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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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DR 04-02, #2: CIA Ltr 12/22/09, DOST Ltr 1/28/04

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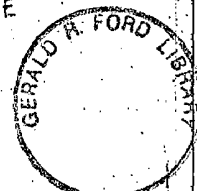
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EYES ONLY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, AR, US
SUBJECT: STRANGE INVOLVEMENT OF US GROUP WITH RETURN OF JORGE
ANTONIO

FOR ASST SEC ROGERS FROM AMB HILL



1. I WAS CALLED ON MAR 11 BY AIDES TO SENATORS THURMOND AND HELMS AND TOLD THEY WOULD ARRIVE IN ARGENTINA THE NEXT DAY. I URGED THEM NOT TO COME WHEN THEY TOLD ME GEN GRAHAM (RETIRED DEP DIR OF CIA AND DIR OF DIA) WAS COMING WITH THEM. GROUP ALSO INCLUDED A CUBAN EXILE, ONE RAYMOND HOLINA. GROUP ARRIVED NEXT DAY AND CAME DIRECTLY TO RESIDENCE. THEY TOLD ME THEY WERE HERE IN CONNECTION WITH RETURN TO ARGENTINA OF JORGE ANTONIO. GRAHAM SAID THAT ANTONIO EXPECTED TO BE THE NEXT CIVILIAN PRES OF ARGENTINA. LATTER, HE CLAIMED, HAD ALREADY MADE CONTACT WITH PRESIDENTS OF PANAMA, NICARAGUA AND VENEZUELA AND ALLEGEDLY HAD THEIR RESPECT AND ASSURANCES OF SUPPORT. ACCORDING TO HIS INFO, GRAHAM SAID, MILITARY WILL SHORTLY OVERTHROW MRS. PERON AND CALL FOR ELECTIONS SOON THEREAFTER. ANTONIO WOULD COME BACK, PROVIDE MILITARY WITH EVIDENCE WHICH WOULD TOTALLY DISCREDIT MRS. PERON AND THEN BE ELECTED PRES BECAUSE HE HAS BACKING AND MONEY. GRAHAM ASKED ME WHAT I THOUGHT OF THIS.

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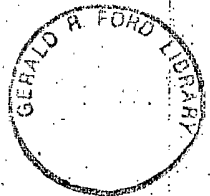
PAGE 02 BUENOS 01763 171625Z

WM I REPLIED THAT MY OWN READING WAS THAT JORGE ANTONIO WAS COMPLETELY DISCREDITED IN ARGENTINA. HE MIGHT WELL BE IN POSSESSION OF SOME EVIDENCE AGAINST MRS. PERON AND MILITARY MIGHT PERMIT HIM TO RETURN TO ARGENTINA, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY. HOWEVER, CHANCES THAT JORGE ANTONIO COULD BECOME PRES WERE, IN MY OPINION, NIL. I FURTHER ADVISED GEN GRAHAM AND HIS ASSOCIATES THAT THEY WOULD DO WELL TO GET OUT OF ARGENTINA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IF PRESS FOUND OUT THEY WERE HERE OR HAD ANY INKLING AS TO WHY, ALL HELL COULD BREAK LOOSE.

3. GRAHAM AGREED. BEFORE DEPARTURE, HOWEVER, HE SAID HE KNEW [REDACTED] AND ASKED TO TALK TO HIM. [REDACTED] CAME TO RESIDENCE. THEY INDICATED THEY KNEW NOTHING AT ALL ABOUT JORGE ANTONIO'S ACTIVITIES. [REDACTED] SUBSEQUENTLY ASSURED ME THAT [REDACTED] IN NO WAY INVOLVED WITH JORGE ANTONIO.

4. GEN GRAHAM AND THREE STAFF AIDES OF TWO SENATORS DEPARTED SAME EVENING, MAR 12, FOR MONTEVIDEO. I INSTRUCTED LEGATT TO FOLLOW UP DISCREETLY WITH MOLINA, WHO REMAINED BEHIND AT SHERATON HOTEL. I AM FORWARDING TO YOU BY POUCH LEGATT'S REPORTS ON HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH MOLINA. GIST IS THAT MOLINA IS NOT AFTER A PUBLIC RELATIONS CONTRACT WITH FUTURE GOVT, THINKS JORGE ANTONIO CAN GET IT FOR HIM AND THEREFORE IS PUSHING LATTER'S FORTUNES. MOLINA INSISTED TO LEGATT THAT GEN OALLA TEA, SEC GEN OF ARMY ESTADO MAYOR, HAD SPOKENT TO JORGE ANTONIO'S SON ON BEHALF OF JUNTA. IMPRESSION MOLINA SOUGHT TO GIVE WAS THAT JUNTA LOOKED FAVORABLY UPON ANTONIO. IN SAME VEIN, LEGATT WAS CALLED BY MOLINA AND TOLD "REP OF GEN VIDELA" WANTED TO TALK TO GEN GRAHAM IN MONTEVIDEO MAR 17. SUBSEQUENT CALL FROM SEN HELMS OFFICE INDICATED ANTONIO WAS ILL AND WOULD NOT BE ARRIVING IN NEXT FEW DAYS AS EXPECTED.) BOTH INDICATIONS THAT JUNTA IS IN ANY WAY INTERESTED IN DEALING WITH JORGE ANTONIO ARE, IN MY JUDGEMENT, FABRICATIONS, OR AT LEAST GROSS EXAGGERATIONS (PROBABLY OF MOLINA). NAVY CINC MASSERA, WHOM I SAW AT COFFEE IN HOME OF MUTUAL FRIEND YESTERDAY (SEE SEPTEL) RASIED SUBJECT OF JORGE ANTONIO, SAID MILITARY MIGHT LET HIM COME BACK BUT CERTAINLY WANTED TO HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH HIM. MASSERA SAID ANTONIO WAS WELL KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN CORRUPT IN THE EXTREME AND THAT FUTURE GOVT WOULD NOT TOUCH HIM WITH TEN-FOOT POLE. HE FURTHER ADDED THAT IF ANYONE IN MILITARY HAD HAD CONTACT WITH ANTONIO OR HIS ASSOCIATES,

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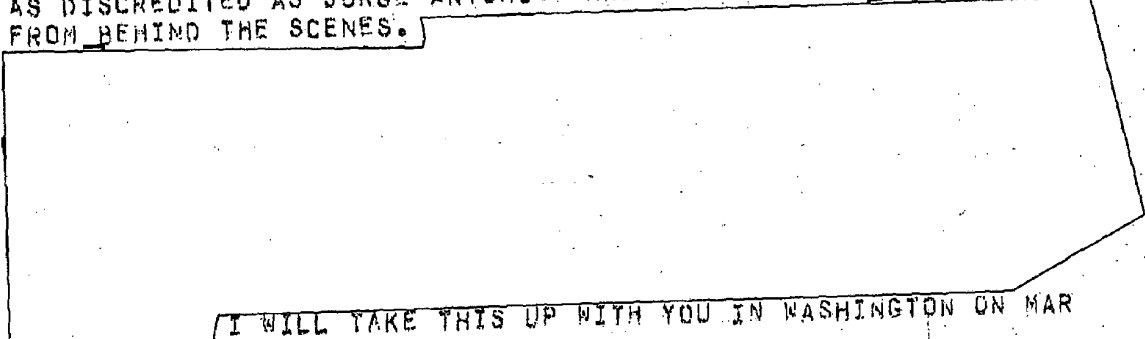
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PAGE 03 BUENOS 01763 171625Z

HE HAD ONE SO ON OWN ACCOUNT AND WITHOUT APPROVAL OF CINCS.

4. I HOPE THIS PROBLEM HAS BEEN PUT BEHIND US. IT COULD HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY EMBARRASSING AT THE LEAST, HOWEVER, AND AT MOST VERY DAMAGING TO OUR RELATIONS. GRAHAM INSISTED THAT HE ACTING IN PRIVATE CAPACITY, BUT I DO NOT SEE HOW A PERSON OF HIS STATURE AND SERIOUSNESS COULD HAVE BECOME INVOLVED WITH ANYONE AS DISCREDITED AS JORGE ANTONIO UNLESS THERE WERE SOME PUSH FROM BEHIND THE SCENES.



I WILL TAKE THIS UP WITH YOU IN WASHINGTON ON MAR

19.
HILL



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