

~~SECRET~~

8/26/75

EMBASSADOR
VIA DCM

LEGAT ROBERT W. SCHERRER

ARGENTINE TERRORIST ACTIVITIES

5/10/01
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~~Argentine Project~~

On 8/25/75, a ranking official of the Federal Police of Argentina (FPA) Intelligence Service provided the following information regarding the recent death of Montonero leader MARCOS OSATINSKY in Cordoba: (S) (U)

According to the FPA delegation in Cordoba, OSATINSKY, whose Montonero code name was "SANTIAGO," was picked up approximately three weeks ago by Cordoba Provincial Police and members of Governor LACABANNE's Security Detail. OSATINSKY was severely tortured by members of Governor LACABANNE's Security Detail over an extended period of time; however, he refused to divulge any information. OSATINSKY was in such bad shape that it became obvious he would have to be killed rather than produce him alive since the marks of torture would be obvious. In order to dispose of OSATINSKY, whose detention was known among extremists in Cordoba, it was decided to stage his assassination in connection with a fictitious rescue attempt. Three Cordoba Provincial Police Officers volunteered to take part in the charade with the understanding they would have to submit to being slightly wounded during the performance. (S) (U)

The hijacking of the hearse transporting OSATINSKY's body from Cordoba to Tucuman was not carried out by the Montoneros as indicated in the press, but by the same members of Governor LACABANNE's Security Staff, who had tortured OSATINSKY. The purpose of stealing his body was to prevent the body from being subjected to an autopsy, which would have clearly shown that he had been tortured. It is doubtful that OSATINSKY's body will ever turn up. (S) (U)

Attached is a photograph of OSATINSKY taken during 1973 at Rawson Prison. (S) (U)

- 1 - Addressee
- 5 - Buenos Aires
- (1 - 109-2) (1 - 109-103)
- (1 - 105-Montoneros) (1 - 301)
- (1 - 105-1098-OSATINSKY) (1 - Crovetto)

RWS:jn
(6)

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SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
EXEMPTION CATEGORY 5B(2)
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