

UNCLASSIFIED

3/29/77

CT002

R

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

March 29, 1977

PARTICIPANTS: Rev. Monsignor Pio Laghi, Papal Nuncio, Argentina
Patricia Derian, D/HA
Fernando Rondon, ARA/ECA
Robert S. Steven, POL, Amembassy Buenos Aires

PLACE: Papal Nunciatura, Buenos Aires

DISTRIBUTION: Ambassador Hill

In response to Ms. Derian's request for his views on the human rights situation in Argentina, Monsignor Laghi reviewed several background points which he said were important to a proper understanding of the present circumstances. First, he noted that the Argentine political structure had been functioning poorly long before the military coup of March 1976. The influence of Peron, in or out of office, had dominated and distorted the political scene for thirty years, and it was clear that the political institutions of the country were in a state of collapse. Second, he said that Argentina at the time of the coup had sunk "100 meters beneath the water" of corruption and social and political disarray. Most Argentines thought they were "only 50 meters beneath the water," but time had shown that the problem was much more serious than was realized and that more time was needed for recovery. The nation had "begun to float on the surface" now, but it was covered in the mud of corruption and disorganization and recovery had taken and would take longer than anticipated. Third, he said, there was guilt in the leaders of the country; they knew that they have committed evil in human rights matters and do not need to be told of their guilt by visitors. This would be "rubbing salt into the wounds."

In addition, the military had a real fear of the power of the terrorists at the time of the coup. They believed it possible that the guerrillas might be able to control two or three provinces, and that their strength was such that the life of the nation might be seriously disrupted by them. Individual military and police officers and men went in genuine fear of their lives. That fear at least partially explained the harshness and tactics adopted in combating subversion. Monsignor Laghi said that groups of rightists, not under the control of the higher officers of the government, were responsible for serious abuses.

The USG, he said, should be very careful in how it went about pressing its human rights case with the Argentine government. The great danger was that the position of the moderate elements in the government around Videla would be weakened and that other hardline generals would take power in their own coup. The human rights situation would then be even worse, he claimed. He counseled caution in how the US exercised its pressures upon the Videla government.

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 _____



UNCLASSIFIED

85D366
13769

UNCLASSIFIED

2.

He and the Argentine bishops had taken the same course of action in regard to the human rights situation. Some few of the 80 bishops were on the extreme right or left of the spectrum from complete support of the government's tactics in combating terrorism to sympathy with the opposition to the government. Most, however, remained moderate, and placed themselves above the political struggle. They and he had repeatedly and in very strong terms made private representations to the government, protesting human rights violations and demanding accounting for thousands of individual cases. In only a few cases had they received information from the government, however, and it had been pointed out to the government that the Church would have no alternative soon but to begin to speak out publicly. This time might come for the bishops after their conference in May. He himself had warned the President personally that he would be travelling to Rome to report to the Pope in late April or early May, and that the President must consider whether or not he wished to see the Nunciatura remain in the hands of a Chargé for an indefinite period of time.

The Nuncio expressed his conviction that Videla and other leaders are good men at heart. Videla was in his view a good Catholic, a man deeply aware of and concerned over the personal religious implications of his responsibilities. Videla had visited him in the Nunciatura within the week and such matters were discussed. Many of the military were men with grave problems of conscience which they brought to the military chaplains. The Nuncio was aware of their deep disturbance and felt some could become sick. At the same time, they believed that they were doing what was necessary.

When asked if he considered that the Church and Catholics were persecuted in Argentina, he showed surprise and quick denial. He said that individuals among the 5,500 priests and 11,000 nuns had been arrested or abused, but rejected the suggestion that the Church as such was under attack. At the moment there were 12 priests in detention, 7 of whom were non-Argentine. Several of them were detained up to two and one-half years ago, under the preceding government, and were under charges. Trials had even been started on some, but there had been delays such as changes of judges at the time of the coup, and the Church had been pressing for resolution of their cases. The Nuncio stated that about 7 of the total of 12 priests had admitted their involvement in or association with subversion. For example, two had been captured arms in hand leading an assault on a police station; another had hidden arms for the guerrillas. The Church hoped that in the cases of the foreigners at least it would be possible to secure their expulsion from Argentina after trial. But aside from these cases and isolated episodes such as those involving Father Rice and Father Weeks, it could not be said that the Church was subject to special persecution by the government.

The Nuncio also denied that Jews were subject to persecution, in response to a question from Ms. Derian. He kept in touch with Jewish leaders and believed that Jews were not singled out for persecution as Jews. He acknowledged that individual anti-semitic military or police officers might exhibit their bias when dealing with a subversive suspect who also happened to be Jewish, but felt that in the broader sense there was no anti-semitism in Argentina.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

3.

He was unable to comment in other than very general terms when queried by Ms. Derian about the status of women in Argentina. He expressed his recognition of the less advanced position of women in societies such as Argentina, but clearly did not feel that there was meaningful legal or social discrimination against women.

As the visitors departed, the Nuncio thanked Ms. Derian for the visit and commented upon his close and highly satisfactory relationship with Ambassador Hill and the Embassy.

POL:RSSSteven:jf

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1977BUENOS06716

Page: 1

Channel: n/a

9/9/77

Case Number: 200000044

Kφ24

R

<<<<.>>>>

[REDACTED]

PAGE 01 BUENOS 06716 01 OF 03 091836Z
ACTION DHA-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 CA-01 MCT-01 SCS-03 EUR-12
/092 W

-----034556 092032Z /72

P R 091530Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2158
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

[REDACTED] SECTION 1 OF 3 BUENOS AIRES 6716

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, AR, PINS
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS COORDINATOR MEETINGS WITH FOREIGN
MINISTRY GROUP

1. SUMMARY: MRS. DERIAN MET WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S WORKING GROUP ON THREE OCCASIONS, THE SECOND MEETING BEING HELD AT THEIR REQUEST. THE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS PRESENT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FIRST SESSION AND AT THE END OF THE THIRD, HOSTING THE LUNCHWHICH FOLLOWED IT. THE THEME REITERATED BY THE GROUP WAS THEIR DESIRE THAT MRS. DERIAN CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THE ARGENTINE SITUATION AND THEY REPEATEDLY OFFERED TO DO ALL THEY COULD TO CLARIFY MATTERS. MRS. DERIAN EXPRESSED HOPE WITH THE SIGNS OF PROGRESS THEY DESCRIBED, WONDERED IF THIS ATTITUDE WAS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD AT ALL LEVELS OF THE GOVERNMENT, AND CAUTIONED THAT TIME WAS LIMITED AND THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD DEMONSTRATE ITS STRENGTH TO THE PEOPLE OF ARGENTINA AND THE WORLD NOW BY ACTING OPENLY AND IN ACCORD WITH ITS TRADITIONAL LEGAL VALUES. END SUMMARY.

[REDACTED]

PAGE 02 BUENOS 06716 01 OF 03 091836Z

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 1

UNCLASSIFIED

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

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1977BUENOS06716

Page: 2
Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

2. FIRST WORKING GROUP MEETING, AUGUST 8. THIS MEETING WAS PRECEDED BY A MEETING BETWEEN MRS. DERIAN AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER, WITH A FEW OTHERS PRESENT. MRS. DERIAN ASKED FOREIGN MINISTER MONTES: (1) HOW HABEAS CORPUS PLEAS WERE PROCEEDING, (2) HOW MR. TIMMERMAN'S CASE WAS COMING, REFERRING TO HER CONCERN OVER HIS HEALTH, AND (3) WHAT PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE IN REINSTITUTING REGULAR PROCEDURES FOR THOSE UNDER DETENTION. THE MINISTER RESPONDED BY SAYING HE WOULD LIKE TO PROVIDE MAXIMUM INFORMATION AND ASKED IF MRS. DERIAN WOULD LIKE TO SEE ANYONE IN PERSON IN ORDER TO HAVE A COMPLETE PICTURE OF THE SITUATION BECAUSE, IF SO, HE WOULD ARRANGE IT. MRS. DERIAN ASKED FOR TIME TO THINK OVER THE LATTER PROPOSAL.

3. MRS. DERIAN STRESSED THE U.S. DESIRE TO RETURN TO THE EXTRA GOOD FEELING WHICH HAD TYPIFIED GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, NOTED THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE THREAT WHICH HAD FACED ARGENTINA, OBSERVED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS ESSENTIALLY BROKEN THE BACK OF THE SUBVERSIVES, ENCOURAGED A DEMONSTRATION OF STRENGTH AT THIS TIME BY RETURNING TO NORMAL LEGAL PROCEDURES, SUGGESTED PUBLISHING A LIST OF THE "DISAPPEARED" ABOUT WHOM THE GOVERNMENT HAD KNOWLEDGE AND CAUTIONED THAT THE PUBLIC SUPPORT GIVEN THE GOVERNMENT IN A TIME OF EMERGENCY WOULD NOT CONTINUE INDEFINITELY.

4. THE FOREIGN MINISTER AGREED THAT SUBVERSION HAD BEEN DESTROYED, SAID THAT WHILE HE HAD NO CRYSTAL BALL THE SITUATION WOULD BE UNDER CONTROL IN A SHORT TIME, STRESSED THAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE AND EXPRESSED THE DESIRE THAT RELATIONS STAY GOOD BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ARGENTINA AND THE SOUTHERN CONE COUNTRIES.

5. THE WORKING GROUP SESSION STARTED WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY GROUP DESCRIBING U.S./ARGENTINE DISCUSSIONS AS BEING CONSTRUCTIVE TO DATE. AS A DEMONSTRATION OF THEIR DESIRE TO PROVIDE

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
PAGE 03 BUENOS 06716 01 OF 03 091836Z

MRS. DERIAN WITH ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION, SHE WAS GIVEN A BOOK WHICH SHE WAS ASKED TO CONSIDER CONFIDENTIAL. IT WAS STRESSED THAT WHILE MUCH PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE, PROBLEMS CONTINUE AND THE U.S. WAS ASKED TO BE PATIENT AND UNDERSTANDING. THE ARMED FORCES HAD NOT ONLY INHERITED A SITUATION OF SUBVERSION BUT ALSO ONE OF POLITICAL CHAOS. MRS. DERIAN SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO SEND THEORISTS TO OTHER COUNTRIES TO STUDY POLITICAL ORGANIZATION AND OFFERED U.S. ASSISTANCE. THE

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 2

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1977BUENOS06716

Page: 3

Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

RESPONSE WAS THAT PART OF ARGENTINA'S PROBLEM WAS THE TENDENCY TO OVER ANALYZE AND INCORPORATE FOREIGN IDEAS.

6. MRS. DERIAN SAID SHE HAD FORGOTTEN TO ASK THE FOREIGN MINISTER ABOUT THE RIGHT OF OPTION AND WONDERED IF THERE WERE PLANS TO RESTORE SOME ASPECTS OF IT. COL. SULLIVAN OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR RESPONDED THAT, WHILE NOT YET APPROVED, THE PROPOSAL FOR FULL RESTORATION WAS BEING STUDIED. HE ADDED THAT WHILE FORCES TO THE RIGHT AND LEFT ARE TRYING TO BLOCK PROGRESS, THE GOVERNMENT IS PROGRESSING AND HE SAID THAT THE BOOK GIVEN MRS. DERIAN DESCRIBES STEPS BEING TAKEN.

7. THE DISCUSSION THEN RETURNED TO THE BOOK WHICH WAS SAID TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS WHICH ALWAYS ARISE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE USG, I.E., INFORMATION AND LISTS ON THE NUMBER AND NAMES OF DETAINED, A SHORT EXPLANATION OF THE POWERS AND CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THE GOVERNMENT IS OPERATING, A LIST OF DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS TAKEN AGAINST THOSE ABUSING AUTHORITY (A SEPARATE LIST MARKED SECRET NAMING INDIVIDUALS SO DISCIPLINED WAS SHOWN BUT NOT GIVEN TO MRS. DERIAN), STATISTICS ON TERRORIST ACTS.

8. AT THIS POINT DISCUSSION WAS DIVERTED FROM THE BOOK WHILE THE FOREIGN MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVES LAMENTED THE FACT THAT TERRORIST ACTS DON'T RECEIVE THE SAME PUBLICITY WHICH GOVERNMENT ACTS DO. MRS. DERIAN AGREED, SAYING THIS IS SO BECAUSE PEOPLE EXPECT A STATE TO REACT IN A LEGAL WAY AND WHEN IT EMPLOYS METHODS USED BY TERRORISTS IT LOSES PUBLIC SYMPATHY. THE COUNTER RESPONSE WAS THAT, WHILE THE GOA DID

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PAGE 04 BUENOS 06716 01 OF 03 091836Z

NOT USE TERRORIST METHODS IT WAS FORCED TO RESORT TO EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST SUBVERSION, BUT THAT EXCESSES WERE PUNISHED. THEY SPECULATED ON HOW THE U.S. WOULD REACT IN A SIMILAR SITUATION AND CITED ACTIONS TAKEN RECENTLY IN RESPONSE TO THE AFTERMATH OF THE NEW YORK BLACKOUT. THEY WONDERED HOW WE WOULD REACT TO PUBLIC CRITICISM FROM THE GOA. MRS. DERIAN RESPONDED BY NOTING THAT NO ONE HAS REALLY STUDIED THE PROBLEM OF HOW TO REACT TO ALL OUT TERRORISM AND

[REDACTED]

NNN

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 3

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1977BUENOS06716

Page: 4

Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

[REDACTED]
PAGE 01 BUENOS 06716 02 OF 03 091822Z
ACTION DHA-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CA-01 MCT-01 SCS-03 EUR-12
/092 W

-----034185 092033Z /72

P R 091530Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2159
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

[REDACTED] SECTION 2 OF 3 BUENOS AIRES 6716

THAT THE INSTINCTIVE APPROACH SEEMS TO BE TO FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE. SHE HOPED WE COULD LEARN FROM THE EXPERIENCES OF OUR NEIGHBORS AND NOTED THAT THE INTERESTING THING ABOUT THE NEW YORK INCIDENT WAS THE GREAT EFFORT WHICH WAS MADE TO USE NORMAL PROCEDURES. SHE NOTED THAT THE PROCESS WAS OPEN AND WIDELY PUBLICIZED. SHE ADMITTED THAT THE U.S. HAD MANY PROBLEMS AND DESCRIBED HER OWN PREVIOUS WORK IN THE FIELD OF CIVIL RIGHTS, AND NOTED THE MANY GROUPS, INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WHICH WORK FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES. SHE SAID THE U.S. WOULD HAVE ITS OWN WEAKNESSES OPEN TO PUBLIC VIEW AT THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE AND WILL WORK TO CORRECT ITS FAULTS. SHE SAID THAT WHILE SHE INTENDED TO EXERCISE DISCRETION WITH REGARD TO PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON ARGENTINA THERE IS NO WAY WE COULD OR WOULD WISH TO GAG THE FREE PRESS.

9. THE GROUP AGREED WITH MRS. DERIAN AND POINTED TO SIGNS OF OPENESS IN ARGENTINE SOCIETY SUCH AS THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, THE LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, STATEMENTS BY POLITICAL PARTY REPRESENTATIVES, AND THE COMMUNIQUE OF THE

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
PAGE 02 BUENOS 06716 02 OF 03 091822Z

BISHOPS. THEY SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS OPEN TO STATEMENTS FROM

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 4

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1977BUENOS06716

Page: 5

Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

RESPECTABLE GROUPS OF SUFFICIENT STANDING BUT THEY CRITICIZED MALINTENTIONED INFORMATION PUT OUT BY SUBVERSIVES AS PART OF AN INTERNATIONAL PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE GOA. THEY EXPRESSED CONCERN WITH WITNESSES HEARD BY THE FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE AND THE USG RECEPTION OF SOLARI IRRIGOYEN. THEY SAID THE GOA WELCOMES THE EXPRESSION OF DIFFERENT POINTS OF VIEW AND REFERRED TO GOVERNMENT OFFICES, SUCH AS ONE IN THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OPEN TO RECEIVE COMPLAINTS AND ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC.

10. MRS. DERIAN ASKED WHAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD DONE TO PROTECT THE LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE WHO WAS THREATENED BY RIGHT WING ANTI-SEMITIC GROUPS. THE RESPONSE WAS THAT THEY REGRETTED THAT THEY HADN'T BEEN INFORMED OF THE THREATS AND HAD COMMUNICATED WITH HIM SINCE AND WERE PROTECTING HIS OFFICE AND HOME AND ALLOWING THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY TO RECOVER ITS RECORDS. THE DISCUSSION THEN TURNED TO THE GENERAL PROCESS FOR PROTECTING CITIZENS. MRS. DERIAN ASKED HOW LONG A PERSON WAS DETAINED BEFORE HIS NAME WAS MADE PUBLIC. THE RESPONSE WAS THAT AN OFFICIAL ORDER INSTRUCTS ALL SECURITY FORCES TO SUBMIT NAMES OF THOSE DETAINED TO THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR WITHIN 10 DAYS OF CAPTURE. (ALTHOUGH A SHORT EXTENSION CAN BE REQUESTED FOR CAUSE IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES.) THE NAMES OF THOSE DETAINED ARE PUBLISHED UPON RECEIPT. IF NAMES ARE NOT PROVIDED IN 10 DAYS THEN THERE IS NO GUILT AND THE SUSPECT IS FREED. A SOCIAL REHABILITATION PLAN FOR PRISONERS IDEOLOGICALLY OPPOSED TO THE GOVERNMENT WAS DESCRIBED AS A FURTHER INDICATION OF PROGRESS BEING MADE.

11. THE CLASSIFIED BOOK GIVEN MRS. DERIAN WAS SAID TO LIST ALL THOSE DETAINED WITH JUDICIAL PROCEDURE AND ALL THOSE DETAINED AND CHARGED UNDER THE STATE OF SIEGE. IN ADDITION THE NAMES OF [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PAGE 03 BUENOS 06716 02 OF 03 091822Z

ALL THOSE TAKEN LATELY WHETHER CHARGED OR UNCHARGED, WERE SAID TO BE INCLUDED. IT WAS REITERATED THAT THE GOA, LIKE OTHER GOVERNMENTS, COULD NOT ACCOUNT FOR ALL PEOPLE WHO DISAPPEAR IN THE COURSE OF A YEAR AND ESTIMATED THAT LESS THAN 500 PEOPLE ARE BEING HELD BY EXECUTIVE POWER WITH A TOTAL OF SOME 2029 BEING HELD UNDER SOME KIND OF CHARGE. IT WAS REITERATED THAT IT WAS LEGAL IN ARGENTINA TO HOLD SOMEONE INCOMMUNICADO FOR TEN DAYS. MRS. DERIAN EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR THE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS DURING THIS TIME PERIOD. THE RESPONSE

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 5

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1977BUENOS06716

Page: 6
Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

WAS THAT TORTURE IS NOT USED AS A NORMAL WAY OF OBTAINING INFORMATION AND WHERE IT WAS KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN USED, SANCTIONS HAVE BEEN APPLIED. THE MINISTRY GROUP STRESSED THAT ARGENTINE PRISONS ARE OPEN TO THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS

FOR INSPECTION AND THAT THERE ARE NO MILITARY DETENTION OR CONCENTRATION CAMPS.

12. RETURNING AGAIN TO THE BOOK, PART II WAS DESCRIBED AS CONTAINING THE ARGENTINE POSITION IN THE OAS WITH REGARD TO THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. MRS. DERIAN ASKED IF THE COMMISSION WOULD BE COMING TO ARGENTINA. THE RESPONSE WAS NO BUT THAT THE GOA HAS AND WILL CONTINUE TO TALK TO THE IAHRG AND SEEKS WAYS TO MAKE THIS A SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND NOT A METHOD OF IMPOSING SANCTIONS. IT WAS SUGGESTED WE TALK AT LENGTH ABOUT THIS IDEA SOMETIME.

13. MRS. DERIAN ENDED BY REFERRING TO A LETTER FROM THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE INQUIRING ABOUT FELLOW SCIENTISTS IN ARGENTINA AND SAID SHE HAD OTHER LETTERS OF INQUIRY WHICH SHE WOULD EITHER BRING THE NEXT TIME OR SUBMIT VIA THE EMBASSY. (MRS. DERIAN SUBMITTED LETTER TO FONOFF ON AUGUST 9. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NO REPLY TO DATE.)

14. SECOND WORKING GROUP MEETING, AUGUST 9.
THIS MEETING SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN CALLED FOR THE PURPOSE OF
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PAGE 04 BUENOS 06716 02 OF 03 091822Z

SHOWING HOW FACTS CAN BE DISTORTED IN THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS. THE ATMOSPHERE WAS CONFRONTATIONAL. MRS. DERIAN WAS TOLD A LONG AND COMPLICATED STORY BY MINISTRY OFFICIAL ARLIA ABOUT THE RECENT DISAPPEARANCE OF A YOUNG SWISS NAMED ALEXIS JACAR. AT THE END OF THE STORY SHE WAS ASKED HOW THE GOA COULD REFUTE THIS INFORMATION. COMPLAINTS WERE ALSO REGISTERED ABOUT OTHER ATTACKS MADE ON THE GOA, SOME IN U.S., AND THE FACT THAT BILATERAL PUNITIVE MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST ARGENTINA LEAD TO CONFRONTATION AND HURT MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING.

15. MRS. DERIAN EXPLAINED THAT WE WERE TRYING VERY HARD TO UNDERSTAND THE ARGENTINE SITUATION BUT THAT THE GOA MUST ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THE U.S. HAS LEARNED FROM ITS OWN DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCES THAT IT MUST PURSUE

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 6

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1977BUENOS06716

Page: 7

Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

ITS SENSE OF VALUES IN ITS INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. THIS
DECISION HAS BEEN REINFORCED BY THE IDEOLOGICAL DEBATE WITH
THE USSR IN WHICH WE HAVE FOR SO MANY YEARS REMAINED SILENT

[REDACTED]

NNN

[REDACTED]

PAGE 01 BUENOS 06716 03 OF 03 091925Z
ACTION DHA-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CA-01 MCT-01 SCS-03 EUR-12
/092 W

-----035541 092033Z /72

P R 091530Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2160
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

[REDACTED] SECTION 3 OF 3 BUENOS AIRES 6716

IN THE FACE OF PUBLIC SOVIET STATEMENTS OF THEIR GOALS AND
BELIEFS. SHE EXPLAINED THAT THE USG'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY HAS TWO
GOALS (1) TO INCREASE THE OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AROUND THE
WORLD, AND (2) TO DISTANCE OURSELVES FROM REPRESSIVE GOVERNMENTS.
SHE WARNED AGAINST GETTING INTO LEGALISTIC DISPUTES OVER
INDIVIDUAL OCCURANCES IN A WAY WHICH DIVERGES FROM A DISCUSSION
OF THE REAL ISSUES AND THE GENERAL GOALS OF OUR FUTURE
RELATIONSHIPS. SHE STRESSED ARGENTINA'S STRUGGLE AND COUNSELED
THAT NOW WAS THE TIME TO ACT IN AN OPEN AND POSITIVE WAY AND
THAT THIS WOULD BE THE BEST POSSIBLE MEANS OF PENDING OFF
CRITICISM.

16. THE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER SAID HE UNDERSTOOD MRS.
DERIAN'S MESSAGE AND THAT THE GOA SHARED IT. HE SAID THAT THEY
HAVE FOUGHT, AND CONTINUE TO FIGHT ARMED AGRSSION, AND SUFFER
FROM THE RESIDUAL OF IDEOLOGICAL AGRSSION AGAINST WHICH THEY
HAVE NOT TAKEN STEPS. HE SAID THAT ARGENTINA IS NOT A
REPRESSIVE COUNTRY; CITING ECONOMIC PROGRESS, HE SAID THAT THE

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 7

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1977BUENOS06716

Page: 8
Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

PUBLIC HAS COLLABORATED WITH THE GOVERNMENT, AND HE SAID THAT

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PAGE 02 BUENOS 06716 03 OF 03 091925Z

VIOLENCE IS LIMITED TO A SMALL GROUP WHICH SYSTEMATICALLY VIOLATES THE LAW. MRS. DERIAN ASKED IF VIOLENCE WAS NOW COMING FROM THE RIGHT. MINISTRY OFFICIAL ARLIA ANSWERED NO, THAT IT IS STILL COMING FROM THE SAME LEFTISTS AS BEFORE.

17. THIRD WORKING GROUP MEETING AUGUST 10. MRS. DERIAN WAS ASKED TO EVALUATE WHAT SHE HAD LEARNED DURING HER VISIT. WHILE EXPLAINING THAT SHE HAD NOT YET HAD TIME TO REFLECT, MRS. DERIAN DESCRIBED THE FOLLOWING IMPRESSIONS TO THE GROUP. SHE SAID SHE WAS HEARTENED BY EARLY STEPS TOWARD (1) REINSTITUTING THE RIGHT OF OPTION, (2) PUBLISHING LISTS OF ALL THOSE DETAINED AND (3) GETTING THE JUDICIAL PROCESS GEARED UP SO THAT PEOPLE COULD EITHER BE CHARGED OR RELEASED. WHILE NOTING HOPEFUL SIGNS THAT SOME THINGS WERE BEGINNING TO HAPPEN WITH SOME REGULARITY, SHE SAID SHE WAS STILL CONCERNED WITH THE WIDE GAP WHICH SEEMS TO EXIST BETWEEN THEORY AND PRACTICE, E.G., THE TEN DAY INCOMMUNICADO LIMIT COULD BE EXTENDED, AND IN PRACTICE SEEMED INOPERATIONAL, AND THE SUPREME COURT'S INQUIRY REGARDING THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH'S PROCEDURES IN CONSCIENTIOUSLY INVESTIGATING HABEAS CORPUS PETITIONS HAS NOT BEEN ANSWERED YET. SHE SAID SHE FELT AT THE FIRST MEETING THAT THERE WAS MUCH DEFENSIVENESS AND THAT IT WAS HARD TO TALK FRANKLY AND OPENLY. SHE NOTED THAT COMMUNICATIONS HAVE NOW IMPROVED. SHE SAID SHE HAD THE SENSATION THAT THERE WAS A LIMITED TIME PERIOD AVAILABLE. SHE SAID SHE WAS ASSURED THAT MANY OF THE THINGS WHICH HAPPENED EARLY IN THE GOVERNMENT'S RULE WERE NOW VIEWED AS UNNECESSARY AND SOME AS UNWARRANTED AND THAT SINCE MARCH A MOVE TOWARD GREATER REGULARITY AND A DIFFERENCE IN ATTITUDE WAS PREVALENT. SHE SAID THAT PEOPLE WERE NOW WRESTLING WITH THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE PAST, E.G., WHAT TO DO WITH ALL THESE PRISONERS AND HERE SHE NOTED THE DISTRESS OF THE FAMILIES OF THE PRISONERS AND DESCRIBED SOME OF THE SAD STORIES WHICH

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PAGE 03 BUENOS 06716 03 OF 03 091925Z

FAMILY MEMBERS HAD TOLD HER. SHE SAID THAT A SHADOW HUNG OVER

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 8

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1977BUENOS06716

Page: 9

Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

THIS AMICABLE GATHERING, AS IF ARGENTINA WAS A PLACE WHICH HELD A TERRIBLE SECRET. SHE WONDERED IF BELOW THE LEVEL OF THIS GROUP, IF THE OFFICIALS AND THE ARMED SERVICES HAVE A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO DO -- THAT LOWER OFFICIALS SEEMED AFRAID TO GIVE OUT INFORMATION TO FAMILY MEMBERS AND AFRAID TO RAISE OFFICIAL OBJECTIONS TO ABUSES THEY FOUND. IN SUMMARY MRS. DERIAN SAID THAT HER IMPRESSION WAS WHILE SHE SAW GREAT HOPE AND POSSIBILITY ON THE ONE HAND, ON THE OTHER HAND SHE SAW MUCH SADNESS.

18. DEPUTY MINISTER RESPONDED THAT MRS. DERIAN HAS HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO GATHER MANY IMPRESSIONS IN HER SHORT STAY BUT THAT THE BREVITY OF HER STAY COULD NOT ENSURE THAT THEY ARE BALANCED. HE ASKED HER TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE OPENESS AND COOPERATION OF THE GOA IN MAKING AN EVALUATION OF THE SITUATION. HE SAID THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM SHOULD BE LIMITED TO ITS PROPER DIMENSIONS AND NOT CONTAMINATE OTHER AREAS OF INTEREST IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS, I.E., THAT WHILE HE WAS NOT PRETENDING TO ISOLATE THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM HE ASKED THAT IT BE KEPT IN CONTEXT WHEN CONSIDERING OTHER PROBLEMS. HE STRESSED THAT ARGENTINA HAD BEEN ENGAGED IN A FIGHT IT HAD NOT CHOSEN AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT SOUGHT TO PRESERVE THE RIGHTS OF THE MAJORITY EVEN THOUGH THIS MEANT A FEW MUST SUFFER.

19. MRS. DERIAN EXPLAINED THAT THIS IS WHERE WE HAD OUR GREATEST DIFFERENCES. THAT TERRORISTS WERE TRYING TO DO AWAY WITH THE WAY OF LIFE AND DEMOCRATIC PROCEDURES OF GOVERNMENT AND TO FIGHT THEM WITH THEIR OWN TACTICS WAS TO LOSE THE WAR.
HIGGINS

[REDACTED]

NNN

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 9

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: LIMDIS, STADIS
Document Number: 1977STATE192822

8/15/77

Page: 1

Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

J257

<<<<.>>>>

PAGE 01 STATE 192822
ORIGIN DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-06 SS-14 SSO-00 INR-05 INRE-00
L-01 SP-02 /031 R

DRAFTED BY D/HA/HR:MBOVA:DI
APPROVED BY D/HA:PDERIAN

Reception

-----042385 151903Z /50

O 151758Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

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 _____

[REDACTED] STATE 192822

STADIS////////////////////////////////////
LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, AR

SUBJECT: DERIAN VISIT WITH ADMIRAL MASSERA

FOR CHARGE CHAPLIN

BEGIN SUMMARY

1. AT HIS REQUEST, U.S. COORDINATOR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
PATT DERIAN MET WITH JUNTA MEMBER MASSERA ON MORNING OF
AUGUST 10. THE ADMIRAL STRESSED THAT ARGENTINA WAS IN
THE PROCESS OF RETURNING TO NORMAL LEGAL PROCEDURES AND
THAT MUCH PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE SINCE MS. DERIAN'S LAST
VISIT. MRS. DERIAN EXPRESSED HER HOPE THAT NORMALIZATION
COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED SOON AND IN SUCH A WAY THAT ALL
LEVELS OF THE SECURITY APPARATUS WOULD UNDERSTAND IT.
END SUMMARY.

2. THE ADMIRAL STARTED THE CONVERSATION BY STRESSING THAT
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PAGE 02 STATE 192822

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 1

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: LIMDIS, STADIS
Document Number: 1977STATE192822

Page: 2

Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE IN CONTROLLING THE SITUATION. WHILE NOTING THAT FALSE INFORMATION CIRCULATES, AND SOME INCIDENTS CONTINUE TO OCCUR ("SOME GROUPS STILL ESCAPE US") HE STRESSED THAT THE END WAS IN SIGHT. MRS. DERIAN EXPRESSED HER HOPE THAT THIS WAS THE CASE AND NOTED TWO THINGS OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO THE USG: (1) THE

LARGE NUMBER OF DISAPPEARED AND (2) THE CONDITIONS OF BEING HELD INCOMUNICADO WHERE PEOPLE ARE TREATED TOO HARSHLY. SHE SAID SHE HOPED NEW PROCEDURES WILL BE INTRODUCED.

3. ADMIRAL MASSERA SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT NUMBERS PRESIDENT VIDELA OR ADMIRAL ALLARA HAD PROVIDED REGARDING THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE CHARGED OR TAKEN ILLEGALLY BUT HE SAID THE LAST FEW MONTHS SHOWED RAPID PROGRESS. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE ARGENTINE ARMY WAS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT FROM OTHERS IN THAT ITS ORGANIZATION CONTAINED CORE COMMANDERS WHO HAD SOME INDEPENDENCE IN ADMINISTERING INTERNAL SECURITY BUT SAID THAT THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT PRESIDENT VIDELA WAS NOT IN CONTROL. HE ADVISED THAT THERE COULD BE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE IMPRESSION RECEIVED OF THE CURRENT SITUATION AND THE ACTUAL REALITY.

4. MRS. DERIAN EXPRESSED HER CONCERN OVER THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO DON'T KNOW IF MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILY ARE DEAD OR ALIVE. SHE MENTIONED THAT LABOR LEADERS AND OTHERS HAVE BEEN IN JAIL SINCE 1975. SHE SAID THAT THE SYSTEM SEEMS TO HAVE GROUND TO A HALT, E.G., PEOPLE WERE PICKED UP AND NEVER CHARGED, SOME WERE HELD WITH NO EVIDENCE AGAINST THEM, SOME WERE TRIED AND FOUND INNOCENT BUT STILL DETAINED. SHE EXPLAINED THAT AFTER A
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PAGE 03 STATE 192822

PERIOD OF TIME THE GOVERNMENT, HAVING WON THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM, SHOULD SHOW ITS STRENGTH BY SAYING TO THE PEOPLE THAT IT HAS WON BUT IT NEEDS HELP IN THIS MOP-UP PHASE. SHE SAID THE TERRORISTS ACHIEVE THEIR MAIN OBJECTIVE OF DESTROYING THE LEGAL INSTITUTIONS OF THE STATE IF THE GOVERNMENT DOESN'T ADMIT IT HAS WON THE WAR AND MUST NOW RETURN TO THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM BY BRINGING THOSE DETAINED TO TRIAL. SHE CITED THE CASE

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 2

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: LIMDIS, STADIS
Document Number: 1977STATE192822

Page: 3

Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

OF JACOBO TIMMERMAN AS AN EXAMPLE, ADDING HE HAS BEEN MISTREATED WHILE UNDER DETENTION. ADMIRAL MASSERA SAID HE DIDN'T BELIEVE TIMMERMAN HAD BEEN MISTREATED ALTHOUGH HE MAY HAVE SAID HE HAS BEEN.

5. RETURNING TO THE GENERAL SITUATION, MRS. DERIAN SAID THAT MANY PEOPLE IN THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT HAD TOLD USG REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE NAVY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ABUSES WHICH OCCUR WHEN PEOPLE ARE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY AND INTERROGATED BEFORE THEY ENTER THE SYSTEM. ADMIRAL MASSERA RESPONDED THAT, WHILE HE DOESN'T WISH TO GIVE THE APPEARANCE OF "WASHING HIS HANDS OF THE MATTER," INTERNAL SECURITY IS NOT THE NAVY'S RESPONSIBILITY, THAT THE NAVY HAS NOT TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION AND WHEN IT DOES DO SOMETHING IN THIS AREA IT DOES SO WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE ARMY. HE SAID THAT THOSE WHO SAY OTHERWISE ARE TRYING TO DECEIVE. MRS. DERIAN SAID THAT ON HER PRIOR VISIT SHE HAD BEEN TOLD THAT ONE OF THE WORST INTERROGATION CENTERS WAS THE NAVY MECHANICAL SCHOOL IN BUENOS AIRES. THE ADMIRAL DENIED THIS, SAYING THAT THE NAVY'S ENTIRE ANTI-SUBVERSIVE ROLE WAS CARRIED OUT BY NO MORE THAN THIRTY PEOPLE.

6. MRS. DERIAN SAID THAT WHEN SHE WAS IN ARGENTINA BEFORE THERE WAS A GENERAL ATTITUDE THAT THE WAR AGAINST TERRORISM WAS COMING TO AN END BUT WAS NOT REALLY OVER. THIS TIME SHE GOT THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT EVERYONE CONCLUDES THE WAR IS NOW OVER AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOW

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PAGE 04 STATE 192822

REACHED THE EQUALLY DIFFICULT PHASE OF GETTING BACK TO NORMAL DEMOCRATIC PROCEDURES. SHE ADVISED THAT THE PEOPLE BECOME IMPATIENT IF THIS PHASE TAKES TOO LONG TO CARRY OUT. SHE MENTIONED THAT SHE HAD DISCUSSED THIS PROBLEM WITH THE MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND THAT HE GAVE HER THE IMPRESSION THAT HE, TOO, WAS WORRIED ABOUT TIME. SHE REFERRED TO THE LEGISLATION PASSED IN THE U.S. CONGRESS WHICH SETS A ONE YEAR TIME LIMIT ON CONTINUING CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS WHICH WE HAVE WITH ARGENTINA. SHE SAID THAT INTERNATIONAL OPINION WAS BECOMING MORE AND MORE CRITICAL OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN ARGENTINA AND SAID IT WOULD BE DEVASTATING IF ARGENTINA BECAME THE NEXT CHILE IN THE EYES OF THE INTER-

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 3

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: LIMDIS, STADIS
Document Number: 1977STATE192822

Page: 4

Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

NATIONAL COMMUNITY. MRS. DERIAN EXPLAINED THAT SHE THINKS THERE ARE PEOPLE OF GREAT INTEGRITY IN THE GOVERNMENT WHO HOLD THE SAME VALUES THAT BOTH OUR CONSTITUTIONS INSCRIBE FOR OUR CITIZENS AND THAT SHE FEELS VERY UNHAPPY THAT THERE IS SUCH A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEORY AND PRACTICE.

7. THE ADMIRAL RESPONDED THAT, WHILE HE COULDN'T TALK OF A TIME PERIOD, THAT HE HAD NO CRYSTAL BALL WITH WHICH TO PREDICT, ARGENTINA WAS ON THE ROAD TO NORMALIZATION. HE ADMITTED THAT IN THE ROUGH BATTLE AGAINST TERRORISM SOME THINGS GOT OUT OF HAND, BUT THAT THERE HAS BEEN REAL IMPROVEMENT SINCE MARCH. HE REFERRED TO ONE OF HIS OFFICERS ESPECIALLY DESIGNATED TO RECEIVE PEOPLE LOOKING FOR THEIR RELATIVES AND SAID HIS CASE LOAD HAS DROPPED MARKEDLY.

8. MRS. DERIAN REFERRED TO THE RECENT CASE OF THE LAWYERS AND THEIR WIVES WHO HAD BEEN KIDNAPPED AND THE CASE OF THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR TO VENEZUELA. ADMIRAL MASSERA

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
PAGE 05 STATE 192822

SAID THE AMBASSADOR'S CASE WAS CLEARLY POLITICAL, THAT HE KNEW SOME PEOPLE BLAMED THE NAVY FOR IT, BUT THAT SOMETHING ELSE WAS INVOLVED, PERHAPS, A LEFTIST GROUP TRYING TO MAKE TROUBLE FOR THE GOVERNMENT. HE SAID HE DOESN'T BELIEVE THAT ONE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S FORCES OUT OF CONTROL IS RESPONSIBLE, AS THIS WOULD GO AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT AND DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.

9. MRS. DERIAN SAID THAT BECAUSE OF THE DISORDER SO MANY CAN OPERATE THINKING THEY HAVE THE APPROVAL OF EITHER THE GOVERNMENT OR THE PEOPLE, THAT THE LEFT WING HAS BEEN LICKED BUT A MONSTER CREATED. ADMIRAL MASSERA SAID HE DIDN'T SEE IT THAT WAY. HE SAID THE RIGHT WING IS VERY SMALL IN ARGENTINA AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN STEPS, LIKE THE CLOSING OF THE MAGAZINE CABILDO. HE SAID THE RIGHT EXISTS ONLY AS A POLITICAL FORCE. MRS. DERIAN MENTIONED THAT THE INCIDENT AGAINST THE LAWYERS COULDN'T HAVE OCCURRED WITHOUT SOME OFFICIAL SUPPORT. ADMIRAL MASSERA ASKED WHAT PRESIDENT VIDELA HAD TOLD HER ABOUT THIS INCIDENT AND, WHEN SHE RESPONDED THAT THEY HADN'T DISCUSSED IT, HE SAID THAT INCIDENTS SUCH AS IT COULD BE

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 4

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: LIMDIS, STADIS
Document Number: 1977STATE192822

Page: 5
Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

COUNTED ON THE FINGERS OF YOUR HAND.

10. MRS. DERIAN ASKED WHAT THE CHANCES WERE FOR EITHER A COMPLETE OR PARTIAL REINSTATEMENT OF THE RIGHT OF OPTION. ADMIRAL MASSERA EXPLAINED THAT THIS CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT HAD BEEN SUSPENDED FOR SIX MONTHS, THAT THIS TIME WAS NEARLY UP, AND THAT THE THOUGHT WAS TO REINSTATE IT. HE EXPLAINED THAT IN THE BEGINNING MANY PEOPLE WERE UNDER EXECUTIVE JUDGMENT AND IT WAS DIFFICULT TO CLARIFY CASES. HE EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO GET CASES MOVING AND BROUGHT TO TRIAL SO THAT THERE COULD BE RELEASES AND A RESTORATION OF THE RIGHT OF OPTION. HE ASKED MRS. DERIAN TO MAINTAIN AN EQUILIBRIUM REALIZING THAT WHILE THESE CASES WERE IMPORTANT, THEY WERE OLD AND FEW AND THE JUNTA WAS ON THE ROAD TO NORMALIZATION.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PAGE 06 STATE 192822

11. MRS. DERIAN SAID SHE HAD THE SENSE BUT WAS WORRIED ABOUT UNCERTAINTY AMONG LOWER GRADE OFFICIALS AND WONDERED WHETHER WHEN THE CHANGES COME THEY WOULD BE DIRECT AND CLEAR SO THAT PEOPLE WON'T FEEL THEMSELVES IN JEOPARDY AND THE PROCESS OF LOCATING THE DISAPPEARED WILL BE ENHANCED RATHER THAN HURT. ADMIRAL MASSERA SAID THE GOVERNMENT COULD, AT LEAST, PUBLISH A LIST IN THE NEWSPAPERS OF ALL THE PEOPLE IT HAS STATING IT DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO OTHERS. HE SAID THE LIST WOULDN'T BE LONG, THAT SOME LISTS ARE BEING PUBLISHED AND THAT WHILE MANY HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO TRIAL HE REALIZES THERE ARE SOME IN A GREY ZONE AND THAT THIS HURTS THE GOVERNMENT.

12. MRS. DERIAN ENDED BY REFERRING TO THE HABEAS CORPUS PETITIONS SUBMITTED TO THE EXECUTIVE BY THE SUPREME COURT SAYING IT WAS MUCH ON PEOPLES MINDS AND THAT SHE WOULD BE GLAD WHEN ALL THIS WAS OVER. SHE SAID THAT THE REINSTATEMENT OF LEGAL PROCEDURES WOULD CERTAINLY HELP RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND STRESSED THAT WE WERE ANXIOUS TO RETURN TO NORMAL GOOD RELATIONS.

13. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADD COMMENTS AND SUGGEST DISTRIBUTION. VANCE

[REDACTED]

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 5

UNCLASSIFIED