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ACTION ARA-15

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /031 W  
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DECONTROL

R 041437Z OCT 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7779

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)  
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS  
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director  
 Release  Excise  Deny

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 7871

Exemption(s):  
~~Declassify~~:  In Part  In Full **DECONTROL**  
 Classify as  Extend as  Downgrade to   
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Declassify on \_\_\_\_\_ Reason \_\_\_\_\_

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SHUM, AR  
SUBJECT: REPORTED DISAPPEARANCE OF JAIME DRI

REF: (A) PANAMA 5215 (B) PANAMA 6938 (C) BUENOS AIRES 4845

1. IT APPEARS TO US THAT JAIME DRI IS ONE MORE AMONG THOUSANDS OF "DISAPPEAREDS" WHOSE FATE IS UNKNOWN--AND AT THIS POINT UNKNOWABLE. WE HAVE NOT HAD A REPLY FROM THE HUMAN RIGHTS WORKING GROUP YET ON THIS CASE, BUT FRANKLY WE WOULD BE SURPRISED IF THAT GROUP TURNS UP MEANINGFUL INFORMATION. THE "FOWG" CAN USUALLY CONFIRM THE IMPRISONMENT OF PERSONS WE ALREADY SUSPECT ARE INCARCERATED, AND VERY OCCASIONALLY SOMEONE REPORTED "DISAPPEARED" WILL SURFACE ON SOME PRISONS' LIST. THE STANDARD ANSWER FOR PERSONS REPORTED DISAPPEARED IS "NO RECORD OF DETENTION".

2. IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO SPECULATE ABOUT THE FATE OF SOMEONE REPORTEDLY TAKEN TO THE NAVAL MECHANICS SCHOOL FOR INTERROGATION -- A "HOLDING-INTERROGATION" CENTER WIDELY BELIEVED TO HAVE EXISTED BUT NOW, ACCORDING TO REPORTS, OUT OF BUSINESS. ONE DETAILED REPORT THAT CAME OUR WAY ALLEGED THAT PRISONERS WERE KEPT FOR EXTENDED PERIODS AT THE MECHANICS SCHOOL,

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BUT THERE WAS NO WAY OF CONFIRMING THIS.

3. WE ARE SORRY NOT TO BE ABLE TO OFFER MRS. DRI

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SOME KIND OF POSITIVE ENCOURAGEMENT OR EVEN FIRM INFORMATION. EMBASSY OFFICERS WILL APPRECIATE THE LEVEL OF SECRECY THAT PREVAILS AMONG ARGENTINE OFFICIALS OVER THIS ELEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-SUBVERSIVE CAMPAIGN, AND WHY IT IS IMPROBABLE THE FATE OF JAIME DRI WILL EVER BE KNOWN UNLESS -- BY SOME CHANCE -- HE IS STILL ALIVE AND GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES DECIDE TO SURFACE HIM.  
CASTRO

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