

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: LIMDIS, STADIS
Document Number: 1977STATE193418

8/15/77

Page: 1

Channel: n/a

R

Case Number: S200000044

Dφ24

PAGE 01 STATE 193418
ORIGIN DHA-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SS-14 SP-02 INR-05 PM-03
MCT-01 PRS-01 IO-06 SSO-00 INRE-00 /044 R

DRAFTED BY: D/HA: MBOVA: ND
APPROVED BY: D/HA: PDERIAN

-----024706 232342Z /61

O 152317Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
 Release Excise Deny
Exemption(s): _____

[REDACTED] STATE 193418

STADIS
LIMDIS--FOR CHRGE' CHAPLIN

Declassify: In Part In Full
 Classify as ___ Extend as ___ Downgrade to ___
Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 11, LINES 2,3)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, AG

SUBJECT: DERIAN MEETING WITH MINISTER OF INTERIOR

1. SUMMARY: HUMAN RIGHTS COORDINATOR MET WITH MINISTER OF INTERIOR ON AUGUST 10. THERE SEEMED TO BE SOME CONFUSION AS TO WHO HAD REQUESTED THE MEETING. THE MINISTER STRESSED HIS DUTY IN PROTECTING THE MAJORITY OF THE ARGENTINE PEOPLE IN A TIME OF WAR AGAINST SUBVERSION, MRS. DERIAN STRESSED THAT THE TIME HAD NOW ARRIVED FOR A RETURN TO DUE PROCESS.

2. MRS. DERIAN STARTED BY EXPLAINING TO THE MINISTER THAT SHE WAS VERY CONCERNED WITH THE ENORMOUS NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO HAD DISAPPEARED, THE NUMBER IN JAIL WITHOUT CHARGES, THE NUMBER WHICH IS SIMPLY LOST AND THE NUMBER FOUND INNOCENT

PAGE 02 STATE 193418

WHO REMAIN IN JAIL. SHE SAID IT APPEARS THAT ONCE A PERSON IS PICKED UP IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO GET RELEASED. SHE REFERRED

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 1

UNCLASSIFIED

Case Number: S200000044

TO THE HARD FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM, STATING THAT SHE THOUGHT THE BACK OF THE TERRORISTS HAD NOW BEEN BROKEN. SHE WORRIED THAT WHEN A WIDE NET IS CAST MANY INNOCENT PEOPLE GET CAUGHT. SHE EXPLAINED THAT THE CHIEF OBSTACLE FOR RETURNING TO NORMAL RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. IS OUR CONCERN FOR THE MASS OF PEOPLE CAUGHT IN THE SYSTEM WITH NOTHING HAPPENING. SHE CITED PARTICULAR CONCERN FOR JACOBO TIMMERMAN AS A PERSON WHO HAS BECOME A SYMBOL OF THIS PROBLEM. SHE NOTED THAT WHEN SHE TALKS WITH HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS THEY SPEAK OF REGULARIZING PROCEDURES, BUT THAT WHEN SHE TALKS TO INDIVIDUALS IT APPEARS THAT THESE PLANS AREN'T BEING CARRIED OUT IN PRACTICE.

3. THE MINISTER RESPONDED THAT HER PREOCCUPATION FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE PERSON ARE NO LESS THAN THE RESPONSIBILITY THE GOA HAS FOR INTERNAL SECURITY. HE SAID THE GOA WAS FIGHTING AN UNDECLARED WAR AND OPERATING UNDER THE EXCEPTIONS GRANTED BY THE CONSTITUTION. HE SAID THIS PERMITTED THE GOVERNMENT TO SHIFT PEOPLE FROM ONE PLACE TO THE OTHER UNLESS THEY EXERCISED THE RIGHT OF OPTION. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THIS RIGHT WAS SUSPENDED BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT COULDN'T AFFORD TO LET 2,000 PEOPLE OUT TO GATHER AGAINST IT ON THE FRONTIER. MRS. DERIAN ASKED IF ALL THE DETAINED WERE TERRORISTS. THE MINISTER NOTED THAT THOSE WHO WERE DETAINED WITHOUT PROCESS WERE TERRORISTS AND THAT THESE ARE FEW. HE SAID MANY ARE GOING THROUGH CIVIL AND MILITARY COURTS.

4. MRS. DERIAN SAID THAT THE INSTINCTIVE REACTION TO TERRORISM IS TO DO WHAT THE GOA HAD DONE AND THAT IT MAKES THE PEOPLE VICTIMS OF THE STATE. SHE REFERRED TO THE
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PAGE 03 STATE 193418

MOTHERS AND WIVES JOIN TOGETHER IN THE PLAZA EVERY THURSDAY AND CALL ON DIFFERENT OFFICES, INCLUDING THAT IN THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, SEEKING INFORMATION ON THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS. SHE ALSO REFERRED TO LABOR LEADERS IN JAIL SINCE 1975.

5. THE MINISTER SAID THAT HE TOO HAD TALKED TO WOMEN WHOSE FAMILY MEMBERS DISAPPEARED AND THAT THERE WAS AN OFFICE IN HIS MINISTRY TO DEAL WITH THEIR INQUIRIES. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT IF THESE WOMEN JOINED TOGETHER IN

Case Number: S200000044

CONCERTED ACTION AND, IN EFFECT, ARE DEMONSTRATING WITHOUT A PERMIT, THAT THIS WOULD BE AGAINST THE LAW. HE ASKED MRS. DERIAN TO CONSIDER THE CAUSES FOR DISAPPEARANCES.

6. SHE SAID SHE HAD HEARD THEM MANY TIMES AND HAD SEEN A BIG BOOK, THAT SHE UNDERSTOOD THE GOA'S PROBLEM WITH TERRORISM BUT DID NOT UNDERSTAND A GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD NOT FURNISH THE NAMES OF THE TERRORISTS.

7. THE MINISTER REFERRED TO THE FACT THAT THOSE DETAINED WERE IN NORMAL JAILS AND THAT ARGENTINE JAILS WERE OPEN TO THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS (ICRC). HE SHOWED HER, BUT DID NOT GIVE HER, COPIES IN SPANISH OF ICRC REPORTS. MRS. DERIAN SPECULATED THAT PRISONERS MIGHT BE HELD IN OTHER PLACES WHICH THE RED CROSS HAS NOT SEEN. THE MINISTER SAID THEY LET THE RED CROSS GO WHEREVER IT WANTS, INCLUDING TO MILITARY INSTITUTIONS. HE SAID THERE WERE NO CONCENTRATION CAMPS. ASKED ABOUT THE NAVY MECHANICAL SCHOOL, HE SAID PEOPLE MIGHT BE HELD FOR INTERROGATION IN SUCH PLACE BUT WOULD NOT BE JAILED THERE. HE SAID SUBVERSIVES ARE JAILED IN THE MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISONS.

8. MRS. DERIAN ASKED THE MINISTER WHAT WERE THE NORMS FOR INTERROGATION. THE MINISTER RESPONDED THAT WHEN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM STARTED, THOSE CAUGHT WERE TOUGH AND HIGHLY DISCIPLINED AND HAD A HIGH MORALE. HE SAID THEY

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
PAGE 04 STATE 193418

WOULDN'T CONFESS ANYTHING; BUT NOW THE FIRST THING THAT PEOPLE CAUGHT DO IS TO GIVE THE NAMES OF THEIR ACCOMPLICES. HE SAID THE SUBVERSIVES ARE NOW COOPERATING AND THE GOVERNMENT SHOWS CLEMENCY TO THOSE WHO TURN THEMSELVES IN AND IS STARTING TWO PENAL COLONIES TO REINTEGRATE THOSE WHO COOPERATE INTO SOCIETY. THE MINISTER SAID THAT ONCE IT IS DETERMINED THAT A PERSON HAS PROVIDED THE NEEDED INFORMATION HE PASSES INTO ONE OF THREE SITUATIONS. THE GREAT BULK, WHERE THE EVIDENCE AGAINST THEM IS SUFFICIENT, GO TO THE CIVIL OR MILITARY TRIBUNALS. THE OTHERS, WHO HAVE CONFESSED BUT WHERE EVIDENCE IS LACKING, OR WHO DON'T CONFESS BUT WHO ARE ACCUSED BY OTHERS BUT TANGIBLE EVIDENCE IS LACKING, ARE HELD UNDER ARTICLE 23 BY THE EXECUTIVE POWER. THESE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO COULD EXERCISE THE RIGHT OF OPTION AND, AT THIS TIME, THERE EXIST THE

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 3

Case Number: S200000044

JUDICIAL INSTRUMENTS NECESSARY TO REINSTITUTE THE RIGHT OF OPTION.

9. MRS. DERIAN OBSERVED THAT IT APPEARED AS IF THE GOVERNMENT USED THE CONSTITUTION WHEN IT WAS TO ITS BENEFIT AND SUSPENDED IT OTHERWISE. THE MINISTER OBSERVED THAT IN A STATE OF WAR ONE COULDN'T LET THE ENEMY GO. MRS. DERIAN OBSERVED THAT IN THE IDEOLOGICAL KIND OF WAR WHICH ARGENTINA FACED, THE GOVERNMENTS STRENGTH AND PUBLIC SUPPORT LAG IN ITS RESPECT FOR THE RULE OF LAW. SHE SAID THAT THERE WAS A LIMITED TIME WHERE PEOPLE WOULD PUT UP WITH ALMOST ANYTHING TO RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC NORMS BUT XX THAT TIME WAS VERY LIMITED. SHE COUNSELED THAT IT WAS NOW TIME FOR THE GOA TO SHOW ITS STRENGTH BY RETURNING TO LEGAL NORMS AND PUBLISHING THE NAMES OF THOSE DETAINED.

10. THE MINISTER OBSERVED THAT MANY OF THOSE WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED WERE NOT HELD BY THE GOVERNMENT. HE POINTED TO [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PAGE 05 STATE 193418

THE CRIME FREE ATMOSPHERE OF ARGENTINA AND STRESSED IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S DUTY TO PROTECT THE MANY FROM THE FEW. MRS. DERIAN ASKED HIM ABOUT PEOPLE BEING ARRESTED FOR NOT HAVING AN IDENTITY CARD AND WONDERED IF THE SITUATION IN ARGENTINA WAS LIKE THAT IN SOUTH AFRICA WHERE ALL WERE EXPECTED TO CARRY IDENTITY CARDS. THE MINISTER SAID THIS WAS THE SYSTEM.

11. RETURNING TO THE TIMMERMAN CASE, WHICH MRS. DERIAN HAD MENTIONED EARLIER, THE MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT SUPPORT THE RIGHT. HE SAID TIMMERMAN SAT IN HIS OFFICE AND LIED TO HIM ABOUT GRAVIER'S INTEREST IN HIS NEWSPAPER. HE SAID HIS CASE WAS BEING PROCESSED AND INVITED MRS. DERIAN OR THE CHARGE' TO VISIT TIMMERMAN. MRS. DERIAN RESPONDED THAT SHE WOULD LIKE THE MINISTER TO SEE HIM, THAT SHE HAD SEEN HIM ON A PREVIOUS VISIT BECAUSE HE REPRESENTED A DIFFERENT AND RESPECTED POINT OF VIEW, THAT HE HAD DEFENDED THE GOVERNMENT AT THAT TIME AND THAT HIS EDITORIALS MANIFESTED THAT SUPPORT. THE MINISTER AGREED. MRS. DERIAN ADDED THAT NOT TEN DAYS AFTER SHE SAW TIMMERMAN HE WAS ARRESTED, THAT CHARGES HAVE NOT YET BEEN BROUGHT AGAINST HIM AND THAT HE HAS BEEN MOVED FROM JAIL TO JAIL AND HIS HEALTH HAS SUFFERED GREATLY.

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: LIMDIS, STADIS
Document Number: 1977STATE193418

Page: 5

Channel: n/a

Case Number: S200000044

12. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE COMMENT AND INDICATE DISTRIBUTION. VANCE

[REDACTED]

NNN

[REDACTED]

PAGE 01 STATE 193418
ORIGIN IO-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /007 R

66011
DRAFTED BY IO:PMBUNGE
APPROVED BY IO:PMBUNGE

-----039003 242024Z /62

P 242010Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY 0000

[REDACTED] STATE 193418

STADIS////////////////////////////////////
LIMDIS - FOR MR SCOTT, PASS DEP. ASST. SEC. DALLEY

FOL RPT STATE 193418 ACTION BUENOS AIRES 15 AUG 77 QUOTE

[REDACTED] STATE 193418

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, AG

SUBJECT: DERIAN MEETING WITH MINISTER OF INTERIOR

1. SUMMARY: HUMAN RIGHTS COORDINATOR MET WITH MINISTER OF INTERIOR ON AUGUST 10. THERE SEEMED TO BE SOME CONFUSION AS TO WHO HAD REQUESTED THE MEETING. THE MINISTER STRESSED HIS DUTY IN PROTECTING THE MAJORITY OF THE ARGENTINE PEOPLE IN A TIME OF WAR AGAINST SUBVERSION, MRS. DERIAN STRESSED THAT THE TIME HAD NOW ARRIVED FOR A RETURN TO DUE PROCESS.

2. MRS. DERIAN STARTED BY EXPLAINING TO THE MINISTER THAT

[REDACTED]

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 5

UNCLASSIFIED

Case Number: S200000044

[REDACTED]
PAGE 02 STATE 193418

SHE WAS VERY CONCERNED WITH THE ENORMOUS NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO HAD DISAPPEARED, THE NUMBER IN JAIL WITHOUT CHARGES, THE NUMBER WHICH IS SIMPLY LOST AND THE NUMBER FOUND INNOCENT WHO REMAIN IN JAIL. SHE SAID IT APPEARS THAT ONCE A PERSON IS PICKED UP IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO GET RELEASED. SHE REFERRED TO THE HARD FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM, STATING THAT SHE THOUGHT THE BACK OF THE TERRORISTS HAD NOW BEEN BROKEN. SHE WORRIED THAT WHEN A WIDE NET IS CAST MANY INNOCENT PEOPLE GET CAUGHT. SHE EXPLAINED THAT THE CHIEF OBSTACLE FOR RETURNING TO NORMAL RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. IS OUR CONCERN FOR THE MASS OF PEOPLE CAUGHT IN THE SYSTEM WITH NOTHING HAPPENING. SHE CITED PARTICULAR CONCERN FOR JACOBO TIMMERMAN AS A PERSON WHO HAS BECOME A SYMBOL OF THIS PROBLEM. SHE NOTED THAT WHEN SHE TALKS WITH HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS THEY SPEAK OF REGULARIZING PROCEDURES, BUT THAT WHEN SHE TALKS TO INDIVIDUALS IT APPEARS THAT THESE PLANS AREN'T BEING CARRIED OUT IN PRACTICE.

3. THE MINISTER RESPONDED THAT HER PREOCCUPATION FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE PERSON ARE NO LESS THAN THE RESPONSIBILITY THE GOA HAS FOR INTERNAL SECURITY. HE SAID THE GOA WAS FIGHTING AN UNDECLARED WAR AND OPERATING UNDER THE EXCEPTIONS GRANTED BY THE CONSTITUTION. HE SAID THIS PERMITTED THE GOVERNMENT TO SHIFT PEOPLE FROM ONE PLACE TO THE OTHER UNLESS THEY EXERCISED THE RIGHT OF OPTION. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THIS RIGHT WAS SUSPENDED BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT COULDN'T AFFORD TO LET 2,000 PEOPLE OUT TO GATHER AGAINST IT ON THE FRONTIER. MRS. DERIAN ASKED IF ALL THE DETAINED WERE TERRORISTS. THE MINISTER NOTED THAT THOSE WHO WERE DETAINED WITHOUT PROCESS WERE TERRORISTS AND THAT THESE ARE FEW. HE SAID MANY ARE GOING THROUGH CIVIL AND MILITARY COURTS.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
PAGE 03 STATE 193418

4. MRS. DERIAN SAID THAT THE INSTINCTIVE REACTION TO TERRORISM IS TO DO WHAT THE GOA HAD DONE AND THAT IT MAKES THE PEOPLE VICTIMS OF THE STATE. SHE REFERRED TO THE MOTHERS AND WIVES JOIN TOGETHER IN THE PLAZA EVERY THURS-

UNCLASSIFIED

Case Number: S200000044

DAY AND CALL ON DIFFERENT OFFICES, INCLUDING THAT IN THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, SEEKING INFORMATION ON THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS. SHE ALSO REFERRED TO LABOR LEADERS IN JAIL SINCE 1975.

5. THE MINISTER SAID THAT HE TOO HAD TALKED TO WOMEN WHOSE FAMILY MEMBERS DISAPPEARED AND THAT THERE WAS AN OFFICE IN HIS MINISTRY TO DEAL WITH THEIR INQUIRIES. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT IF THESE WOMEN JOINED TOGETHER IN CONCERTED ACTION AND, IN EFFECT, ARE DEMONSTRATING WITHOUT A PERMIT, THAT THIS WOULD BE AGAINST THE LAW. HE ASKED MRS. DERIAN TO CONSIDER THE CAUSES FOR DISAPPEARANCES.

6. SHE SAID SHE HAD HEARD THEM MANY TIMES AND HAD SEEN A BIG BOOK, THAT SHE UNDERSTOOD THE GOA'S PROBLEM WITH TERRORISM BUT DID NOT UNDERSTAND A GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD NOT FURNISH THE NAMES OF THE TERRORISTS.

7. THE MINISTER REFERRED TO THE FACT THAT THOSE DETAINED WERE IN NORMAL JAILS AND THAT ARGENTINE JAILS WERE OPEN TO THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS (ICRC). HE SHOWED HER, BUT DID NOT GIVE HER, COPIES IN SPANISH OF ICRC REPORTS. MRS. DERIAN SPECULATED THAT PRISONERS MIGHT BE HELD IN OTHER PLACES WHICH THE RED CROSS HAS NOT SEEN. THE MINISTER SAID THEY LET THE RED CROSS GO WHEREVER IT WANTS, INCLUDING TO MILITARY INSTITUTIONS. HE SAID THERE WERE NO CONCENTRATION CAMPS. ASKED ABOUT THE NAVY MECHANICAL SCHOOL, HE SAID PEOPLE MIGHT BE HELD FOR INTERROGATION IN SUCH PLACE BUT WOULD NOT BE JAILED THERE. HE SAID SUBVERSIVES ARE JAILED IN THE MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISONS.

8. MRS. DERIAN ASKED THE MINISTER WHAT WERE THE NORMS FOR
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PAGE 04 STATE 193418

INTERROGATION. THE MINISTER RESPONDED THAT WHEN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM STARTED, THOSE CAUGHT WERE TOUGH AND HIGHLY DISCIPLINED AND HAD A HIGH MORALE. HE SAID THEY WOULDN'T CONFESS ANYTHING; BUT NOW THE FIRST THING THAT PEOPLE CAUGHT DO IS TO GIVE THE NAMES OF THEIR ACCOMPLICES. HE SAID THE SUBVERSIVES ARE NOW COOPERATING AND THE GOVERNMENT SHOWS CLEMENCY TO THOSE WHO TURN THEMSELVES IN AND IS STARTING TWO PENAL COLONIES TO REINTEGRATE THOSE WHO COOPERATE INTO SOCIETY. THE MINISTER SAID THAT ONCE IT IS

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Case Number: S200000044

DETERMINED THAT A PERSON HAS PROVIDED THE NEEDED INFORMATION HE PASSES INTO ONE OF THREE SITUATIONS. THE GREAT BULK, WHERE THE EVIDENCE AGAINST THEM IS SUFFICIENT, GO TO THE CIVIL OR MILITARY TRIBUNALS. THE OTHERS, WHO HAVE CONFESSED BUT WHERE EVIDENCE IS LACKING, OR WHO DON'T CONFESS BUT WHO ARE ACCUSED BY OTHERS BUT TANGIBLE EVIDENCE IS LACKING, ARE HELD UNDER ARTICLE 23 BY THE EXECUTIVE POWER. THESE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO COULD EXERCISE THE RIGHT OF OPTION AND, AT THIS TIME, THERE EXIST THE JUDICIAL INSTRUMENTS NECESSARY TO REINSTITUTE THE RIGHT OF OPTION.

9. MRS. DERIAN OBSERVED THAT IT APPEARED AS IF THE GOVERNMENT USED THE CONSTITUTION WHEN IT WAS TO ITS BENEFIT AND SUSPENDED IT OTHERWISE. THE MINISTER OBSERVED THAT IN A STATE OF WAR ONE COULDN'T LET THE ENEMY GO. MRS. DERIAN OBSERVED THAT IN THE IDEOLOGICAL KIND OF WAR WHICH ARGENTINA FACED, THE GOVERNMENTS STRENGTH AND PUBLIC SUPPORT LAG IN ITS RESPECT FOR THE RULE OF LAW. SHE SAID THAT THERE WAS A LIMITED TIME WHERE PEOPLE WOULD PUT UP WITH ALMOST ANYTHING TO RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC NORMS BUT XX THAT TIME WAS VERY LIMITED. SHE COUNSELED THAT IT WAS NOW TIME FOR THE GOA TO SHOW ITS STRENGTH BY RETURNING TO LEGAL NORMS AND PUBLISHING THE NAMES OF THOSE DETAINED.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PAGE 05

STATE 193418

10. THE MINISTER OBSERVED THAT MANY OF THOSE WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED WERE NOT HELD BY THE GOVERNMENT. HE POINTED TO THE CRIME FREE ATMOSPHERE OF ARGENTINA AND STRESSED IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S DUTY TO PROTECT THE MANY FROM THE FEW. MRS. DERIAN ASKED HIM ABOUT PEOPLE BEING ARRESTED FOR NOT HAVING AN IDENTITY CARD AND WONDERED IF THE SITUATION IN ARGENTINA WAS LIKE THAT IN SOUTH AFRICA WHERE ALL WERE EXPECTED TO CARRY IDENTITY CARDS. THE MINISTER SAID THIS WAS THE SYSTEM.

11. RETURNING TO THE TIMMERMAN CASE, WHICH MRS. DERIAN HAD MENTIONED EARLIER, THE MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT SUPPORT THE RIGHT. HE SAID TIMMERMAN SAT IN HIS OFFICE AND LIED TO HIM ABOUT GRAVIER'S INTEREST IN HIS NEWSPAPER. HE SAID HIS CASE WAS BEING PROCESSED AND INVITED MRS. DERIAN OR THE CHARGE' TO VISIT TIMMERMAN. MRS. DERIAN RESPONDED THAT SHE WOULD LIKE THE MINISTER TO

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: LIMDIS, STADIS
Document Number: 1977STATE193418

Page: 9

Channel: n/a

Case Number: S200000044

SEE HIM, THAT SHE HAD SEEN HIM ON A PREVIOUS VISIT BECAUSE HE REPRESENTED A DIFFERENT AND RESPECTED POINT OF VIEW, THAT HE HAD DEFENDED THE GOVERNMENT AT THAT TIME AND THAT HIS EDITORIALS MANIFESTED THAT SUPPORT. THE MINISTER AGREED. MRS. DERIAN ADDED THAT NOT TEN DAYS AFTER SHE SAW TIMMERMAN HE WAS ARRESTED, THAT CHARGES HAVE NOT YET BEEN BROUGHT AGAINST HIM AND THAT HE HAS BEEN MOVED FROM JAIL TO JAIL AND HIS HEALTH HAS SUFFERED GREATLY.

12. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE COMMENT AND INDICATE DISTRIBUTION. VANCE

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

[REDACTED]

NNN

[REDACTED]

PAGE 01 STATE 193418
ORIGIN IO-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-05 /009 R

66011
DRAFTED BY IO:MESWOPE
APPROVED BY IO:MESWOPE

-----063584 260332Z /61

P 252345Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

[REDACTED] STATE 193418

STADIS////////////////////////////////////
LIMDIS - FOR IO DEPUTY ASSIST. SECY DALLEY

FOL RPT STATE 193418 ACTION LIMA 24 AUG 77 QUOTE

[REDACTED] STATE 193418

STADIS
LIMDIS - FOR MR SCOTT, PASS DEP. ASST. SEC. DALLEY

FOL RPT STATE 193418 ACTION BUENOS AIRES 15 AUG 77 QUOTE

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 9

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Case Number: S200000044

[REDACTED] STATE 193418

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, AG

SUBJECT: DERIAN MEETING WITH MINISTER OF INTERIOR

1. SUMMARY: HUMAN RIGHTS COORDINATOR MET WITH MINISTER OF
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PAGE 02 STATE 193418

INTERIOR ON AUGUST 10. THERE SEEMED TO BE SOME CONFUSION AS TO WHO HAD REQUESTED THE MEETING. THE MINISTER STRESSED HIS DUTY IN PROTECTING THE MAJORITY OF THE ARGENTINE PEOPLE IN A TIME OF WAR AGAINST SUBVERSION, MRS. DERIAN STRESSED THAT THE TIME HAD NOW ARRIVED FOR A RETURN TO DUE PROCESS.

2. MRS. DERIAN STARTED BY EXPLAINING TO THE MINISTER THAT SHE WAS VERY CONCERNED WITH THE ENORMOUS NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO HAD DISAPPEARED, THE NUMBER IN JAIL WITHOUT CHARGES, THE NUMBER WHICH IS SIMPLY LOST AND THE NUMBER FOUND INNOCENT WHO REMAIN IN JAIL. SHE SAID IT APPEARS THAT ONCE A PERSON IS PICKED UP IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO GET RELEASED. SHE REFERRED TO THE HARD FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM, STATING THAT SHE THOUGHT THE BACK OF THE TERRORISTS HAD NOW BEEN BROKEN. SHE WORRIED THAT WHEN A WIDE NET IS CAST MANY INNOCENT PEOPLE GET CAUGHT. SHE EXPLAINED THAT THE CHIEF OBSTACLE FOR RETURNING TO NORMAL RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. IS OUR CONCERN FOR THE MASS OF PEOPLE CAUGHT IN THE SYSTEM WITH NOTHING HAPPENING. SHE CITED PARTICULAR CONCERN FOR JACOBO TIMMERMAN AS A PERSON WHO HAS BECOME A SYMBOL OF THIS PROBLEM. SHE NOTED THAT WHEN SHE TALKS WITH HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS THEY SPEAK OF REGULARIZING PROCEDURES, BUT THAT WHEN SHE TALKS TO INDIVIDUALS IT APPEARS THAT THESE PLANS AREN'T BEING CARRIED OUT IN PRACTICE.

3. THE MINISTER RESPONDED THAT HER PREOCCUPATION FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE PERSON ARE NO LESS THAN THE RESPONSIBILITY THE GOA HAS FOR INTERNAL SECURITY. HE SAID THE GOA WAS FIGHTING AN UNDECLARED WAR AND OPERATING UNDER THE EXCEPTIONS GRANTED BY THE CONSTITUTION. HE SAID THIS PERMITTED THE GOVERNMENT TO SHIFT PEOPLE FROM ONE PLACE TO THE OTHER UNLESS THEY EXERCISED THE RIGHT OF OPTION. HE

UNCLASSIFIED

Case Number: S200000044

ACKNOWLEDGED THIS RIGHT WAS SUSPENDED BECAUSE THE GOVERN-
CONFIDENTIAL

[REDACTED]
PAGE 03 STATE 193418

MENT COULDN'T AFFORD TO LET 2,000 PEOPLE OUT TO GATHER
AGAINST IT ON THE FRONTIER. MRS. DERIAN ASKED IF ALL THE
DETAINED WERE TERRORISTS. THE MINISTER NOTED THAT THOSE
WHO WERE DETAINED WITHOUT PROCESS WERE TERRORISTS AND THAT
THESE ARE FEW. HE SAID MANY ARE GOING THROUGH CIVIL AND
MILITARY COURTS.

4. MRS. DERIAN SAID THAT THE INSTINCTIVE REACTION TO
TERRORISM IS TO DO WHAT THE GOA HAD DONE AND THAT IT MAKES
THE PEOPLE VICTIMS OF THE STATE. SHE REFERRED TO THE
MOTHERS AND WIVES JOIN TOGETHER IN THE PLAZA EVERY THURS-
DAY AND CALL ON DIFFERENT OFFICES, INCLUDING THAT IN THE
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, SEEKING INFORMATION ON THEIR FAMILY
MEMBERS. SHE ALSO REFERRED TO LABOR LEADERS IN JAIL SINCE
1975.

5. THE MINISTER SAID THAT HE TOO HAD TALKED TO WOMEN
WHOSE FAMILY MEMBERS DISAPPEARED AND THAT THERE WAS AN
OFFICE IN HIS MINISTRY TO DEAL WITH THEIR INQUIRIES. HE
SAID, HOWEVER, THAT IF THESE WOMEN JOINED TOGETHER IN
CONCERTED ACTION AND, IN EFFECT, ARE DEMONSTRATING WITHOUT
A PERMIT, THAT THIS WOULD BE AGAINST THE LAW. HE ASKED
MRS. DERIAN TO CONSIDER THE CAUSES FOR DISAPPEARANCES.

6. SHE SAID SHE HAD HEARD THEM MANY TIMES AND HAD SEEN A
BIG BOOK, THAT SHE UNDERSTOOD THE GOA'S PROBLEM WITH
TERRORISM BUT DID NOT UNDERSTAND A GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD
NOT FURNISH THE NAMES OF THE TERRORISTS.

7. THE MINISTER REFERRED TO THE FACT THAT THOSE DETAINED
WERE IN NORMAL JAILS AND THAT ARGENTINE JAILS WERE OPEN TO
THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS (ICRC). HE SHOWED HER, BUT
DID NOT GIVE HER, COPIES IN SPANISH OF ICRC REPORTS.
MRS. DERIAN SPECULATED THAT PRISONERS MIGHT BE HELD IN
OTHER PLACES WHICH THE RED CROSS HAS NOT SEEN. THE
MINISTER SAID THEY LET THE RED CROSS GO WHEREVER IT WANTS,

UNCLASSIFIED

Case Number: S200000044

PAGE 04 STATE 193418

INCLUDING TO MILITARY INSTITUTIONS. HE SAID THERE WERE NO CONCENTRATION CAMPS. ASKED ABOUT THE NAVY MECHANICAL SCHOOL, HE SAID PEOPLE MIGHT BE HELD FOR INTERROGATION IN SUCH PLACE BUT WOULD NOT BE JAILED THERE. HE SAID SUBVERSIVES ARE JAILED IN THE MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISONS.

8. MRS. DERIAN ASKED THE MINISTER WHAT WERE THE NORMS FOR INTERROGATION. THE MINISTER RESPONDED THAT WHEN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM STARTED, THOSE CAUGHT WERE TOUGH AND HIGHLY DISCIPLINED AND HAD A HIGH MORALE. HE SAID THEY WOULDN'T CONFESS ANYTHING; BUT NOW THE FIRST THING THAT PEOPLE CAUGHT DO IS TO GIVE THE NAMES OF THEIR ACCOMPLICES. HE SAID THE SUBVERSIVES ARE NOW COOPERATING AND THE GOVERNMENT SHOWS CLEMENCY TO THOSE WHO TURN THEMSELVES IN AND IS STARTING TWO PENAL COLONIES TO REINTEGRATE THOSE WHO COOPERATE INTO SOCIETY. THE MINISTER SAID THAT ONCE IT IS DETERMINED THAT A PERSON HAS PROVIDED THE NEEDED INFORMATION HE PASSES INTO ONE OF THREE SITUATIONS. THE GREAT BULK, WHERE THE EVIDENCE AGAINST THEM IS SUFFICIENT, GO TO THE CIVIL OR MILITARY TRIBUNALS. THE OTHERS, WHO HAVE CONFESSED BUT WHERE EVIDENCE IS LACKING, OR WHO DON'T CONFESS BUT WHO ARE ACCUSED BY OTHERS BUT TANGIBLE EVIDENCE IS LACKING, ARE HELD UNDER ARTICLE 23 BY THE EXECUTIVE POWER. THESE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO COULD EXERCISE THE RIGHT OF OPTION AND, AT THIS TIME, THERE EXIST THE JUDICIAL INSTRUMENTS NECESSARY TO REINSTITUTE THE RIGHT OF OPTION.

9. MRS. DERIAN OBSERVED THAT IT APPEARED AS IF THE GOVERNMENT USED THE CONSTITUTION WHEN IT WAS TO ITS BENEFIT AND SUSPENDED IT OTHERWISE. THE MINISTER OBSERVED THAT IN A STATE OF WAR ONE COULDN'T LET THE ENEMY GO. MRS. DERIAN OBSERVED THAT IN THE IDEOLOGICAL KIND OF WAR WHICH

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PAGE 05 STATE 193418

ARGENTINA FACED, THE GOVERNMENTS STRENGTH AND PUBLIC SUPPORT LAG IN ITS RESPECT FOR THE RULE OF LAW. SHE SAID THAT THERE WAS A LIMITED TIME WHERE PEOPLE WOULD PUT UP WITH ALMOST ANYTHING TO RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC NORMS BUT XX THAT TIME WAS VERY LIMITED. SHE COUNSELED THAT IT WAS NOW TIME FOR THE GOA TO SHOW ITS STRENGTH BY RETURNING TO

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: LIMDIS, STADIS
Document Number: 1977STATE193418

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 13
Channel: n/a

Case Number: S200000044

LEGAL NORMS AND PUBLISHING THE NAMES OF THOSE DETAINED.

10. THE MINISTER OBSERVED THAT MANY OF THOSE WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED WERE NOT HELD BY THE GOVERNMENT. HE POINTED TO THE CRIME FREE ATMOSPHERE OF ARGENTINA AND STRESSED IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S DUTY TO PROTECT THE MANY FROM THE FEW. MRS. DERIAN ASKED HIM ABOUT PEOPLE BEING ARRESTED FOR NOT HAVING AN IDENTITY CARD AND WONDERED IF THE SITUATION IN ARGENTINA WAS LIKE THAT IN SOUTH AFRICA WHERE ALL WERE EXPECTED TO CARRY IDENTITY CARDS. THE MINISTER SAID THIS WAS THE SYSTEM.

11. RETURNING TO THE TIMMERMAN CASE, WHICH MRS. DERIAN HAD MENTIONED EARLIER, THE MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT SUPPORT THE RIGHT. HE SAID TIMMERMAN SAT IN HIS OFFICE AND LIED TO HIM ABOUT GRAVIER'S INTEREST IN HIS NEWSPAPER. HE SAID HIS CASE WAS BEING PROCESSED AND INVITED MRS. DERIAN OR THE CHARGE' TO VISIT TIMMERMAN. MRS. DERIAN RESPONDED THAT SHE WOULD LIKE THE MINISTER TO SEE HIM, THAT SHE HAD SEEN HIM ON A PREVIOUS VISIT BECAUSE HE REPRESENTED A DIFFERENT AND RESPECTED POINT OF VIEW, THAT HE HAD DEFENDED THE GOVERNMENT AT THAT TIME AND THAT HIS EDITORIALS MANIFESTED THAT SUPPORT. THE MINISTER AGREED. MRS. DERIAN ADDED THAT NOT TEN DAYS AFTER SHE SAW TIMMERMAN HE WAS ARRESTED, THAT CHARGES HAVE NOT YET BEEN BROUGHT AGAINST HIM AND THAT HE HAS BEEN MOVED FROM JAIL TO JAIL AND HIS HEALTH HAS SUFFERED GREATLY.

12. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE COMMENT AND INDICATE DISTRIBUTION. VANCE

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PAGE 06 STATE 193418

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

[REDACTED]

NNN

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 13

UNCLASSIFIED