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TEXT

TAGS: AR, KNAR, PHUM,
COMBINE: COMPLETE

SUBJECT: ARGENTINA: NAZI GOLD UPDATE

CLASSIFIED BY POLITICAL COUNSELOR MARK SIGLER FOR REASON 1.5(D).

1. (U) ACTION REQUEST IN PARAGRAPH 8.

NAZI GOLD IN ARGENTINA?

2. (U) THE GOA'S COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO NAZI ACTIVITIES IN ARGENTINA (CEANA) HAS FOUND EVIDENCE OF A POSSIBLE DEPOSIT OF NAZI GOLD IN THE ARGENTINE CENTRAL BANK IN 1946. ON APRIL 9 HISTORIAN IGNACIO KLICH, COORDINATOR OF CEANA'S ACADEMIC COMMITTEE, SHOWED US AN UNSIGNED COPY OF A 1956 LETTER FROM PERON'S FOREIGN MINISTER, JUAN ATILIO

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SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2007

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BRAMUGLIA, RESPONDING TO AN INQUIRY FROM AN INVESTIGATIVE COMMISSION OF THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT THAT OVERTHREW PERON IN 1955. THE INQUIRY CONCERNED "THE GOLD THAT WAS RECEIVED FROM THE SWISS LEGATION," ACCORDING TO A NOTE TO BRAMUGLIA FROM AN AIDE WHO DRAFTED THE EX-MINISTER'S LETTER.

3. (U) BRAMUGLIA'S BRIEF REPLY, DATED 14 NOVEMBER 1956, STATES THAT "SHORTLY AFTER I BECAME MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND WORSHIP--PERHAPS ONLY A COUPLE OF MONTHS AFTER THAT--I WAS INFORMED OF THE EXISTENCE OF A SHIPMENT OF GOLD FROM THE GERMAN EMBASSY. I RECALL THAT I IMMEDIATELY ORDERED IT TO BE DEPOSITED IN THE CENTRAL BANK, WHICH WAS DONE, BUT I CANNOT RECALL ANY FURTHER DETAILS."

4. (U) KLICH SAYS THAT, ALTHOUGH THE INVESTIGATIVE COMMISSION OF THE "LIBERATING REVOLUTION" THAT OVERTHREW PERON PUBLISHED ITS FINDINGS IN 1958, THE BRAMUGLIA LETTER WAS NOT AMONG THEM. KLICH IS TRYING TO TRACK DOWN THE SIGNED ORIGINAL, PRESUMED TO BE IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ARCHIVES. HE IS ALSO CHECKING WITH A COMMISSION OF EXPERTS IN SWITZERLAND AND WITH CENTRAL BANK PRESIDENT PEDRO POU TO TRY TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE GOLD TRANSFER. LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT THE GOLD, EITHER HOW MUCH WAS INVOLVED OR WHERE IT CAME FROM. KLICH SAID IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT THE GOLD REPRESENTED THE PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF THE GERMAN EMBASSY BUILDING. IF THAT IS THE CASE, HE WONDERED, WHY DID THE SWISS, WHO ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR GERMAN INTERESTS IN **ARGENTINA** IN 1944, WAIT UNTIL 1946 TO DEPOSIT IT?

CEANA EXTENDED THROUGH 1999

5. (U) CEANA'S ORIGINAL ONE-YEAR MANDATE HAS BEEN EXTENDED FOR A SECOND YEAR, THROUGH THE END OF 1999. THE COMMISSION HAS RECENTLY PUBLISHED ITS THIRD REPORT, IN TWO VOLUMES CONTAINING PAPERS BY 23 RESEARCH UNITS ON TOPICS RANGING FROM POSTWAR **NAZI** IMMIGRATION TO NAZI INVESTMENTS AND THE POSSIBLE IMPORTATION OF LOOTED ART. SEVERAL PAPERS DEAL WITH THE IMPACT OF NAZISM ON ARGENTINE SOCIETY, INCLUDING THE MILITARY AND THE JUDICIARY.

GUREVICH RESIGNATION

6. (U) BEATRIZ GUREVICH, AUTHOR OF A PAPER ENTITLED "GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND OTHER PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE IMMIGRATION OF WAR CRIMINALS AND COLLABORATIONISTS IN THE AFTERMATH OF WORLD WAR II," RESIGNED SHORTLY AFTER THE THIRD REPORT APPEARED. IN AN ARTICLE IN THE DAILY "PAGINA/12" ON JANUARY 8, SHE IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT SHE WAS DENIED ACCESS TO KEY ARCHIVES AND THAT DOCUMENTS SHE ATTEMPTED TO CONSULT AT ARGENTINE CONSULATES IN EUROPE HAD DISAPPEARED. THE CHAIRMAN OF CEANA'S ACADEMIC COMMITTEE, MANUEL MORA Y ARAUJO, REJECTED THE CHARGES IN A LETTER TO

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THE NEWSPAPER AND ATTRIBUTED HER RESIGNATION TO "A TEMPERAMENTAL OR PERSONAL ATTITUDE, BUT NOT AN INDICATION OF DEFICIENCIES IN THE PROCEEDINGS OF CEANA."

7. (C) SPEAKING TO US PRIVATELY, MORA Y ARAUJO SAID GUREVICH'S BEHAVIOR HAD BECOME "UNBEARABLE." HER ALLEGATION THAT SHE HAD BEEN DENIED ACCESS TO ARCHIVES WAS NONSENSE. THE FEDERAL POLICE, FOR EXAMPLE, HAD OPENED THEIR ARCHIVES ON THE PERSONAL INSTRUCTIONS OF INTERIOR MINISTER CORACH, BUT HAD ASKED THAT ONLY ONE RESEARCHER AT A TIME BE ADMITTED. GUREVICH HAD SOUGHT ACCESS WHEN ANOTHER CEANA RESEARCHER WAS ALREADY WORKING THERE. IN THE CASE OF HER VISIT TO THE ARGENTINE CONSULATE IN GENOA, SHE HAD SIMPLY GIVEN THE CONSULATE A WRONG ADDRESS. WHEN TOLD THERE WERE NO ARCHIVES AT THAT ADDRESS, SHE HAD ACCUSED THE CONSULATE OF HIDING THEM. MORA Y ARAUJO ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT KLICH HAD ALSO TREATED GUREVICH BADLY AND THAT HE (MORA Y ARAUJO) HAD TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO MEDIATE BETWEEN THEM. ANOTHER CEANA RESEARCHER SECONDED MORA Y ARAUJO AND ATTRIBUTED GUREVICH'S RESIGNATION TO DIVISIONS WITHIN THE ARGENTINE JEWISH COMMUNITY THAT PREDATE CEANA'S CREATION. KLICH HIMSELF POINTED OUT TO US THAT GUREVICH HAD SAID NOTHING AT THE CEANA PLENARY MEETING IN NOVEMBER. HER WORK WOULD BE CONTINUED BY OTHER RESEARCH UNITS, HE SAID.

ACTION REQUEST

8. (U) KLICH HAS ASKED US FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING THE FORMATION OF A USG WORKING GROUP TO DECLASSIFY DOCUMENTS HAVING TO DO WITH NAZI WAR CRIMINALS, DOCUMENTS WHICH MIGHT BE USEFUL TO CEANA. WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR ANY INFORMATION THAT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO SHARE WITH HIM.

ROCHA

ADMIN.
END OF MESSAGE

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