

107

EXCISE

107



Department of State

TELEGRAM

REVIEWED BY Pugh DATE OCT 3 1984

( ) RELEASE ( ) DECLASSIFY  
(X) EXCISE (X) DECLASSIFY IN PART  
( ) DENY ( ) Non-responsive info.

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( ) CLASSIFY as \_\_\_\_\_  
( ) DOWNGRADE TO ( ) S of ( ) C. OADR

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BUENOS 00062 041218Z

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ACTION ARA-00

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 H-01 MMO-01 NSC-01 NSAE-00 SY-06 HA-0B  
L-03 PM-10 PA-01 MCT-03 OMB-01 A-02 USIE-00  
SP-02 SNP-01 PRS-01 SLPD-01 SPD-02 /055 W

R 041214Z JAN 85  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO AMEMBASSY LIMA  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4890

CONFIDENTIAL BUENOS AIRES 00062

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PTER, AR, PE

SUBJ: ALLEGED SENDERO LUMINOSO PRESENCE IN ARGENTINA

REF: 84 LIMA 14948 ✓

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY INDICATES NO SOLID EVIDENCE OF A SENDERO LUMINOSO (SL) PRESENCE IN TUCUMAN PROVINCE. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE OCCASIONALLY REPORTS OF UNIDENTIFIED, SMALL ARMED BANDS SIGHTED IN ARGENTINA'S NORTHERN PROVINCES (TUCUMAN, SALTA, JUJUY), NONE OF THESE HAVE BEEN FULLY CONFIRMED BY RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES. WE SUSPECT THE GOVERNOR AND/OR OTHERS IN TUCUMAN PROVINCE MAY HAVE GIVEN CREDENCE TO SUCH REPORTS IN ORDER TO GAIN PUBLICITY AND PERHAPS GREATER ATTENTION/ECONOMIC HELP FROM RADICAL GOVERNMENT. IN OUR READING OF THE LIBRE ARTICLE CITED REFTEL, WE SAW NOTHING IN WITNESS' DESCRIPTIONS OF HIS ENCOUNTER WITH THE ARMED MEN WHICH WOULD POINT TO AN SL LINK.

3. IN ADDITION TO QUOTES REFTEL, RECENT COMMENTS INCLUDE

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PRESIDENT ALFONSIN'S BLUNT DENIAL, AT A LATE DECEMBER

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PRESS CONFERENCE, THAT ANY SL TERRORISTS WERE ON ARGENTINE SOIL. THE CATHOLIC CHURCH COMMENTED OFFICIALLY THAT IT KNEW NOTHING BEYOND WHAT APPEARED IN THE PRESS. POLICE CHIEF DI VIETRI REPORTEDLY SAID TUCUMAN POLICE FOUND "SUPPLIES" ALLEGEDLY BELONGING TO A GROUP, BUT NOTHING MORE. WE UNDERSTAND FROM OTHER EMBASSY SOURCES THAT A POLICE INVESTIGATION TURNED UP NO EVIDENCE THAT TH SL WAS IN TUCUMAN.

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4. WE ARE POUCHING COPIES OF COMPLETE "LIBRE" ARTICLE TO DEPARTMENT (ARA/SC, ARA/AND) AND EMBASSY LIMA.  
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