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INCOMING
TELEGRAM

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1521
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UNCLAS MONTEVIDEO 03271

E.O. 12305: N/A
TAGS: ADRG, PNM, SCOM, UY
SUBJECT: 36TH ASSEMBLY OF INTERNATIONAL PRESS
INSTITUTE: MONTEVIDEO PORTION

REF: BUENOS AIRES 4055

1. SUMMARY: THE MONTEVIDEO PORTION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS INSTITUTE (IPI) CLOSED ON MAY 15 AFTER HEARING SPEECHES FROM PERUVIAN PRESIDENT ALAN GARCIA, MRS. FRANCOIS HITTERAND, AND FOREIGN MINISTER IGLESIAS. GARCIA, WHOSE APPEARANCE WAS NOT DEFINITE UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE DUE TO DISTURBANCES IN LIMA, MADE A LONG AND EMOTIONAL SPEECH DEVOTED MOSTLY TO THE TOPIC OF TERRORISM, WHILE OTHER SPEAKERS RESTRICTED THEMSELVES MORE TO THE TOPIC OF FREEDOM OF THE PRESS. SPEAKING EARLIER, PRESIDENT SANGUINETTI HAD OPENED THE CONFERENCE BY PLEADING FOR A DECLINE IN PROTECTIONISM, WHICH HE SAID IS STRANGLING URUGUAY'S EXPORTS, AND BY PRAISING THE USG FOR SUPPORTING URUGUAY'S RETURN TO DEMOCRACY AND FOR TAKING A "REASONABLE" ATTITUDE ON PROTECTIONISM. END SUMMARY

2. THE THIRTY-SIXTH ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS INSTITUTE CLOSED IN MONTEVIDEO MAY 15 WITH ADDRESSES BY PERUVIAN PRESIDENT ALAN GARCIA AND URUGUAYAN FOREIGN MINISTER ENRIQUE IGLESIAS. THE FIRST PART OF THE CONFERENCE HAD BEEN HELD THE PREVIOUS WEEK IN BUENOS AIRES; THE MONTEVIDEO PART OF THE PROGRAM INCLUDED THE PARTICIPATION OF AROUND 400 JOURNALISTS, MOSTLY FROM THE FREE WORLD AND INCLUDING A SUBSTANTIAL CONTINGENT FROM THE UNITED STATES. WHILE DEBATE ON CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECTS WAS MINIMAL, THE FINAL REPORT OF THE ASSEMBLY VOICED HARSH CRITICISM OF WHAT IT CALLED AN INCREASING TENDENCY TOWARDS CONTROL OF INFORMATION BY GOVERNMENTS, AND SPECIFICALLY SINGLED OUT PARAGUAY, NICARAGUA AND CHILE AS OFFENDERS, ALTHOUGH THE REPORT OF THE IPI'S HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE LISTED A NUMBER OF OTHER VIOLATORS.

3. SANGUINETTI: PROTECTIONISM IS KILLING US:
THE MONTEVIDEO PROGRAM BEGAN WITH AN HOUR LONG WELCOMING SPEECH BY PRESIDENT SANGUINETTI WHO GREETED DELEGATES THAT HE HIMSELF IS A PART-TIME ECONOMIST, AS ARE MOST URUGUAYAN POLITICIANS. HE STRESSED THE PROMINENT ROLE OF THE PRESS IN URUGUAY'S RETURN TO DEMOCRACY, AND THANNED THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH HAD SUPPORTED THIS PROCESS. HE ESPECIALLY MENTIONED

URUGUAY'S SITUATION AS A RESULT OF UNITED STATES, NOTING THAT THE USG NOT ONLY SUPPORTS THE RETURN TO DEMOCRACY BUT CONTINUES TO PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF SUPPORT FOR ITS CONSOLIDATION.

4. THE MAJOR PART OF SANGUINETTI'S SPEECH WAS DEVOTED TO AN ANALYSIS OF LATIN AMERICAN AND URUGUAYAN ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. SANGUINETTI TOOK ISSUE WITH THOSE WHO POINT TO THE FOREIGN DEBT AS LATIN AMERICA'S MAJOR PROBLEM, ARGUING THAT WHILE THE DEBT IS SERIOUS, THE REAL PROBLEM LIES IN THE FACT THAT LATIN AMERICAN EXPORTERS CANNOT EXPAND THEIR MARKETS TO PRODUCE ECONOMIC GROWTH WHICH WOULD PAY OFF THE DEBT, DUE TO PROTECTIONISM IN THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. HE SAID THERE WERE "DANGEROUS SIGNS" OF PROTECTIONIST SENTIMENT RISING IN THE AMERICAN CONGRESS, ADDING "I WANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT THIS IS NOT THE POSITION OF THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION, WHICH HAS BEEN UNDERSTANDING AND TAKEN A REALISTIC POSITION." BUT HE SAVED HIS HEAVIEST FIRE FOR THE EEC, SAYING "I CAN UNDERSTAND WHEN A NATION SUBSIDIZES A SECTOR OF ITS ECONOMY TO PROTECT IT WITHIN ITS BORDERS OR ITS REGION. BUT TO SUBSIDIZE ITS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE IS TOTALLY UNFAIR TO SMALL COUNTRIES WHICH FIND THEMSELVES UNABLE TO COMPETE." HE ADDUCED RICE AS AN EXAMPLE, PRAISING THE HIGH QUALITY OF URUGUAYAN RICE BUT ADMITTING THAT IT WAS NOT COMPETITIVE ON WORLD MARKETS BECAUSE OF THE ARTIFICIALLY SUBSIDIZED LOW PRICE OF U.S. AND EUROPEAN RICE. HOOBY ENOUGH, WHEN THE OFFICIAL TEXT OF SANGUINETTI'S SPEECH WAS HANDED OUT, AFTER A CONSIDERABLE DELAY, THE REMARKS HE HAD MADE CONCERNING THE UNITED STATES DID NOT APPEAR.

5. GARCIA: A MISTAKEN AND HURDEROUS GROUP:
AFTER REPEATED ANNOUNCEMENTS THAT HE WOULD AND THEN WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE THE TRIP TO MONTEVIDEO, ALAN

GARCIA APPEARED AT THE LAST POSSIBLE MOMENT TO CLOSE THE LIST OF VISITING ORATORS. SPEAKING FOR AN HOUR AND THREE-QUARTERS, GARCIA WAVED EMOTIONAL ON THE SUBJECT OF SENDERO LUMINOSO, REFERRING TO THEM AS "A MISTAKEN AND HURDEROUS GROUP THAT WARS AGAINST THE ENTIRE POPULATION." THE PERUVIAN PRESIDENT, WHO APPEARED TIRED AND NERVOUS, ADMITTED THAT HE HAD ABANDONED THE ORIGINAL TOPIC OF HIS SPEECH, THE FOREIGN DEBT, IN ORDER TO TALK ABOUT WHAT WAS ON HIS MIND AT THE MOMENT, THE QUESTION OF TERRORISM.

6. CHARACTERIZING PERU'S SITUATION AS "VERY DIFFICULT," GARCIA TOLD HIS AUDIENCE, "WHEN I RETURN TO LIMA, A POLICE STRIKE AWAITS ME. SUNDAY MARKS THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE CREATION OF SENDERO LUMINOSO, AND ON MONDAY I WILL FACE A GENERAL STRIKE." HE EXPLAINED HIS PRESENCE IN MONTEVIDEO BY ARGUING THAT IT WAS A MATTER OF PRIORITIES. "THE URGENT THINGS, WE WILL WORK OUT; THE IMPORTANT THING, IN THE DEMOCRACY WE ARE BUILDING, IS THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND THE LIBERTY OF EXPRESSION, FOR WHICH REASON I COME TO GREET THIS, THE MOST IMPORTANT OF SUCH MEETINGS." GARCIA DID IN FACT SPEND SOME TIME ON THE DEBT ISSUE, REFERRING TO IT AS "LATIN AMERICA'S FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL", BUT DEVOTED MOST OF HIS TALK TO TERRORISM.

7. GARCIA STATED THAT SENDERO LUMINOSO IS DIFFERENT FROM THE GROUPS OF THE 1960S, SINCE THEY WERE BASED ON SOCIALIST APPROACHES TO THE NATIONAL WORLD. WHILE SENDERO IS EMOTIONAL AND BASED ONLY UPON HUMAN PASSIONS. HE DEcriED "THE EASY PATH" OF THINKING THAT PERUVIAN TERRORISM IS SUPPLIED BY FOREIGN POWERS,

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ARGUING THAT IN PERU, A RISING COUNTRY SHOULD VISIT
TO COMMIT VIOLENCE CAN OBTAIN DYNAMITE. WHEN PEOPLE
ASK HIM IF SENDERO HAS OUTSIDE SUPPLIERS, LAUGHS
CONCLUDED, HE DISAGREES, "BECAUSE THIS TYPE OF
TERRORISM, SOMEWHAT BIOLOGICAL AND NATIONAL, HAS
CERTAIN GOLDEN RULES, ONE OF WHICH IS THAT GOOD
FIGHTERS GET THEIR ARMS ONLY FROM SLAIN ENEMIES."

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8. OTHER SPEAKERS DURING THE FINAL DAY INCLUDED DANIELLE MITTERAND, WIFE OF THE FRENCH PRESIDENT, BLANCO PARTY LEADER WILSON FERREIRA, AND FOREIGN MINISTER IGLESIAS. THE FRENCH VISITOR, HERSELF A JOURNALIST, DEFENDED A FREE PRESS AS THE MOST VITAL ELEMENT IN A FREE SOCIETY. "LIBERTY IS BASED ON ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE," SHE SAID, "AND KNOWING ALL ASPECTS OF A QUESTION HELPS YOU TO HAVE A FREE CHOICE... IT IS A DIFFICULT PROFESSION, THAT OF BEING THE MOST EXACT AND EXTERNAL WITNESSES TO ACTIONS." FERREIRA ENJOINED THE NECESSITY OF "A SENSIBLE MIDDLE WAY" BETWEEN ABSOLUTE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND CONTROL OF INFORMATION, AND TOOK A POTSHOT AT THE PROPOSED NEW WORLD INFORMATION ORDER, NOTING THAT THE PROPOSAL MADE BY UNESCO "HAD BEEN MET WITH A RESPONSE WHICH IS WELL-KNOWN." IGLESIAS DEVOTED MOST OF HIS SPEECH TO ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, URGING JOURNALISTS TO LOOK REALISTICALLY AT THE SITUATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND BE AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THE DEVELOPED NATIONS WILL HAVE TO SHOW FLEXIBILITY OR THROW LATIN AMERICA INTO EVEN GREATER TURMOIL.

9. HUMAN RIGHTS:

THE INSTITUTE'S HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY A FORMER AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CHAIRMAN, SWEDISH JOURNALIST THOMAS HAMMARBERG, WAS GENERALLY PESSIMISTIC, NOTING INCREASING TENDENCIES BY GOVERNMENTS IN LATIN AMERICA, ASIA AND AFRICA TO CLAMP TIGHTER CONTROLS ON THEIR PASSES IN THE ALLEGED INTERESTS OF NATIONAL SECURITY OR OF PROTECTING THEIR PEOPLE FROM MISLEADING OR CULTURALLY SUBVERSIVE INFORMATION. IN ADDITION TO SOUTH AFRICA, WHICH WAS STIGMATIZED AS THE WORST VIOLATOR, HAMMARBERG ALSO BLASTED THE GOVERNMENTS OF EAST GERMANY, CHINA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, EL SALVADOR AND INDONESIA, CITING THE LATTER POWER'S BLOCKAGE OF ACCESS BY JOURNALISTS TO EAST TIMOR, AND CRITICIZED THE SOVIETS FOR EVADING THE PROVISIONS OF THE HELSINKI ACCORDS ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION.

10. IN ITS FINAL RESOLUTIONS, HOWEVER, THE IPI LIMITED ITSELF TO CRITICIZING CHILE, PARAGUAY AND NICARAGUA, CALLING FOR GREATER OPENNESS IN ALL THREE COUNTRIES. ARGENTINA AND URUGUAY WERE APPLAUDED FOR THE NEW OPENNESS OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO JOURNALISTS, AS WAS HAITI. OTHER RESOLUTIONS ADDRESSED THE POSITION OF JOURNALISTS IN LEBANON, ASKED HONG KONG TO CLARIFY ITS LIMITATIONS ON JOURNALISTS, AND CALLED ON THE PRIME MINISTER OF SINGAPORE TO LIST RECENT RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED UPON FOREIGN JOURNALISTS. FINALLY, AFTER THE ARGENTINE AND URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENTS WERE THANKED, THE CONFERENCE WAS ADJOURNED, WITH ATTENDEES BEING ENJOINED TO MEET AGAIN IN TURKEY IN 1988.

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