Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C00530913 ROUTING Top Secret 200 DATE INITIALS NAME AND ADDRESS TO. 3.5(c)(Security Classification) 2 3 CONTROL NO. DIRECT REPLY PREPARE REPLY ACTION APPROVAL DISPATCH RECOMMENDATION COMMENT RETURN INFORMATION SIGNATURE CONCURRENCE REMARKS: FROM: NAME, ADDRESS, AND PHONE NO. 3.5(c)Access to this document will be restricted to those approved for the following specific activities: NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE Wednesday June 23, 1976 CI NIDC 76-147C **Warning Notice** Sensitive Intelligence Sources and Methods involved NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION **Enauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sanctions Top Secret** (Security Classification)

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COUNTERTERRORISM IN SOUTH AMERICA

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The security organizations of several South American countries may be cooperating in actions against political refugees in Argentina.//

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Early this month, armed men ransacked the offices of the Argentine Catholic Commission on Immigration and stole records containing information on thousands of refugees and immigrants. Argentine police did not investigate the crime and dismissed it as a simple robbery.//

Two days later, 24 Uruguayan and Chilean refugees, many of whom were the subject of Commission files, were kidnaped and tortured for several hours. Some of the refugees later identified their interrogators as security officers from Chile and Uruguay. Presumably, the Chilean-Uruguayan operation could not have been undertaken without the knowledge of the Argentine security forces.//

In the past few weeks, two prominent Uruguayan political exiles and a former leftist president of Bolivia have been killed under mysterious circumstances in Argentina. Argentine Minister of Economy Martinez de Hoz recently told the US ambassador in Buenos Aires that his government was not responsible for the murder of ex-president Torres and speculated--without providing evidence--that leftist extremists had eliminated "one of their own."//

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The Argentine junta has denied allegations that it has violated "human rights" and recently issued an official communique declaring that it would not repatriate refugees by force. Despite this and similar disclaimers by respected Argentine leaders, US embassy officials in Buenos Aires suspect the acquiescence, and perhaps the direct involvement, of the Argentine security forces in many of these incidents.//

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In early 1974 security officials from Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Bolivia met in Buenos Aires to prepare coordinated actions against subversive targets. They agreed to establish diplomatic security liaison channels, to exchange intelligence information on a regular basis, and to facilitate the international movement of security officers on official business.//

Since then, there have been a few reports indicating that the Argentines have conducted joint countersubversive operations with the Chileans and with the Uruguayans. Until recently, however, there was no evidence that this cooperation was extensive or very effective.

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