

SECRET/NOFORN/NOCONTRACT

C. Steady

ARGENTINA PRO ECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

Release Excise Deny

Exemption(s) 148

Declassify: In Part In Full

Classify as Extend as Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

D.F. 10/26/78

RELEASE IN FULL (D, F)

*PSHum - Report
IN R*

INR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS
OF DEVELOPMENTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS

No. 78, October 26, 1978

CO 011

AFRICA

Zaire

Clemency For Some Prisoners. On October 22, President Mobutu marked the end of the one-year mourning period for his late wife by reducing the sentences of certain non-political prisoners. The sentences of prisoners serving terms of more than two years will be reduced by two years. Those serving terms of less than two years will be released. The clemency does not include individuals sentenced for endangering the security of the state, armed robbery, embezzlement of public funds, murder in the first degree, or voluntary manslaughter. (UNCLASSIFIED, Kinshasa 11248, October 24)

INR Comment. Because persons detained for "endangering the security of the state" are not included in the amnesty, it is highly unlikely that any political prisoners will be freed. During 1978, Mobutu has freed a few political prisoners, notably former Foreign Minister Nguza Karl-i-Bond, and issued a general amnesty for all opponents of the regime living abroad. The International Committee of the Red Cross estimates that 1000 to 1200 persons were arrested in the Shaba region in the aftermath of Shaba II. As of mid-September, none had been charged or tried. The government has announced that it will free those who had been gainfully employed in Shaba, however. (CONFIDENTIAL)

SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE

Soviet Union

Rights Update (INR Review and Analysis)

Kennedy List and Refusenik Outlook. Most of the 18 families on the Kennedy list, including prominent physicist Dr. Benjamin Levich, have received indications from Soviet authorities that they will be allowed to leave the country. Refuseniks hope that the period between the signing of a SALT II accord, if it occurs, and US Senate action on the treaty will provide Soviet authorities with an incentive to act on other long-

Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP

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With concurrence of:

IPS by AHM Date 5-19-16

REVIEW AUTHORITY:
Marvin Russell, Senior
Reviewer

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- 5 -

Peru has a relatively good human rights record, however, and Morales Bermudez's commitment to human rights appears to be genuine. At the decision making level, an added incentive for halting human rights violations is the economic crisis itself, since the US' good will is regarded as essential to obtaining the support that Peru needs to solve its difficulties.
(SECRET/NOFORN/NOCONTRACT)

Argentina

Government Invites IAHRIC Investigation. On October 16, Argentina formally invited the Inter-American Human Rights Commission (IAHRC) to conduct an on-site investigation, preferably between March and May 1979. Negotiations concerning the visit had been in progress since June when the Argentines issued an invitation that the Commission found unacceptable because of restrictions that the government wanted to place on IAHRIC activities.

Press treatment of the invitation as well as the phrasing of the Argentine note did not reveal the discreet and careful manner in which conditions governing the visit have been worked out. According to an aide to President Videla, the Commission will have considerable latitude, including access to prisons, relatives of disappeared persons, and civilian political leaders. It will not have access to military bases, however.

The aide also suggested to Embassy Buenos Aires officers that the US should impress upon the IAHRIC the fact that the invitation encountered strong opposition in some Argentine military quarters. (CONFIDENTIAL, Buenos Aires 8248, October 18)

INR Comment. Hardline nationalist opposition to an IAHRIC investigation probably was dampened by the recent US decision to approve Export-Import Bank financing for a major hydroelectric project, financing that had formerly been denied on human rights grounds. An IAHRIC visit to Argentina would significantly increase the chances of Commission visits to Paraguay and Uruguay by undermining a reported informal agreement among Southern Cone governments to exclude the IAHRIC. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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