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

JUSTICE FOR OSI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/06/2005

TEXT

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

REF: BUENOS AIRES 2431 (NOTAL)

CLASSIFIED BY POLCOUNS MARK SIGLER. REASON: 1.5 (B)

1. (SBU) REFTEL CONVEYED REQUEST FROM THE DELEGATION OF JEWISH ARGENTINE ASSOCIATIONS (DAIA) FOR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING INFORMATION CONCERNING ALLEGED WAR CRIMINALS BELIEVED TO HAVE IMMIGRATED TO ARGENTINA FROM CROATIA AFTER WORLD WAR II. THE DAIA FILED A COMPLAINT WITH THE ARGENTINE FEDERAL POLICE CONCERNING THE POSSIBLE PRESENCE OF THESE PERSONS IN ARGENTINA, BUT WAS CONCERNED THAT THE INVESTIGATION WAS PROCEEDING SLOWLY, APPARENTLY FOR LACK OF INFORMATION. THIS PROMPTED THE REFTEL REQUEST TO THE EMBASSY/USG.

STATE DEPT. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW
 Retain class'n Change/classify to _____
 Declassify with concurrence of _____
after _____

EO 12958, 25X
IPS/CR/IR by SD Date: 8/30/01

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

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
2000

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2. (U) MORE RECENTLY, THERE APPEARS TO BE MOVEMENT IN THE MATTER. THE ARGENTINE MEDIA WIDELY REPORTED ON JULY 4 THAT, ACCORDING TO NOTES SENT TO THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT IN THE 1940'S BY THE YUGOSLAV LEGATION IN ARGENTINA (AND RECENTLY RESURRECTED BY THE DAIA), AS MANY AS SEVERAL DOZEN CROATIAN NAZIS MAY HAVE FOUND REFUGE IN ARGENTINA AFTER THE WAR. VICTOR RAMOS, HEAD OF THE ARGENTINE NATIONAL INSTITUTE AGAINST DISCRIMINATION, TOLD THE PRESS JULY 3 THAT ONE OF THESE, "MIRKO ETEROVIC," WILL BE EXPELLED FROM ARGENTINA IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, ALTHOUGH IT REMAINS UNCLEAR WHAT COUNTRY WILL RECEIVE HIM. ETEROVIC IS BELIEVED TO HAVE RUN THE SUPETAR AND SKRIPE CONCENTRATION CAMPS IN CROATIA.

3. (C) RAMOS'S STAFF CONFIDED TO US JULY 6 THAT IN REFERRING TO THE EXPULSION OF ETEROVIC, RAMOS WAS IN EFFECT EXPRESSING ARGENTINA'S "DISAGREEMENT WITH ETEROVIC'S PRESENCE IN THE COUNTRY." GOA WILL NOW LOOK CLOSELY AT THE RELEVANT LEGAL QUESTIONS, AS WELL AS AWAIT THE REACTION OF KEY COUNTRIES SUCH AS CROATIA AND ISRAEL.

4. (U) ETEROVIC, WHO HAS BEEN LIVING IN THE CITY OF CORDOBA, PROCLAIMED HIS INNOCENCE IN A WEEKEND INTERVIEW, INSISTING THAT HE HAD DEFENDING JEWS, SERBS, AND ITALIANS LIVING IN CROATIA. ROCHA

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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