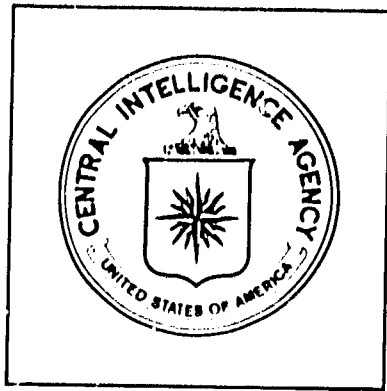


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STAFF NOTES:

Latin American Trends

~~Secret~~

123

March 12, 1975

No. 0500/75

Page Denied

~~SECRET~~

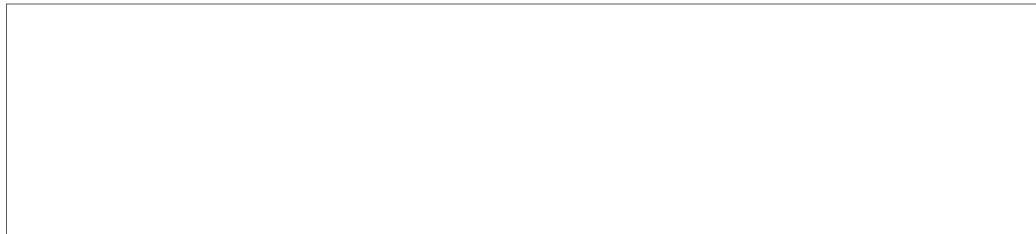
LATIN AMERICAN TRENDS



3.5(c)

CONTENTS

March 12, 1975



NR

Argentina: Embarrassment Over
Kidnaping 5



NR

~~-i-
SECRET~~

Page Denied

Page Denied

Page Denied

Page Denied

~~SECRET~~

3.5(c)

Argentina: Embarrassment Over Kidnaping

The Argentine government still has not provided a satisfactory explanation of its handling of the kidnaping and assassination of honorary consul John Egan. Ambassador Hill has requested an official clarification of policy since he had been previously assured that Egan would have adequate protection at all times. He also questions official statements that the government will not negotiate with terrorists in light of the recent freeing of an imprisoned guerrilla in exchange for the release of a provincial judge.

Reasons for the absence of security guards from the consulate at the time of Egan's abduction are unknown. The official responsible for security in Cordoba, in fact, may have precipitated the action by repeatedly announcing that the terrorist problem in the province had been eliminated.

So far the government has responded to questions about the freeing of terrorist Sergio Schneider by denying a "deal" and claiming that Schneider had requested "safe conduct" out of Argentina before the judge was kidnaped. This story, however, was contradicted by Schneider himself last week in a press interview in Lima. In fact, it is clear that the judge was a friend of a high government official. Moreover, Schneider could be exchanged because he was alive and well. In Egan's case, a similar arrangement was impossible because only one of the four jailed terrorists was alive, and he had been disfigured during interrogation.

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Such incidents could persuade the government to adopt more sophisticated interrogation procedures. [redacted]

[redacted] Egan's murder was the beginning of a campaign against US citizens living in Argentina, which is designed to force security officials to treat captured leftists more humanely. [redacted]

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3.5(c)

March 12, 1975

~~-5-
SECRET~~

Page Denied

Page Denied

Page Denied

Page Denied

Page Denied

Page Denied