

UNCLASSIFIED

DOCUMENT_ID: 179729475
DOCNO: 003835
PRODUCER: BUENOS AIRES
SOURCE: STATE
DOCTYPE: IN
DOR: 19980730
TOR: 150858
DOCPREC: R
ORIGDATE: 199807301858
MHFNO: 98 2264367
DOCCLASS: U

HEADER

RR RUEAIIA
ZNR UUUUU ZOC STATE ZZH
MSI2089
RR RUEHC
DE RUEHBU #3835 2111858
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 301858Z JUL 98
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2362
INFO RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 0595
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 5998
RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION 0697
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 3612
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN 0126
RUEHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN 0215
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 0030
RUEAWJA/DOJ WASHDC
BT

CONTROLS

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 003835

SECSTATE FOR EUR/HEAC - BINDENAGEL/WOLFSON

ALSO FOR E - BENNETT FREEMAN

DOJ FOR OSI - EBWHITE

E.O. 12958: NA

TEXT

TAGS: KNAR, PHUM, EFIN, PREL, AR
SUBJECT: NAZI GOLD: ARGENTINE VIEWS ON JUNE 29-30 SEMINAR

REF: STATE 132671

1. COUNSELOR RODOLFO BLACHOWISZ, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE MFA'S OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS AND ONE OF FIVE ARGENTINES WHO ATTENDED THE JUNE 29-30 ORGANIZING SEMINAR IN WASHINGTON, EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE SEMINAR AND SAID THE ARGENTINES HAD LEARNED A LOT. HE SAID THE GOA IS "COMFORTABLE" WITH THE USG'S RECENTLY ISSUED REPORT ON WARTIME RELATIONS WITH THE NEUTRALS, POINTING FOR EXAMPLE TO

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2007

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
2000

CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO
DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR
RELEASE OF CIA INFORMATION
IN THIS DOCUMENT

UNCLASSIFIED

AN OP-ED PIECE THAT APPEARED RECENTLY IN A MAJOR BUENOS AIRES DAILY (SEE PARA 3 BELOW). HE CONTRASTED THIS WITH WHAT HE SAID WAS THE CLEARLY UNCOMFORTABLE REACTION OF SOME OF THE OTHER NEUTRALS, PARTICULARLY SWITZERLAND AND TURKEY.

2. BLACHOWISZ REVIEWED THE UPCOMING ACTIVITIES OF THE GOA'S COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO NAZI ACTIVITIES IN ARGENTINA (CEANA). HE SAID THE SECOND REPORT PREPARED BY CEANA'S ACADEMIC EXPERTS WILL SHORTLY BE CIRCULATED TO THE ENTIRE COMMISSION FOR COMMENT AND THEN PUBLISHED IN LATE AUGUST OR EARLY SEPTEMBER. A THIRD AND FINAL REPORT IS PLANNED FOR RELEASE IN OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER. THE ENTIRE COMMISSION OF OVER 50 MEMBERS WILL BE INVITED TO A PLENARY MEETING IN BUENOS AIRES NOVEMBER 16-18, AT WHICH THE COMMISSION'S ORIGINAL ONE-YEAR MANDATE WILL LIKELY BE EXTENDED. THE PLENARY WILL COINCIDE WITH THE PLANNED NOVEMBER 17 INAUGURATION OF A MEMORIAL TO RAOUL WALLENBERG. FOREIGN MINISTER DI TELLA PLANS TO ATTEND THE WALLENBERG CEREMONY AND BLACHOWISZ SAID THAT THE MINISTRY HAD RECENTLY CONVEYED AN INVITATION TO UNDER SECRETARY EIZENSTAT TO ATTEND AS WELL.

3. THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE TO WHICH BLACHOWISZ REFERRED APPEARED IN THE JULY 14 EDITION OF "LA NACION" AND WAS WRITTEN BY ROBERTO ALEMANN, A FORMER MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. AND NOW A MEMBER OF CEANA. HE WRITES THAT "MORE THAN HALF A CENTURY AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR, THE EIZENSTAT REPORT IN THE UNITED STATES HAS ABSOLVED ARGENTINA OF GUILT AND BLAME" FOR ITS WARTIME ACTIONS AND "A PRESUMED ANTI-SEMITISM THAT WAS NEVER MORE THAN MARGINAL." THE U.S. REPORT REFUTES RECENT CHARGES THAT ARGENTINA RECEIVED NAZI GOLD OR PROVIDED ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO GERMANY AND ITS ALLIES. IT POINTS OUT THAT BETWEEN 25,000 AND 45,000 REFUGEES FROM NAZISM RESETTLED IN ARGENTINA BETWEEN 1933 AND 1945. BY COMPARISON, THE U.S. ACCEPTED ONLY 21,000 REFUGEES DURING THE WAR. ALTHOUGH THE EIZENSTAT REPORT ACKNOWLEDGES THESE FACTS "WITH A NOBILITY WORTHY OF THE BEST CAUSE," THE HOLOCAUST MUSEUM IN NEW YORK STILL MAINTAINS THAT ALL OF LATIN AMERICA ACCEPTED FEWER REFUGEES THAN THE REPORT ASCRIBES TO ARGENTINA ALONE. "THE OLD LEGENDS LIVE ON," CONCLUDES ALEMANN, "DESPITE EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY."

ROCHA

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

UNCLASSIFIED