

9/10/79

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SECRET/NOFORN/NOCONTRACT

HUMAN RIGHTS HIGHLIGHTS

ARGENTINA: AUGUST DISAPPEARANCES

SOURCES: Buenos Aires 7200:

STATE DEPT. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW

Retain class'n Change/classify to
 Declassify with concurrence of after

EO 12958-25 3.4 (1)

P
B3

[Redacted]

3.3(b)(1)

(S) [Redacted]

the basis for one plausible explanation

3.3(b)(1)

3.5(c)

of the 10 unresolved disappearance cases that occurred during August and were reported to Embassy Buenos Aires. Not only was the August figure significantly higher than that for any month since January, but the disappearances seemed to undercut Argentine claims to improvement in this area precisely on the eve of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission's (IAHRC) visit (September 6-20).

(S) [Redacted]

the 10 people were

3.3(b)(1)

3.5(c)

remnants of a terrorist group (Fuerzas Armadas Peronistas--FAP), and their arrests were ordered by a federal criminal judge. The government [Redacted] intends to permit the IAHRC to waste time investigating 3.5(c) cases and then produce the 10 in court with the evidence against them.

3.3(b)(1)

3.5(c)

This version coincides with a random remark by an Embassy source in late August to the effect that security agents had scored a coup against the FAP.

(S) [Redacted]

3.3(b)(1)

3.5(c)

[Redacted] reported an army intelligence officer's contention that the ~~disappearances were~~ disappearances were Montoneros connected with a resurgence of that terrorist group's activities in Argentina.

(C) INR COMMENT: The reported court appearances for the 10 have not yet taken place, and we cannot otherwise confirm these reports. Their plausibility stems from the fact that they would help explain why disappearances became more frequent immediately prior to the IAHRC's arrival. If those who were kidnapped are or are believed to be associated with terrorist activities

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(FAP or Montonero), security officials might well have detained them regardless of the predictable consequences for the country's human rights record. ~~This would have been particularly~~ This course would have been even more likely if government authorities really intend to initiate public court proceedings against the detainees in the ~~near~~ near future.

INR/RAR:

3.5(c)

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