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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 003187

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

JUSTICE FOR OSI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/06/2001

TEXT
TAGS: PHUM, PREL, KJUS, KNAR, HR, AR
SUBJECT: ALLEGED CROATIAN NAZI WAR CRIMINAL FLEES

REF: BUENOS AIRES 3127

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

1. (U) REFTTEL REPORTED THAT GOA HAD IDENTIFIED MIRKO ETEROVIC, LIVING IN CORDOBA, ARGENTINA, AS A POSSIBLE WORLD WAR II CROATIAN NAZI WAR CRIMINAL, BELIEVED TO HAVE RUN THE SUPETAR AND SKRIPE CONCENTRATION CAMPS. ARGENTINE OFFICIALS TOLD THE LOCAL MEDIA THAT THEY INTENDED TO EXPEL ETEROVIC, ALTHOUGH, PRIVATELY, OFFICIALS TOLD US THEY WERE STUDYING THE LEGAL QUESTIONS SURROUNDING HIS STATUS, AS WELL AS AWAITING REACTIONS FROM KEY COUNTRIES SUCH AS CROATIA AND ISRAEL.

STATE DEPT. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW
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EO 12958, 25y after _____
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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2007

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
2000

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2. (U) THE LOCAL MEDIA REPORTED JULY 8 THAT ETEROVIC HAS NOW FLED ARGENTINA, PERHAPS HEADED FOR EUROPE (HE REPORTEDLY HAS A SON IN LONDON) VIA BRAZIL.

3. (C) VICTOR RAMOS, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE AGAINST DISCRIMINATION (INADI), CONFIRMED TO US JULY 8 THAT ETEROVIC HAS INDEED LEFT THE COUNTRY. RAMOS INSISTS, HOWEVER, THAT ETEROVIC IS STILL IN BRAZIL, NOT EUROPE. ACCORDING TO RAMOS, ETEROVIC WAS NATURALIZED AS AN ARGENTINE CITIZEN IN THE 1940'S, BUT HIS PASSPORT HAS EXPIRED. HE THEREFORE COULD DEPART ARGENTINA ONLY FOR ANOTHER MERCOSUR COUNTRY, USING HIS ARGENTINE IDENTITY CARD ("CEDULA"). TO GET ANY FURTHER THAN THE MERCOSUR AREA, HE WOULD NEED TO RENEW HIS PASSPORT. ARGENTINE CONSULAR OFFICES IN BRAZIL HAVE BEEN ALERTED TO PREVENT THAT FROM HAPPENING. ETEROVIC'S ONLY OPTIONS, THEREFORE, WOULD BE TO STAY IN BRAZIL, OR RETURN TO ARGENTINA.

4. (C) WE QUIZZED RAMOS AS TO WHETHER ETEROVIC MIGHT STILL BE IN ARGENTINA, OR PERHAPS A MERCOSUR COUNTRY OTHER THAN BRAZIL. RAMOS INSISTED THAT ETEROVIC IS IN BRAZIL, CITING THE ARGENTINE FEDERAL POLICE IN CORDOBA AS THE SOURCE OF HIS INFORMATION.

5. (SBU) RAMOS MEANWHILE HAS BEGUN THE PROCESS OF STRIPPING ETEROVIC OF HIS ARGENTINE CITIZENSHIP. HE POINTS OUT THAT, AS YET, NO COUNTRY HAS EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN ETEROVIC'S EXTRADITION. ROCHA

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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