

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 XMB-02 /063 W
-----252229Z 114788 /70

O 252115Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0207

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 3054

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: DETENTION OF LA OPINION'S DIRECTOR

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
 Release Excise Deny
Exemption(s): _____
Declassify: In Part In Full
 Classify as ___ Extend as ___ Downgrade to ___
Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

REF: STATE 090875

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN FROM AMBASSADOR HILL

1. I APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S HAVING REFRAINED FROM COMMENT ON THE DETENTION OF JACOBO TIMERMAN AND CONTINUE TO FEEL THAT THIS IS THE MOST PRUDENT COURSE TO FOLLOW.
2. EMOBOFFS WILL AGAIN CONVEY TO HECTOR OUR CONCERN FOR WELFARE OF FATHER. DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE HELPFUL OR PERHAPS EVEN APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO APPROACH HIM AT THIS POINT. TIMERMAN MAY BE RELATIVELY INNOCENT PAWN CAUGHT IN ATTACK ON FORMER PRESIDENT LANUSSE BY LATTER'S ENEMIES, OR MAY BE FOUND GUILTY OF ECONOMIC VIOLATIONS. INTENSITY OF EMOTIONS NOW BEING STIRRED UP HAS CONVINCED ME WE MUST CAREFULLY LIMIT OBVIOUS EMBASSY INVOLVEMENT TO AVOID CHARGES OF INTERFERENCE DURING PERIOD WHEN FACTS OF ISSUE ARE NOT KNOWN.
3. AN EXPRESSION OF HOPE FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE PUBLICATION WITHOUT DIFFICULTIES OF LA OPINION WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE

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IF THE PUBLICATION WERE NOT ALREADY IN SUCH FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES THAT EXIMBANK RECENTLY REFUSED TO GUARANTEE A CREDIT TO THE PAPER. ONE LA OPINION WRITER TOLD EMOBOFF LAST WEEK THE PAPER'S DAYS WERE NUMBERED.

4. EMBASSY WILL REPORT BY SEPTEL ANY INFORMATION IT IS ABLE TO DEVELOP ON LA OPINION'S FINANCIAL BACKGROUND.
HILL

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NNN

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