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RELEASE IN PART
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PAGE 01 BUENOS 03430 241535Z

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ACTION SY-05

B.I., NR, F

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SSO-00 /013 W

R 241412Z MAY 76
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5756

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
() Release () Excise () Deny
Exemption(s): NR; B1
Declassify: () In Part () In Full
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Date 4/18/01 Declassify on Reason 25X1

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FOR SY/FO, SY/T/SP, A/SY

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, AR, ARA
SUBJECT: "RED BRIGADE", TERRORIST ORGANIZATION, ARGENTINA

1. THE RSO WAS VISITED ON 14 AND 19 MAY BY TWO GOA FEDERAL POLICE OFFICERS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE PROTECTIVE DETAIL FOR THE PRESIDENT OF ARGENTINA. ONE OFFICER IS CONNECTED WITH SECURITY MATTERS (INTELLIGENCE), THE SECOND OFFICER IS A DEMOLITION EXPERT. BOTH OFFICERS PROFESS A BACKGROUND OF DEALING WITH TERRORISTS IN ARGENTINA AND TO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN RECENT JUNGLE SWEEPS TO DESTROY TERRORIST ELEMENTS IN THE PROVINCE OF TUCUMAN. THE OFFICERS FURNISHED THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT.

2. OVER THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS THE FORMATION OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION CALLING ITSELF THE RED BRIGADE OR THE RED BRIGADE OF WORKERS OR THE RED BRIGADE OF WORKERS POWER HAS BEEN UNCOVERED. THIS ORGANIZATION HAD ITS BIRTH IN THE PROVINCE OF CORDOBA PRINCIPALLY WITHIN THE CITY OF CORDOBA. IT IS COMPOSED OF MEMBERS OF OTHER TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS WHICH HAVE SUFFERED AS A RESULT OF POLICE AND MILITARY ACTIVITIES. THESE ORGANIZATIONS ARE THE ERP, GUEVARA YOUTH (JUVENTUD GUEVARISTA), WORKERS POWER (PODER OBRERO). THE RED BRIGADE IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE MOST VIOLENT OF ALL TERRORIST MOVEMENTS TO EVOLVE FROM THE ARGENTINE POLITICAL SCENE. IT CAN BE EXPECTED THAT ACTIVITIES WILL BE MORE VICIOUS, MORE THOROUGHLY PLANNED, AND MORE DEVASTATING THAN THOSE WHICH HAVE BEEN OBSERVED

Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP
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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Kathleen Allegrone,

Current Class: SECRET
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 Document Number: 1976BUENOS03430

Page: 2

Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

~~SECRET~~

PAGE 02 BUENOS 03430 241535Z

IN THE PAST.

THE INTERVIEWEES WERE REQUESTED TO FURNISH STRENGTH FIGURES WITH RESPECT TO THE RED BRIGADE. THEY ADVISED THAT SUCH WAS NOT AVAILABLE SINCE THE UNIT HAD ITS COMPOSITION FROM OTHER TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS AND THERE WAS CURRENTLY NO WAY TO ARRIVE AT AN OVERALL STRENGTH FIGURE.

3. [DURING THE COURSE OF THE DISCUSSION CONCERNING THE RED BRIGADE THE INTERVIEWEES ASKED THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE PROTECTIVE CONVOY OF THE AMBASSADOR: WHAT WILL THE ARMAMENT OF THE CAR PROTECTING THE AMBASSADOR WITHSTAND? WHAT IS THE AVERAGE SPEED OF THE CONVOY? WHAT TYPE OF ARMAMENT IS CARRIED BY THE PROTECTIVE TEAM? THE QUESTIONS CONCERNING SPEED AND BULLET RESISTANCE OF AUTOMOBILES WERE NOT DIRECTLY ANSWERED. THE QUESTION CONCERNING ARMAMENT WAS ANSWERED SINCE SUCH IS OFTEN VISIBLE. THE VISITORS ADVISED THE FOLLOWING: THAT THEY HAD OBSERVED THE AMBASSADOR'S CONVOY IN MOVEMENT AND OPERATION; THAT THEY FELT THAT THE CONVOY SHOULD OPERATE AT A HIGHER SPEED. THEY STATED THAT THE WEAPONS CARRIED BY THE PROTECTIVE DETAIL WERE NOT SUFFICIENT TO MEET EXISTING REQUIREMENTS (PROTECTIVE DETAIL CURRENTLY MAKES USE OF REVOLVERS EMPLOYING .38 CAL. AMMO, 9 MM. PISTOLS, 9MM SUB-MACHINE GUNS AND 12 GAUGE SHOTGUNS). IT WAS RECOMMENDED THAT PROTECTIVE ELEMENTS OF THE AMBASSADOR'S TEAM EQUIP ITSELF WITH AUTOMATIC RIFLES EQUIVALENT TO M-16 AND GRENADES. IN ADDITION, INTERVIEWEES ADVISED THAT PROTECTIVE CAR SHOULD BE CAPABLE OF WITHSTANDING 7.62 MM. NATO ROUND.

THE INTERVIEWEES WERE ASKED WHAT WAS THEIR BASIS FOR MAKING SUCH RECOMMENDATIONS. THEY ADVISED THAT AS A RESULT OF THE FEDERAL POLICE INTELLIGENCE EFFORT IT WAS PRESENTLY THE PLAN OF THE TERRORISTS TO EMPLOY A NEW TECHNIQUE WHEN ATTACKING A CONVOY FOR ASSASSINATION OR KIDNAPPING (INTERVIEWEES DID NOT DEFINE WHICH TERRORIST GROUP NOR DID THEY ADVISE THAT THE INFORMATION BEING FURNISHED WAS SPECIFIC WITH RESPECT TO THE U.S. EMBASSY). THIS TECHNIQUE WOULD INVOLVE THE USE OF 50 TO 60 ARMED INDIVIDUALS. THE PROTECTIVE CARS OF THE CONVOY WOULD BE ENGAGED WITH THE ATTACKERS EMPLOYING

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Current Class: ~~SECRET~~

Page: 2

Current Class: SECRET
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1976BUENOS03430

Page: 3
Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

~~SECRET~~

PAGE 03 BUENOS 03430 241535Z

AUTOMATIC FAL RIFLES 7.62 MM., LARGE WEAPONS (LARGE NOT SPECIFICALLY DEFINED BUT COULD BE BAZOOKAS OR CREW SERVED MACHINE GUNS, BOTH OF WHICH ARE KNOWN TO BE IN THE INVENTORY OF ARGENTINE TERRORIST ELEMENTS), AND GRENADES, WOULD BE EMPLOYED AGAINST THE PROTECTIVE VEHICLES. ONCE THE PROTECTIVE VEHICLES WERE ENGAGED OR HAD ATTEMPTED TO TAKE OUT AN ATTACKING VEHICLE, THE PRINCIPAL VEHICLE WOULD BE PERMITTED TO DEPART THE SCENE. WHETHER THE PRINCIPAL VEHICLE REVERSED ITS COURSE OR WENT STRAIGHT AHEAD IT WOULD BE INTERCEPTED BY SUPPORTING GROUPS AND THE ASSASSINATION OR KIDNAPPING WOULD BE CARRIED OUT. INTERVIEWEES ADVISED THAT THEY WOULD MEET WITH THE RSO DURING THE WEEK OF MAY 31 AND FURNISH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE RED BRIGADE AND THE DESCRIBED TERRORIST TECHNIQUE OF ATTACKING A PROTECTIVE CONVOY. IN ADDITION THEY ADVISED THAT THEIR VISIT DID NOT REPRESENT AN OFFICIAL CONTACT BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT OF ARGENTINA AND THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR, BUT WAS A PERSONAL VISIT BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN PROTECTIVE WORK. HOWEVER THEIR CONTACT WITH THE RSO OFFICE WAS NOT ONLY KNOWN BY THEIR SUPERIORS BUT HAD BEEN DIRECTED BY SUCH.

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HR

4. RSO COMMENT:

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN THE TWO YEARS THAT THE SENIOR RSO HAS BEEN AT THIS POST THAT ANYONE FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL PROTECTIVE DETAIL HAS MADE AN OVERT ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH CONTACT. THEREFORE, IT IS ASSUMED THAT THE VISITORS WERE DIRECTED TO THE RSO'S OFFICE FOR A SPECIFIC PURPOSE. DURING THE COURSE OF THE NEXT MEETING ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE TO DETERMINE IF THE TWO VISITORS WERE ATTEMPTING TO DELIVER A WARNING OF AN IMPENDING ACTION BASED ON MATERIAL AVAILABLE TO THE FEDERAL POLICE, OR WHETHER THE MATERIAL SUPPLIED WAS AN ANALYSIS ON THE FEDERAL POLICE'S PART, AND WAS BEING RELEASED MERELY AS AN OVERT GESTURE OF FRIEND-

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Page: 3