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DOCUMENT_ID: 183312311
DOCNO: 002431
PRODUCER: BUENOS AIRES
SOURCE: STATE
DOCTYPE: IN
DOR: 19990520
TOR: 142220
DOCPREC: R
ORIGDATE: 199905201811
MHFNO: 99 5530327
DOCCLASS: U

HEADER

RR RUEAIIA
ZNR UUUUU ZOC STATE ZZH
MSI3360
RR RUEHC
DE RUEHBU #2431 1401811
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 201811Z MAY 99
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6662
INFO RUEHVB/AMEMBASSY ZAGREB 0067
RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC
BT

CONTROLS

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 002431

SENSITIVE

SECSTATE FOR S/WCI, WHA/BSC, AND EUR/SCE

DEPT OF JUSTICE FOR OSI

E.O. 12958: NA

TEXT

TAGS: PHUM, PREL, KJUS, KNAR, HR, AR
SUBJECT: ALLEGED CROATIAN WAR CRIMINALS IN ARGENTINA

REF: BUENOS AIRES 1976

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PROTECT ACCORDINGLY.

1. (U) ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE SEE PARAGRAPH 7.
2. (SBU) THE DELEGATION OF JEWISH-ARGENTINE ASSOCIATIONS (DAIA), WHICH REPRESENTS MOST OF THE PRINCIPAL ORGANIZATIONS OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY HERE, HAS ASKED OUR HELP IN OBTAINING ANY AVAILABLE INFORMATION CONCERNING ALLEGED WAR CRIMINALS BELIEVED TO HAVE IMMIGRATED TO ARGENTINA FROM CROATIA AFTER WORLD WAR II. THEY ARE THE SUBJECT OF DIPLOMATIC NOTES WHICH THE YUGOSLAV LEGATION IN BUENOS AIRES SENT TO THE ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN 1947-48. DAIA PUBLISHED THE NOTES LAST YEAR IN "PROJECT

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2007

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TESTIMONY," A TWO-VOLUME STUDY BASED ON ARCHIVES
DECLASSIFIED BY THE GOA IN 1992.

3. (SBU) ONE LIST OF 19 NAMES INCLUDES ALLEGED SENIOR FIGURES OF THE USTASHA GOVERNMENT OF ANTE PAVELIC, AMONG THEM JOSIP BALEN (ECONOMY MINISTER), IVO BOGDAN (DIRECTOR OF PROPAGANDA), MARKO COLAK (CHIEF OF THE DARUVAR CONCENTRATION CAMP), AND ANTE NIKSIC OR MIKSIC (INTERIOR MINISTER). THE YUGOSLAV LEGATION HAD ASKED THE GOA TO RETURN THESE PERSONS TO YUGOSLAVIA, WHERE SOME HAD ALREADY BEEN TRIED AND CONVICTED AND OTHERS WERE WANTED TO STAND TRIAL.

4. (SBU) A SECOND LIST INCLUDES THE NAMES OF 43 SUSPECTED WAR CRIMINALS, MENTIONED IN THE YUGOSLAV LEGATION'S NOTES, WHOSE PRESENCE IN ARGENTINA COULD NOT AT THE TIME BE CONFIRMED. AMONG THEM IS DINKO SAKIC, EXTRADITED LAST YEAR AND NOW ON TRIAL IN ZAGREB. "THIS LEADS US TO BELIEVE," SAYS DAIA IN AN AIDE-MEMOIRE, "THAT SOME OF THE OTHERS MIGHT ALSO HAVE FOUND REFUGE IN OUR COUNTRY."

5. (SBU) BY COMPARING THE INFORMATION IN THESE DIPLOMATIC NOTES WITH INFORMATION WHICH RECENTLY APPEARED IN THE THIRD REPORT OF THE GOA'S COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO NAZI ACTIVITIES IN ARGENTINA (REFTEL), DAIA SAYS IT WAS ABLE TO CONFIRM THAT SOME OF THE SUSPECTS HAD COME TO ARGENTINA, AND TO COME UP WITH TWO MORE NAMES: IVAN HERENCI AND FRANJO HOLY.

6. (SBU) IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR DAIA FILED A COMPLAINT WITH THE ARGENTINE FEDERAL POLICE CONCERNING THE POSSIBLE PRESENCE OF THESE ALLEGED WAR CRIMINALS IN ARGENTINA. FEDERAL JUDGE GUSTAVO LITERAS WAS ASSIGNED TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION. DAIA PRESIDENT ROGELIO CICHOWOLSKI TOLD US, HOWEVER, THAT THE INVESTIGATION IS PROCEEDING SLOWLY FOR LACK OF INFORMATION. HENCE HIS APPROACH TO US FOR HELP.

7. (SBU) THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS CONTAINED IN TWO AIDES-MEMOIRE, IN SPANISH, WHICH WE RECEIVED FROM DAIA EARLIER THIS MONTH. IN SOME CASES THE NAMES ARE ACCOMPANIED BY FAIRLY COMPLETE BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION. IN OTHER CASES, HOWEVER, THIS INFORMATION IS UNAVAILABLE.

8. (U) PLEASE PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON RESPONDING TO DAIA'S REQUEST. MARTIN

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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