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ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-12 SS-10 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 H-01 IO-15 NSC-01 NSAE-00 HA-08 L-03  
TRSE-00 PM-09 PA-02 SAL-01 USIE-00 SP-02 SNP-01  
PRS-01 /093 W

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R 251342Z MAR 83  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6782  
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USMISSION GENEVA

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

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 01884  
ROME FOR THE VATICAN

E.O. 12356: N/A  
TAGS: SHUM, AR  
SUBJECT: CELAM SECGEN CHALLENGED

REF: A) BUENOS AIRES 1764; B) BUENOS AIRES 1560

1. MSGR. ANTONIO QUARRACINO, BISHOP OF AVELLANEDA NAMED EARLIER THIS MONTH HEAD OF THE LATIN AMERICAN BISHOPS CONFERENCE (CELAM) (REF A), FOUND HIMSELF THIS WEEK EMBROILED PUBLICLY WITH ONE OF ARGENTINA'S BEST-KNOWN HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATES. EMILIO MIGNONE, WHOSE DAUGHTER MONICA DISAPPEARED IN 1976, CHALLENGED QUARRACINO TO IDENTIFY "THOSE ALLEGED DISAPPEARED WHO ARE ALIVE AND OUT OF THE COUNTRY", AS HE IS REPORTED TO HAVE CLAIMED THERE WERE DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE IN HAITI LAST WEEK. SHOULD HE NOT CLARIFY HIS STATEMENT THE MIGNONES SAID THEY ARE READY TO START LEGAL ACTIONS AGAINST

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HIM FOR "FALSE TESTIMONY", CONCEALMENT, CALUMNY  
AND RELATED CHARGES.

2. THE CHALLENGE, SENT IN A REGISTERED LETTER  
WHICH HAS LEGAL STANDING IN COURT ACTIONS, CALLED ON  
THE BISHOP "TO ANNOUNCE PUBLICLY THE NAMES OF  
THOSE DETAINED-DISAPPEARED DENOUNCED ON THE LISTS  
OF THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, WHO,  
ACCORDING TO YOUR STATEMENT, ARE LIVING ABROAD".  
THE MIGNONES' LETTER GIVES QUARRACINO TEN DAYS TO  
CLARIFY THE MATTER.

3. COMMENT: THE DEMAND ON QUARRACINO IS THE LATEST  
OUTCROPPING OF A CONTINUING DISPUTE BETWEEN THE  
ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT AND PROMINENT MEM-  
BERS OF THE CHURCH HIERARCHY. REMARKS BY CARDINAL  
ARAMBURU ON HIS RETURN FROM HAITI LAST WEEK SEEMING  
TO FAVOR AN AMNESTY LAW, ECHOING SIMILAR STATEMENTS  
BY QUARRACINO IN PORT AU PRINCE, PRODUCED DIS-  
PLEASURE IN THE MOVEMENT; ARAMBURU HAD AROUSED  
THE WRATH OF HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS LAST  
NOVEMBER WHEN HE DENIED THE EXISTENCE IN ARGENTINA  
OF COMMON GRAVES CONTAINING REMAINS OF PERSONS  
WHO DISAPPEARED IN THE DIRTY WAR. ARGENTINA'S  
OTHER CARDINAL, RAUL PRIMATESTA, HAS ALSO BEEN  
SINGLED OUT AS UNSYMPATHETIC TO THE CAUSE. THE  
MOTHERS OF THE PLAZA DE MAYO HAVE GONE SO FAR AS  
TO COMPLAIN WHILE IN ROME TO SEE THE POPE IN EARLY  
MARCH THAT THE ARGENTINE CHURCH HAD ABANDONED THEM  
(REF B). SHLAUDEMAN

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