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INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
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AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 4847

R.O. 12065: GDS 11/20/86 (KAY, ANDREW R) OR-P

TAGS: SHUM, PA

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON POLITICAL PRISONERS AND ARBITRARY IMPRISONMENT

REF: (A) ASUNCION 4494, (B) 79 ASUNCION 2210, (C) 79 ASUNCION 215

1. (U) THE FOLLOWING IS AN UPDATED LIST OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AND PERSONS DETAINED WITHOUT CHARGES OR JUDICIAL PROCESS. SOME ARE DETAINED UNDER ANTI-SUBVERSIVE LAW 209. OTHERS ARE BEING HELD UNDER THE ARTICLE 79 STATE OF SIEGE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION.

A. POLITICAL PRISONERS:

1) MARIA SATURNINA ALMADA - LAW 209; WIFE OF NO. 4 BELOW AND ALLEGED COMMUNIST. IN WOMENS' PRISON SINCE MAY 1979. PREVIOUSLY HELD WITH CHARGES FROM 1968-1978.

2) REMIGIO GIMENEZ - ARTICLE 79; DETAINED IN BRAZIL DECEMBER 1978 AND HANDED OVER TO PARAGUAYAN AUTHORITIES. NO CHARGES. LIVED IN SAO PAULO FOR 17 YEARS BEFORE DETENTION. BRAZILIAN WIFE CLAIMS HE IS BEING HELD BECAUSE OF POLITICAL
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OPPOSITION. IN GUARDIA DE SEGURIDAD.

3) EUSTACIO RODRIGUEZ - LAW 209; DETAINED IN MAY 1980. ALLEGED COMMUNIST. TRANSFERRED TO TACUMBU PENITENTIARY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
CLASSIFIED BY DEPT. OF STATE, L. R. LOHMAN, DAS, A/RPS
REVIEW AUTHORITY: NORMAN M BOUTON
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 25X1
DATE/CASE ID: 27 JUL 2005 200501500

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NOVEMBER 14 AFTER BEING HELD INCOMMUNICADO IN INVESTIGATIONS POLICE.

4) ALFONSO SILVA QUINTANA - LAW 209; HUSBAND OF NO. 1 ABOVE. ALLEGED COMMUNIST REDETAINED IN MAY 1979 AFTER BEING HELD FROM 1968-1978 WITHOUT CHARGES.

B. ARBITRARY IMPRISONMENT

1) FERMIN ACOSTA - ARTICLE 79; HELD IN GUARDIA DE SEGURIDAD MORE THAN FIVE YEARS.

2) DEMEGIO ARMOA - ARTICLE 79; GUARDIA DE SEGURIDAD.

3) BASILIO AVALOS MARTINEZ - ARTICLE 79; GUARDIA DE SEGURIDAD.

4) ERNESTO AVALOS MARTINEZ - ARTICLE 79; GUARDIA DE SEGURIDAD (BROTHER OF NO. 3).

5) RAFAEL BRITZ - ARTICLE 79; IN GUARDIA DE SEGURIDAD FOR 3 YEARS, NOW 30 YEARS OLD.

6) EGENIO FLEYTAS - HELD AT DELEGADO DEL GOBIERNO IN VILLARRICA SINCE AUGUST 1980. 21 YEARS OLD. NO CHARGES.

7) CANTALICIO ORUE GONZALEZ - ARTICLE 79; GUARDIA DE SEGURIDAD.

8) ESCOLASTICO OVANDO - ARTICLE 79; GUARDIA DE SEGURIDAD, (REFTEL C)

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9) GEORGE SARAMET - ARTICLE 79; HELD IN THIRD PRECINCT POLICE STATION SINCE JANUARY 1980.

INTERNAL EXILE:

1) MARIO MILCIADES MELGAREJO - ARTICLE 79; COLORADO PARTY DISSIDENT EXILED TO INTERIOR VILLAGE OF SAN JOAQUIN ON OCTOBER 22, 1980. NOT ALLOWED VISITORS.

2) RUBEN DARIO VERON - ARTICLE 79; COLORADO PARTY DISSIDENT EXILED TO INTERIOR VILLAGE OF YHU ON OCTOBER 22, 1980. NOT ALLOWED VISITORS.

D. PERSONS DETAINED AND STILL HELD FOLLOWING SOMOZA ASSASSINATION

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- 1) JUAN CARLOS ORIETA AKA JUAN OSVALDO RAMIREZ - ARGENTINE NATIONAL DETAINED OCTOBER 7, 1980. ALLEGEDLY A MONTONERO WHO HAD BEEN LIVING IN MISIONES DISTRICT OF PARAGUAY FOR SEVEN YEARS. HELD BY INVESTIGATIONS POLICE. NO CHARGES.
- 2) ANTONIA SAMANIEGO JARA - PARAGUAYAN WIFE OF ORIETA; DETAINED AT SAME TIME. ALSO HELD IN INVESTIGATIONS. NO CHARGES.
- 3) RAFAEL A.M. LATORRE - CHILEAN NATIONAL DETAINED ON OCTOBER 30, 1980. HELD IN GUARDIA DE SEGURIDAD. NO CHARGES.
- 4) MARIA CASTRO DE LATORRE - CHILEAN WIFE OF NO. 3. ALSO HELD IN GUARDIA DE SEGURIDAD. NO CHARGES.

2. (C) COMMENTS: THE ABOVE LISTING IS CURRENT AS OF NOVEMBER 6, 1980. ALL OF THE PERSONS CAN BE EITHER VISITED BY THEIR LAWYERS

[REDACTED] WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THOSE HELD IN THE INTERIOR OF THE COUNTRY. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

3. (C) EUSTACIO RODRIGUEZ'S WHEREABOUTS (NO. 3 ON POLITICAL PRISONER LIST) HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN UNCONFIRMED AND HE WAS THOUGHT BY SOME TO HAVE DIED FOLLOWING TORTURE. THERE IS SOME REASON TO BELIEVE THAT INFORMATION EXTRACTED FROM HIM MAY HAVE LED TO THE "DISAPPEARANCE" OF TWO OTHER PARAGUAYAN COMMUNIST PARTY LEADERS, ANTONIO MAIDANA AND EMILIO ROA IN BUENOS AIRES IN AUGUST 1980. EMBASSY ASUNCION HAS NO INFORMATION TO SUPPORT CLAIMS THAT THE ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES HAVE HANDED THEM OVER TO PARAGUAY.

(C) THE TWO NEW NAMES ON THE ARBITRARY IMPRISONMENT LIST, NO. 6 EUGENIO FLEYTAS AND NO. 9 GEORGE SARAMENT, WERE REPUTED IN THE PRESS TO BE CASES INVOLVING REVENGE ON THE PART OF PERSONS WELL-CONNECTED WITH THE GOVERNMENT. THE CASE OF EUGENIO FLEYTAS IS PARTICULARLY SORDID. HIS MOTHER AND FATHER WERE REPORTEDLY MURDERED IN A FARM COLONY BY A LOCAL POLICE OFFICIAL FOR NOT SELLING THEIR COTTON TO THE DELEGADO DEL GOBIERNO OF VILLARRICA, RAMON LEGAL, WHO IS THE BROTHER OF PRESIDENT STROESSNER'S FAVORITE MISTRESS. FLEYTAS' 11 AND 12-YEAR-OLD BROTHERS ALLEGEDLY HAD BEEN BEATEN BY LOCAL POLICE AUTHORITIES FOR TELLING WHO HAD MURDERED THEIR PARENTS.

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21-YEAR-OLD EUGENIO FLEYTAS IS BEING HELD WITHOUT JUDICIAL PROCESS. BACKGROUND ON SOME OF THE OTHER ARBITRARY DETENTION CASES IS CONTAINED IN REFTEL B.

5. (LOU) LEONCIO TEODULO CABELO, INCLUDED IN PREVIOUS LIST OF DETAINEES, IS REPORTEDLY NO LONGER IN THE GUARDIA DE SEGURIDAD. NO ONE KNOWS HIS PRESENT DISPOSITION OR WHEREABOUTS. ROMAN MARTINEZ GONZALEZ, HELD FOR FIVE YEARS IN THE SAN LORENZO POLICE STATION, WAS RELEASED THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 3.

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6. (LOU) ACCORDING TO CHURCH COMMITTEE [REDACTED] THEY RECEIVED REPORTS FROM PRISONERS THAT THERE MAY ALSO BE UP TO EIGHT ADDITIONAL PERSONS BEING HELD IN INVESTIGATIONS AND ONE ADDITIONAL PERSON IN THE GUARDIA DE SEGURIDAD. HOWEVER, INFORMATION ON THESE PERSONS IS INSUFFICIENT TO BE INCLUDED IN THEIR LISTS AND WE CANNOT CONFIRM THESE DETENTIONS FROM OTHER SOURCES SO FAR. UPDATES ON THE CAAGUAZU INCIDENT DETAINEES AND THE EIGHT CAMPESINOS DETAINED IN SAN PEDRO IN SEPTEMBER WILL BE TRANSMITTED SEPTTEL.LANE

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