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National Intelligence Bulletin

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ARGENTINA

The Argentine guerrillas who kidnaped the honorary US consul in Cordoba are threatening to execute him unless the government shows that four leftist prisoners are alive. The guerrillas set a deadline of 6 p.m. today.

Last month, another terrorist group gave President Peron 72 hours to prove that 16 leftist prisoners were well. In that case, the threat was to kill government employees at random. Photographs of some but not all of the prisoners were published, but the terrorists were apparently satisfied. By periodically demanding that the government show prisoners, the terrorists may hope to prevent security forces from killing them.

Federal police officials do not believe their service is holding any of the prisoners. In fact, two of the men may have been killed by provincial police in Cordoba on September 24.

Security forces yesterday arrested a physician who may have been on the abduction team; he might be able to locate the "people's prison" where the consul is held. The Montoneros, the guerrilla band responsible for the consul's abduction, are increasingly sensitive to public opinion and may not kill him if the government can show that at least one of the prisoners is alive.

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