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TEXT

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SUBJ: (U) DEVELOPMENTS IN PARAGUAY ON THE MENGELE ISSUE

1. (C) NAZI-HUNTER BEATE KLARSFELD'S LATEST TRIP TO PARAGUAY HAS PRODUCED ANOTHER FLURRY OF PRESS STORIES RELATED TO THE SEARCH FOR MENGELE. THE PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENT IS CLEARLY ANNOYED BY MRS. KLARSFELD. SHE HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO THE USUAL POLICE VIGILANCE AND WAS KICKED OUT BY THE MANAGER OF HER HOTEL (FOR, HE ASSERTED, INSULTING THEM, 1 PRESIDENT).

2. (LU) THE LOCAL PRESS SOUGHT TO DISCREDIT MRS. KLARSFELD'S ACTIVITIES. THE COLORADO PARTY NEWSPAPER "PATRIA" CLAIMED IN A MAY 25 EDITORIAL THAT HER ATTEMPTS TO PROVOKE AND EMBARRASS THE PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN FRUSTRATED BY THE BENIGN TOLERANCE OF THE STROESSNER REGIME. ACCORDING TO "PATRIAK" KLARSFELD APPEARED IN PARAGUAY HOPING "TO BE REPRESSED BY THE 'DICTATORSHIP,' TO BE MISTREATED, TO BE LOCKED UP IN A DUNGEON." THE PAPER CLAIMED SHE MET, INSTEAD, WITH THE RIDICULE OF THE PARAGUAYAN PEOPLE.

3. (U) OTHER NEWSPAPERS HAVE JOINED IN THE ATTACKS AGAINST MRS. KLARSFELD, FOR EXAMPLE, CIRCULATING RUMORS THAT SHE HAD PAID \$30 TO EACH OF THE 25 PARTICIPANTS IN A DEMONSTRATION SHE ORGANIZED IN FRONT OF THE SUPREME COURT HEADQUARTERS. ALL THE ASUNCION PAPERS PUBLISHED AN OPEN LETTER, WRITTEN AND PAID FOR BY FOUR OF STROESSNER'S CRONIES DENOUNCING KLARSFELD'S INTENTIONS, AND SUGGESTING THAT SHE GO TO AFGHANISTAN, CUBA OR NICARAGUA TO INVESTIGATE MORE RELEVANT WAR ATROCITIES.

4. (C) KLARSFELD SPOKE WITH EMBOFFS MAY 29 ABOUT HER VISIT

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TO ASUNCION. SHE REPORTED THAT SHE HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY MANY PEOPLE OFFERING INFORMATION ABOUT MENGELE IN RETURN FOR MONEY, MOST OF THEM CRANKS OR CROOKS. IN ADDITION, THE INTERIOR MINISTRY HAD REFUSED TO PROVIDE HER ANY INFORMATION ON MENGELE, DESPITE WHAT SHE DESCRIBED AS ASSURANCES GIVEN BY THE INTERIOR MINISTER ON HER LAST TRIP TO PARAGUAY.

5. (C) MRS. KLARSFELD SEEMED DISCOURAGED BY THE LACK OF PROGRESS AND COOPERATION, THOUGH IT MUST BE SAID SHE DID NOT SEEM ABLE TO MAKE THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THESE AND HER OWN CONFRONTATIONAL TACTICS, SUCH AS PUBLICLY ACCUSING PRESIDENT STROESSNER OF BEING A LIAR. SHE SAID SHE DID NOT KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER SHE WOULD STAY IN **PARAGUAY** AND HALF-EXPECTED TO BE EXPELLED FROM THE COUNTRY.

6. (C) KLARSFELD DID TURN OVER TO THE EMBASSY SOME MATERIALS SAID TO HAVE BEEN COPIED FROM HANS RUDEL'S ADDRESS BOOK. RUDEL, A WORLD WAR II **NAZI** PILOT, WAS REPORTEDLY AN INTIMATE FRIEND OF MENGELE. RUDEL DIED IN MUNICH SOME TWO YEARS AGO. THE NOTEBOOK, SAID TO DATE FROM 1982 OR '83, CONTAINS ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS OF RUDEL'S ASSOCIATES IN **PARAGUAY** AND ELSEWHERE AND DESCRIBES WHAT APPEARS TO BE A SYSTEM OF PAYMENTS TO A NUMBER OF PROMINENT PARAGUAYANS, INCLUDING THE PRESIDENT, FOR UNSPECIFIED PURPOSES. WE ARE POUCHING THESE MATERIALS TO THE DEPARTMENT.

7. (C) ONE RESULT OF ALL THE INTEREST IN MENGELE IS THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT WE ARE AWARE, MORE DETAILED ACCOUNTS OF MENGELE'S YEARS IN ARGENTINA AND PARAGUAY HAVE APPEARED IN THE ASUNCION PRESS. ONE NEWSPAPER, "EL DIARI," PRINTED A STORY MAY 28 BASED ON AN ARGENTINE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE FROM JULY 1960. INTERESTINGLY, THE ARTICLE CLAIMED THAT MENGELE LIVED IN BUENOS AIRES UNTIL LATE 1959, WHICH MEANS THAT HE COULD NOT HAVE MET THE LEGAL RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT WHEN HE WAS GIVEN PARAGUAYAN CITIZENSHIP IN NOVEMBER 1959. KNOWLEDGEABLE ASUNCION READERS WILL CERTAINLY TAKE NOTE OF THIS, AND OF THE FACT THAT ONE OF THE WITNESSES WHO VOUCHERED THAT MENGELE HAD MET THIS REQUIREMENT WAS COLONEL ALEJANDRO VON ECKSTEIN, A LONG-TIME ASSOCIATE OF PRESIDENT STROESSNER WHO STILL WORKS IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE.

8. (LOU) ANOTHER ASUNCION NEWSPAPER, "HOY." PUBLISHED A STORY MAY 25 DESCRIBING MENGELE'S YEARS IN THE TOWNS OF COLONIA HOHENAU, COLONIA OBLIGADO, AND ALTOS. THE ARTICLE, AND ITS ACCOMPANYING PHOTOGRAPHS, MARKS THE FIRST TIME IN RECENT MEMORY THAT A MAJOR NEWSPAPER HAS DISCUSSED MENGELE'S STAY IN PARAGUAY IN ANY DETAIL.

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