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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 DODE-00 SCCT-01 AID-05 CIAE-00
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P 201508Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0401

SECTION 1 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 1942

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ARA, ASEC, PINS
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE TERRORIST SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES

1. COLONEL SAMUEL STAPLETON, DATT, ADVISED THE FOLLOWING:
ON MARCH 10 AT APPROXIMATELY 16:30 HOURS [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] WAS RETURNING HOME FROM THE OLIVOS TRAIN STATION.
SHE NOTICED SHE WAS BEING FOLLOWED BY A MALE INDIVIDUAL IN A
FIAT 600. SHE IDENTIFIED THIS PERSON AS BEING IN HIS LATE
20'S, TALL, WELL-DRESSED AND APPARENTLY OF SPANISH ORIGIN.
HE ATTEMPTED TO STRIKE UP A CONVERSATION WITH HER. AFTER
BEING IGNORED FOR TWO BLOCKS, HE DEPARTED THE AREA.
WHEN SHE TURNED RIGHT ON CATAMARCA STREET IN THE DIRECTION
OF HER HOME, HE WAS WAITING FOR HER AND ATTEMPTED ONCE
AGAIN TO START A CONVERSATION. SHE IGNORED HIM. THE
MALE INDIVIDUAL DEPARTED AGAIN. WHEN SHE ARRIVED AT
THE RAILROAD TRACK CROSSING CATAMARCA, HE WAS ONCE AGAIN
WAITING FOR HER. SUBSEQUENTLY, HE ATTEMPTED TO STRIKE
UP CONVERSATIONS WITH HER AT THE BRIDGE ON CATAMARCA
IN FRONT OF THE YORK THEATRE AND IN FRONT OF THE
STAPLETON HOUSE. HIS GENERAL CONVERSATION HAD BEEN
THAT OF REQUESTING [REDACTED] TO JOIN HIM IN THE AUTOMOBILE.
[REDACTED] DID NOT REPLY AND IGNORED HIM AT ALL TIMES. IN
FRONT OF THE STAPLETON HOUSE HE STATED TO HER IN SPANISH,
"YOU SEE, I TOLD YOU I KNOW WHERE YOU LIVE, NOW YOU SEE

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Garfield, Director
() Release
Exemption(s): Excise () Deny
Declassify: () In Part () In Full
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Date Declassify on Reason
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THAT I WAS TELLING THE TRUTH. WE KNOW WHERE YOU LIVE TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF". UPON ENTERING THE HOUSE [REDACTED] INFORMED HER FAMILY. COLONEL STAPLETON TOURED THE NEIGHBORHOOD TRYING TO IDENTIFY THE AUTOMOBILE. THE LICENSE NUMBER OF THE AUTOMOBILE WAS NOT OBTAINED. COLONEL STAPLETON INFORMED THE SECURITY OFFICE OF THE INCIDENT.

ACTION SECURITY OFFICE:

PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL POLICE INFORMED OF INCIDENT. INVESTIGATION TO DATE HAS FAILED TO PRODUCE IDENTITY OF AUTOMOBILE OR SUSPECT. [REDACTED] PLACED UNDER PROTECTIVE SURVEILLANCE BY FEDERAL POLICE. [REDACTED] TRAVELING TO AND FROM SCHOOL ON SCHOOL BUS. AT REQUEST OF COLONEL STAPLETON, [REDACTED] PROVIDED "MACE".

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2. FOLLOWING INFORMATION REPORTED BY COLONEL SAMUEL STAPLETON, DATT: ON MARCH 13 AT APPROXIMATELY 1530 HOURS COLONEL STAPLETON WAS RETURNING TO HIS QUARTERS IN OLIVOS FOR THE PURPOSE OF MEETING WITH FEDERAL POLICE OFFICERS IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROTECTIVE SURVEILLANCE PLACED [REDACTED] AS HIS AUTOMOBILE WAS TURNING RIGHT NEAR THE YORK THEATRE ONTO CATAMARCA TWO AUTOMOBILES, ONE PARKED ON EACH SIDE OF THE STREET, WERE OBSERVED. THE AUTOMOBILE PARKED ON THE RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE YORK THEATRE PULLED AWAY FROM THE CURB PRECEDING COLONEL STAPLETON ON TO CATAMARCA, IT CONTINUED FOR 20 OR 30 FEET DOWN THE STREET AND THEN STOPPED BLOCKING PASSAGE. AS STAPLETON'S CAR STOPPED, THE SECOND AUTOMOBILE ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE STREET COMMENCED MOVING AS THOUGH TO PULL UP IN THE REAR BOXING STAPLETON'S CAR FROM MOVEMENT. STAPLETON'S CHAUFFEUR WHO WAS COGNIZANT OF WHAT WAS OCCURRING, IMMEDIATELY TURNED STAPLETON'S AUTOMOBILE TO THE LEFT RAPIDLY DEPARTING THE AREA. NO EFFORT WAS MADE TO FOLLOW STAPLETON'S CAR. THERE WERE NO WEAPONS DISPLAYED, NOR WAS A HOSTILE ATTITUDE INDICATED BY EITHER CAR. COLONEL STAPLETON ADVISED THAT IT WAS VERY UNUSUAL TO HAVE TWO PARKED AUTOMOBILES IN FRONT OF THE YORK THEATRE AT 1500 IN THE AFTERNOON SINCE THE MOVIE DOES NOT START UNTIL 2000 HOURS. HE ALSO STATED THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE HE

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COULD HAVE IMAGINED THE WHOLE AFFAIR BUT THAT HIS DRIVER HAD ALSO OBSERVED THE ACTIONS. HE DESCRIBED ONE AUTOMOBILE AS BEING A LARGE TWO TONE DODGE WITH A DARK BROWN TOP AND BEIGE BOTTOM. THERE WERE THREE OR FOUR MEN OCCUPYING THIS VEHICLE. THE SECOND AUTOMOBILE WAS A FIAT. STAPLETON WAS INFORMED BY HIS CHAUFFEUR THAT THIS SECOND AUTOMOBILE WAS OCCUPIED BY THREE MEN AND A WOMAN. STAPLETON ADVISED THE SECURITY OFFICE OF THE INCIDENT UPON ARRIVING AT THIS HOME.

ACTION SECURITY OFFICE:
CONTRACT MOBILE PATROL AND POLICE INFORMED. CONTRACT PATROL VEHICLE PROCEEDED TO STAPLETON'S HOUSE TO PROVIDE PROTECTION IN THE EVENT AN INCIDENT WAS ABOUT TO OCCUR. SEARCH OF THE SUBURBAN AREA BY POLICE AUTHORITIES FOR THE TWO VEHICLES MET WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS. STAPLETON ISSUED SHOTGUN ON REQUEST.

3. ON SUNDAY MARCH 16, 1975, RSO BECKETT DEPARTED OFFICE IN THE CHANCERY AND PROCEEDED HOME IN HIS PRIVATELY OWNED VEHICLE. THE ROUTE TAKEN WAS TWO BLOCKS DOWN SARMIENTO TURNING RIGHT AT ESMERALDA FOR ONE BLOCK, NEXT TURNING RIGHT ONTO CORRIENTES. RSO PROCEEDED DOWN CORRIENTES AND TURNED LEFT ONTO LIBERTADOR. WHILE TRAVELING NORTH ON LIBERTADOR A WHITE PEUGEOT WAS OBSERVED APPROACHING THE REAR OF BECKETT'S AUTOMOBILE AT AN ACCELERATED RATE OF SPEED. THE PEUGEOT PULLED IN BEHIND, DEACCELERATED AND FOLLOWED FOR TWO OR THREE BLOCKS. THE OCCUPANTS OF THE WHITE PEUGEOT WERE OBSERVED TO BE THREE MALES AND ONE FEMALE. THE TWO MALES SITTING IN THE FRONT SEAT WERE BEARDED. THE MAN IN THE BACK SEAT WAS CLEAN SHAVEN. THEY WERE DRESSED IN SPORT CLOTHES SUCH AS SWEATERS. NO LICENSE PLATES WERE ATTACHED TO THE FRONT OF THE CAR. RSO BECKETT STOPPED AT A TRAFFICE LIGHT, THE PEUGEOT REMAINED BEHIND HIM. WHEN THE LIGHT CHANGED, THE TWO CARS CONTINUED DOWN LIBERTADOR FOR FIVE OR SIX BLOCKS. RSO BECKETT TURNED LEFT MAKING A 360 DEGREE CIRCLE AROUND THE BLOCK RETURNING TO LBERTADOR, THE WHILE PEUGEOT FOLLOWED IN THIS MANEUVER. RATES OF SPEED BETWEEN 20 AND 90 KILOMETERS WERE REACHED WITH THE PEUGEOT CONTINUING TO FOLLOW. RSO BECKETT EXPOSED HIS FIREARM WHICH COULD BE

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OBSERVED BY THE CAR FOLLOWING THROUGH THE REAR WINDOW OF BECKETT'S AUTOMOBILE. AFTER WEAPON EXPOSURE THE WHITE PEUGEOT DROPPED BACK TO APPROXIMATELY 50 FEET BEHIND THE RSO'S VEHICLE. RSO BECKETT PROCEEDED OUT LIBERTADOR FOR APPROXIMATELY 1 1/2 MILES WITH THE WHITE PEUGEOT CONTINUING TO FOLLOW. A LEFT TURN WAS MADE AT WHICH TIME THE PEUGEOT DISENGAGED. A DIVERSIFIED ROUTE WAS TAKEN BY RSO BECKETT IN RETURNING TO HIS QUARTERS. THIS INCIDENT WAS REPORTED TO THE AMBASSADOR AND FEDERAL POLICE. SINCE IDENTITY TAG NUMBERS WERE NOT AVAILABLE, NO INVESTIGATION WAS CONDUCTED.

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P 201508Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0402

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RSO'S COMMENT:
IT CANNOT BE CLEARLY STATED THAT THIS INCIDENT WAS A DESIGNED SURVEILLANCE. HOWEVER, IT APPEARS TO BE HIGHLY UNUSUAL THAT AN INDIVIDUAL NOT CONDUCTING A SURVEILLANCE WOULD CONTINUE TO FOLLOW AN INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYING COUNTER SURVEILLANCE TECHNIQUES. WHERE POSSIBLE, TIMES OF MOVEMENT HAVE BEEN EXTENSIVELY DIVERSIFIED SINCE THE INCIDENT. RSO IS CURRENTLY CARRYING AN EXPOSED SHOULDER WEAPON IN ALL MOVEMENTS.

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4. RSO COMMENT:

IT IS DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH THAT ANY OF THE THREE ABOVE INCIDENTS ARE DIRECTLY RELATED TO TERRORIST ACTIONS. HOWEVER, ANY AND ALL OF THE INCIDENTS COULD BE A PART OF SOME PLAN FOR FUTURE ACTION. THE INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED ON SUNDAY, THE 16TH, COULD BE EXPLAINED AS FOLLOWS: VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE EMBASSY STAFF, UNESCORTED AND ALONE, VISIT THE EMBASSY DURING WEEKENDS AND OFF DUTY HOURS FOR THE PURPOSE OF WORK. THE STREETS OF THE CITY OF B.A. DURING THE DAY TIME PERIOD ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY ARE PRACTICALLY DESERTED. IT COULD BE THAT THIS APPARENT SURVEILLANCE ATTEMPT WAS OF THE "TARGET OF OPPORTUNITY" TYPE, OR FOR THE PURPOSE OF IDENTIFYING DIPLOMATIC TAGS BELONGING TO THE US DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE, SINCE MEMBERS OF THE EMBASSY STAFF TRAVEL SINGULARLY IN PRACTICALLY DESERTED STREETS DURING

[REDACTED]

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THE WEEKENDS, DISSIDENT ELEMENTS ARE LOOKING FOR TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY FOR KIDNAPPINGS OR ASSASSINATIONS. WITH RESPECT TO THE STAPLETON INCIDENT ON MARCH 13 AND THE BECKETT INCIDENT ON MARCH 16, ONE THING IS SIGNIFICANT IN BOTH INSTANCES I.E. AUTOMOBILES WERE OBSERVED TO BE OCCUPIED BY THREE MALES AND ONE FEMALE. THIS CONFIGURATION OF PERSONNEL HAS IN RECENT MONTHS BEEN THE UNIT EMPLOYED BY LEFT WING ELEMENTS AS THE WARRIOR SQUAD FOR KIDNAPPING AND/OR ASSASSINATIONS.

SECTION HEADS WERE INFORMED BY THE RSO OF THE INCIDENT

AND THE POSSIBLE DANGER OF SINGLE MEMBERS COMING TO AND

DEPARTING THE CHANCERY ON WEEKENDS.

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