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10 ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /079 W

R 102020Z JUN 76 FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5989 INFO USMISSION GENEVA

ARGENTINA PROJECT (\$20000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS.
Maggaret P. Grafeld, Director
Release () Excise () Denv
Exemption(s)
Declaratify: () In Part (X) In Pull Decay
() Classify as _ () Extend as _ () Downgrade to _
Date Declassify on Reason

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, PINS, AR
SUBJECT: REFUGEE RECORDS STOLEN IN ARMED BREAK-IN

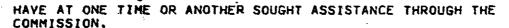
1. TEN ARMED MEN BROKE INTO THE OFFICES OF THE ARGENTINE
CATHOLIC COMMISSION ON IMMIGRATION NIGHT OF JUNE 9 AND
RANSACKED SAFES AND FILES, STEALING MOST OF THE RECORDS ON
THE MANY THOUSANDS OF REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS HANDLED
THROUGH THE COMMISSION IN THE PAST 20 YEARS.

2. MR. PINTO, DEPUTY IN CHARTE AT UNHOR, WHICH WORKS CLOSELY WITH ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED WITH REFUGEES AND HIGRATION, REPORTED THE ROBBERY TO THE FEDERAL POLICE AND AN INVESTIGATION IS UNDER WAY. PINTO IS PROTECTING THE NAME OF A WITNESS, WHO APPARENTLY SAW THE OPERATION IN THE UNGUARDED OFFICES. THE PERPETRATORS SMASHED THE DOOR AND LOCKED CABINETS AND HAULED AWAY ALMOST EVERYTHING IN THE OFFICES. NO POLICE ARRIVED AND NO ONE WAS HURT.

ON AND PETITIONS FROM HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PERSONS, ACCORDING TO MR. PINTO, INCLUDING REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS RELOCATED IN ARGENTINA--JEWS, EASTERN EUROPEWFS FOLLOWING THE WAR, DRONOMIC REFUGEES, POLITICAL EXILES AND OT DRS WHO PAGE 02 BUENOS 03880 110736Z

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- 4. PINTO SAID HE THOUGHT THAT THE THIEVES STOLE "QSTHOUT A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT THEY WANTED" SINCE SOME PAPERS SIMILLAR TO THOSE TAKEN WERE LEFT STREWN AROUND THE ROOM.
- 5. THE ARGENTINE CATHOLIC COMMISSION ON IMMIGRATION WORKS CLOSELY WITH UNDER IN ARGENTINA AS DO MWNY ORGANIZATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS LOSSELY CONNECTED THROUGH THE GOA'S COORDINATING COMMISSION ON SOCIAL ACTION. IT IS THE LOCAL BRANCH OF INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC COMMISSION ON IMMIGRATION HEADQUARTERED IN GENEVA AND IS HEADED BY TWO LOCAL BISHOPS.
- 6. THE DOCUMENTS AMASSSED DURING ITS 20-YEAR EXISTENCE CAN BE REPLICATED THROUGH THE FILES IN OTHER OREGANIZATIONS, SAID DR. PINTO, BUT YILL REQUIRE ENORMOUS EFFORT.
- 7 COMMENT: THE OFFICIAL UNHOR STATEMENT AND POLICE INVESTIATION REFER TO THE CASE AS A SIMPLE ROBBERY, THOUGH THE IMPLICATIONS ARE ENORMOUS, PARTICULARLY FOLLOWING THE REIDNT VIOLENT DEATHS OF PROMIMENT POLITICAL EXILES FROM NEIGHBORING COUTNRIES. IT WILL LIKELY PROMPT A STRONG--THOUGHNHERHAPS NOT OFFICIAL--REACTION FROM THE CATHOLIC CHURCH. UNHOR CONTACTS ARE WORRIED ABOUT DANGERS TO THOSE WHOSE NAMES FIGURED IN THE STOLEN DOCUMENTS, WHICH INCLUDE INECX CARDS WITH NAMES AND ADDRESSES AND CONFIDENTIAL LETTERS REQUESTING ASSISTANCE, FOR BOTH ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL REAKSONS.LPMAPLIN