

(EB017) *FALM*
P **RELEASE IN FULL**
B6 (A, D, E)

P820016-0580

February 5, 1982

Dear Mr. Fascelli:

Thank you for your letter of January 20 on behalf of your constituent, Mr. David M. Henschel, concerning the human rights situation in Argentina, and in particular the case of Pablo Armando Lepiscopo.

Over the past few years considerable progress has been made in the release of prisoners being detained by power of the National Executive, the so-called PEN prisoners. Of the estimated 8,200 persons arrested since 1974, less than 650 are now being held under the authority of PEN. Cases of PEN detentions are systematically reviewed by Argentine authorities and we are hopeful that prisoners will continue to be released.

Accounting for the disappeared is one of the most difficult human rights problems facing the Argentine Government and one which we hope the Argentines will eventually resolve. At the same time, we will continue to use our influence directly and in international fora to encourage Argentine officials to make information available to the families of missing persons.

Regarding Mr. Lepiscopo, he is one of the many who have disappeared and about whom we have been unable to ascertain any information. He was last heard from in February 1980. We will ask our Embassy to remain alert to any information that may become available and to notify your office of any significant developments.

Sincerely,

af
Alvin Paul Brischler
Acting Assistant Secretary
for Congressional Relations

~~ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
() Release Excise () Deny
Exemption(s): *B6*
Declassify: () In Part () In Full
() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to
Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____~~

Enclosure:
Correspondence returned.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Stephen Worrel, Senior Reviewer

The Honorable
Dante B. Fascelli,
House of Representatives.

Drafted: ARA/SC:SKO'Connell:mas
2-3-82 X29166 #82-0395
(Disc #11) #12-0365

Clearances: ARA/SC:RES *af*
ARA:ECoolidge *af*
martlett