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TAGS: SHUM, PREL, AR, UY

SUBJECT: ADOLFO PEREZ ESQUIVEL REFUSED ENTRY INTO
URUGUAY

1. (U) ARGENTINE NEWSPAPERS OF AUGUST 21 REPORTED THAT NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER ADOLFO PEREZ ESQUIVEL HAD BEEN DECLARED "PERSONA NON GRATA" BY URUGUAYAN PRESIDENT GENERAL GREGORIO ALVAREZ AND REFUSED ENTRY TO URUGUAY THE DAY BEFORE. PEREZ ESQUIVEL, AND A DELEGATION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS AND THE RADICAL AND CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTIES, HAD FLOWN TO MONTEVIDEO TO VISIT URUGUAYAN FATHERS LUIS PEREZ AGUIRRE AND JORGE OSORIO, WHO ARE CURRENTLY STAGING A FIFTEEN-DAY FAST REPORTEDLY TO BACK A DEMAND THAT URUGUAY BE RETURNED TO CIVILIAN RULE AND TO PROTEST RECENT PRESS CENSORSHIP IN URUGUAY. PEREZ ESQUIVEL HAD ALSO HOPED TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT ALVAREZ AND THE ARCHBISHOP OF MONTEVIDEO, CARLOS PARTELLI, TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION OF THE FAST.

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INSTEAD, PEREZ ESQUIVEL AND HIS DELEGATION WERE "INVITED" BY URUGUAYAN IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES TO GET BACK ON THE SAME PLANE THAT BROUGHT THEM AND TO RETURN TO BUENOS AIRES.

2. (U) PEREZ ESQUIVEL, HEAD OF THE PEACE AND JUSTICE SERVICE IN ARGENTINA, HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER HIS RETURN TO BUENOS AIRES, AT WHICH HE CALLED THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT "A DICTATORSHIP THAT FEARS TRUTH AND THE (POLITICAL) PARTICIPATION OF ITS OWN PEOPLE."



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HE ALSO CALLED ON "INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY" AND ON THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES, THE UNITED NATIONS, AND THE CHURCHES TO "SAFEGUARD THE INTEGRITY OF THE FASTING URUGUAYAN CLERGYMEN" WHO ARE BEING HELD "INCOMMUNICADO AT THE PEACE AND JUSTICE SERVICE'S URUGUAYAN HEADQUARTERS AND CANNOT BE VISITED BY ANYONE." HE SAID THAT HE WAS NOT SURPRISED AT BEING REFUSED ENTRY AND RECALLED THAT HE HAD PREVIOUSLY EXPERIENCED SIMILAR TREATMENT BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF CHILE AND PARAGUAY.

3. (LOU) COMMENT: PRESS COVERAGE OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS WAS BURIED BY MOST NEWSPAPERS IN THE MIDDLE OF THEIR THICK SUNDAY EDITIONS, BUT THE COVERAGE WAS STRAIGHTFORWARD AND GENERALLY COMPLETE, WITH SOME NEWSPAPERS PROVIDING THE BACKGROUND TO THE URUGUAYAN FAST. WE ARE POUCHING COPIES OF SOME OF THE ARTICLES TO EMBASSY MONTEVIDEO. END COMMENT.

4. (LOU) PEREZ ESQUIVEL SENT A NOTE TO THE HOME OF CHARGE BUSHNELL, RECEIVED AUGUST 20 BUT DATED AUGUST 11, IN WHICH HE ASKED "THE INTERVENTION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES SO THAT THE LIFE AND INTEGRITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE PEACE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND JUSTICE SERVICE WILL BE RESPECTED (IN URUGUAY)." WE DO NOT PLAN A FORMAL REPLY GIVEN THE DELAY IN DELIVERY OF THE MESSAGE AND THE FIXED TIME PERIOD FOR THE FAST IN URUGUAY. SHLAUDEMAM



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