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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

MICROFILMED

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WORKING PAPER

CUBAN PRESENCE AND ACTIVITIES IN ARGENTINA

22 JANUARY 1979

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The 9 August 1976 disappearance of two Cuban Embassy guards under mysterious circumstances contributed to the further deterioration of Cuban-Argentine relations. A signed note was received by the media saying that they had defected but the Cubans assumed that they had been kidnapped with the tacit approval of the Argentine government. Ambassador Emilio A r a g o n e s Navarro made an immediate demarche to the Foreign Office insisting on a full investigation. He also ordered the Commercial Counselor to suspend all trade until further notice.

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In his 26 July speech, Castro referred to Argentina as an intimate ally of the United States, practicing genocide and torture.

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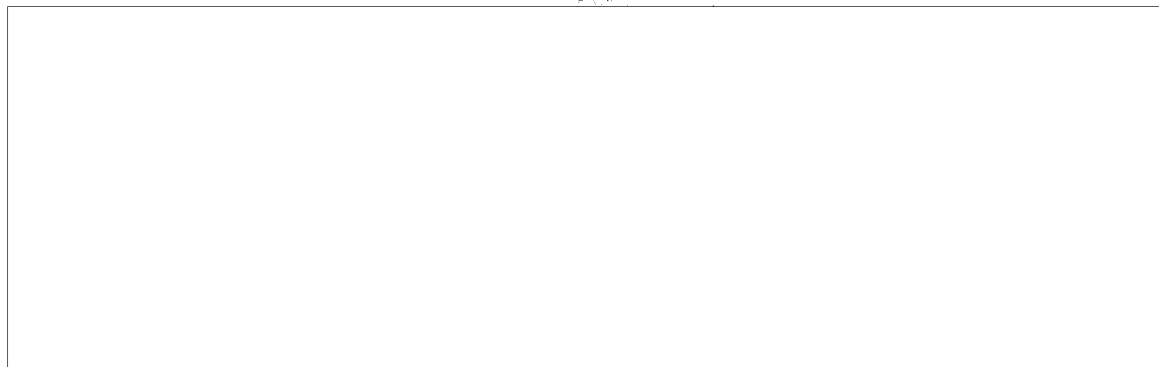
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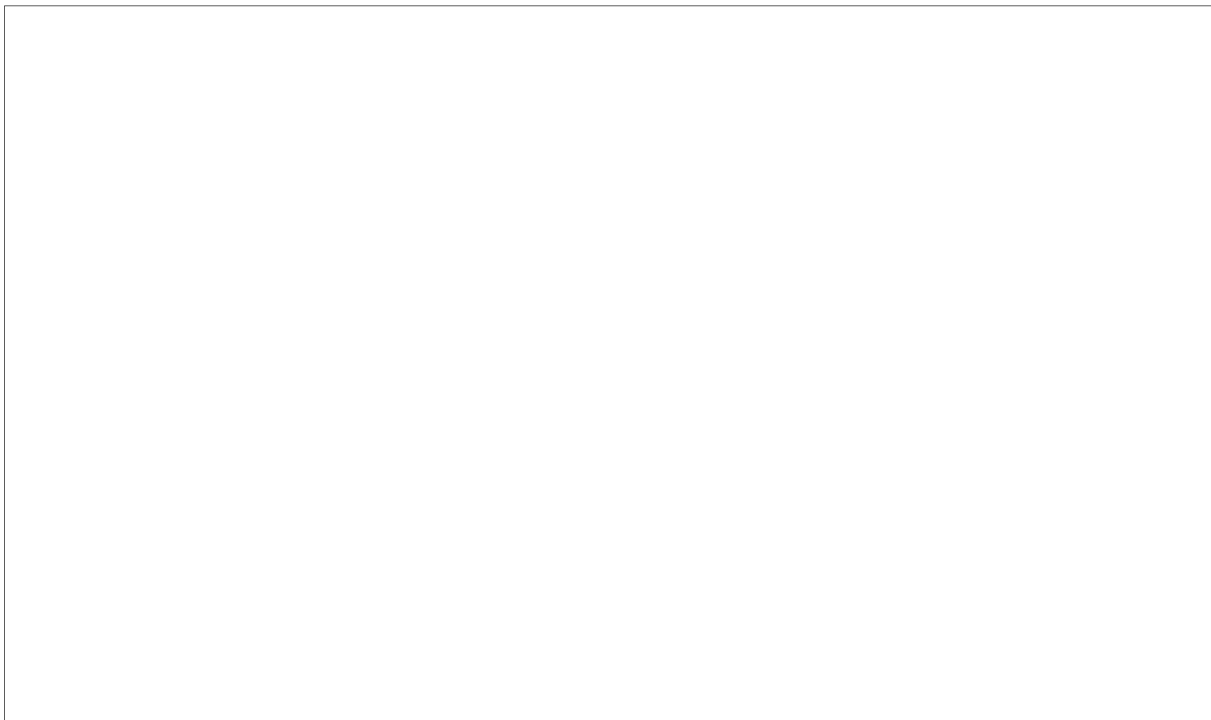
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In mid-November 1978 retired Admiral Emilio M a s s e r a, former junta member and former Commander-in-Chief of the Navy, sent a message to the Cuban Ambassador to the United Nations in which he asked the Cubans to intercede with the Montoneros on his behalf to discourage them from engaging in further guerrilla activities. He also wanted the Cubans to convince the Montoneros that he is a viable political figure deserving of their support. Massera sent this message because he believes the Cubans control the Montoneros. Presumably Massera was reflecting a belief concerning Cuban-Montonero links widely held by Argentine military officers.

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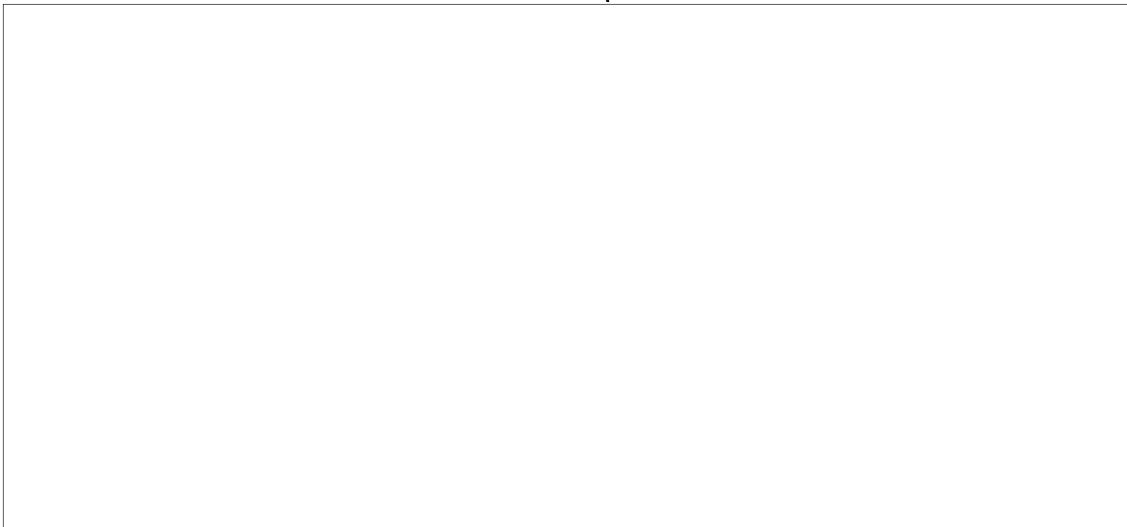
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3.3(b)(1)



In August 1976, a de facto suspension of shipment of automobiles and trucks occurred when Cuba cancelled the departure of three ships which were to call in Buenos Aires. This was generally viewed as a reprisal by Cuba for the disappearance of the two guards, although the Cubans claimed that it was not a political move.

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