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CONCURRENCE REQUESTED - CIA XX 38A

SENSITIVE ANNEX TO

INR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS
OF DEVELOPMENTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS

No. 123, September 14, 1979

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RDS-2 9/14/99 (multiple sources)

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LATIN AMERICA

Argentina

3.3(b)(1)

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August Disappearances. [redacted]
[redacted] the basis for one plausible explanation of 10
unresolved disappearance cases that occurred during August.
The August figure not only was significantly higher than

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that for any month since January, but the disappearances seemed to undercut Argentine claims to improvement in the area precisely on the eve of the September 6-20 visit by the Inter-American Human Rights Commission (IAHRC).

3.3(b)(1)

[redacted] the 10 people were the remnants of a terrorist group (Fuerzas Armadas Peronistas--FAP), and their arrests were ordered by a federal criminal judge. The government, [redacted] intends to permit the IAHRC to waste time investigating the cases and then produce the 10 in court with the evidence against them. This version coincides with a random remark by an Embassy Buenos Aires source in late August to the effect that security agents had scored a coup against the FAP.

3.3(b)(1)

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[redacted] an army intelligence officer's contention that those who disappeared were Montoneros connected with a resurgence of that terrorist group's activities in Argentina. [redacted]

[redacted] CONFIDENTIAL,
Buenos Aires 7200, August 31)

3.5(c)

INR Comment. Court appearances for the 10 have not yet taken place, and we cannot otherwise confirm these reports. Their plausibility stems from the fact that they would help explain why disappearances became more frequent immediately prior to the IAHRC's arrival. If those who were kidnapped are, or are believed to be, associated with terrorist activities (FAP or Montonero), security officials might well have detained them regardless of the predictable consequences for the country's human rights record. This course would have been even more likely if government authorities really intend to initiate public court proceedings against the detainees in the near future.
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