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ARGENTINA: Human Rights

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There are persistent rumors in Argentina that security forces are murdering political prisoners before the Inter-American Human Rights Commission visit next month.

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Despite a marked decrease recently in the number of persons illegally detained by the government, several secret detention centers may still exist. According to diplomats who monitor human rights in Argentina

closely, between 500 and 2,000 so-called clandestine political prisoners may still be in secret camps. An International Red Cross spokesman in Geneva, however, believes there are only a "few dozen" prisoners in this category. The US Embassy in Buenos Aires reports that relatives of the missing persons and local human rights advocates contend that the remaining prisoners are being murdered.

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The Argentine Government may fear the embarrassment of allowing the human rights delegation to see prisoners who suffered physical mutilation or psychological impairment as a result of severe interrogation. In 1975, government refusal of a terrorist demand to show several captured guerrillas "alive and well" on television led to the death of a US consular agent held by the terrorists.

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The Swedish Government has offered to join the US, the Vatican, and perhaps other West European governments in an effort to persuade the Argentine Government not to kill any prisoners.

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		OVERNIGHT REPORTS	
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	1	Argentina A federal judge ordered police to of three human rights organizations in yesterday as part of an investigation if one of the groups had solicited false if cerning a missing person, according to report. A spokesman for the judiciary false information was sought in order the government in connection with the value of two of the groups said police seized case files. (Other aspects of the human rights committee early next month of two of the groups said police seized case files.	Buenos Aires nto charges that nformation con- a wire service stated that the o put pressure on isit of the OAS Representatives more than 8,000
		case files. (Other aspects of the huma in Argentina are discussed on page 4.)	n rights problem 3.5(c)
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