUS HERE THAT EVEN GUZZETTI KNEW HIS COUNTRY HAD A PROBLEM. IN ANY EVENT, YOU AND WE HAVE LAID IT OUT AS BEST WE COULD. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I AGREE THAT THE ARGENTINES WILL HAVE TO MAKE THEIR OWN DECISIONS AND THAT FURTHER EXHORTATIONS OR GENERALIZED LECTURES FROM US WOULD NOT BE USEFUL AT THIS POINT. 44

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