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RELEASE IN FULL

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ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 HA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8833
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, CI
SUBJECT: ARGENTINE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER RECEIVES MIXED WELCOME IN CHILE

1. THE VISIT TO CHILE BY ARGENTINE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER ADOLFO PEREZ ESQUIVEL HAS, SO FAR, RECEIVED STEADY BUT LOW-KEY PRESS COVERAGE. HE HAS BEEN WARMLY RECEIVED BY THE CHURCH, HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS AND THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION, BUT HAS BEEN GENERALLY IGNORED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

2. PEREZ ESQUIVEL ARRIVED ON 2 NOVEMBER FOR A 5 DAY STAY IN SANTIAGO, PRIMARILY TO ATTEND THE SECOND REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE SOUTHERN CONE OF THE ORGANIZATION, SERVICE FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE, OF WHICH HE IS DIRECTOR FOR LATIN AMERICA. THE PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE IS TO STUDY COURSES OF NON-VIOLENT ACTION TO ACHIEVE "ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL LIBERATION" OF THE PEOPLE.

3. DURING HIS VISIT, PEREZ EQUVEL ALSO HAS HAD MEETINGS WITH STUDENTS, OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS AND THE CHURCH, AND THE OPPOSITION CONSTITUTIONAL STUDY ORGANIZATION "GROUP OF 24". THERE IS NO INDICATION AS YET THAT HE WILL MEET WITH ANY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. ACCORDING TO

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"LA TERCERA", MOREOVER, OFFICIALS OF THE STATE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY MADE THEMSELVES UNAVAILABLE WHEN PEREZ ESQUIVEL TRIED TO MAKE A COURTESY CALL.

4. AS REPORTED IN THE PRESS, PEREZ ESQUIVEL IN HIS MEETINGS HAS STRESSED THE FOLLOWING RECURRING THEMES:

--AN EXHORTATION TO BOTH CHILEANS AND ARGENTINES TO ACTIVELY SUPPORT THE BEAGLE MEDIATION SO THAT "THE INSANITY OF A FEW DOES NOT DRAG US INTO A WAR" WHICH



CONVENIO DE COOPERACION

WOULD HAVE OMINOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE WORLD;

--A CONDEMNATION OF TERRORISM AND THE INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN;

--AN APPEAL TO ALL PEOPLES, PARTICULARLY YOUTH, TO WORK ACTIVELY IN UNITY FOR A MORE JUST AND HUMANE SOCIETY; AND

--SOLIDARITY WITH THE CHILEAN PEOPLE ON THE PART OF THE POLITICAL, LABOR, CHRISTIAN AND CULTURAL GROUPS IN ARGENTINA.

5. COMMENT: THE VISIT TO THIS POINT HAS NOT STIRRED ANY CONTROVERSY. THE PASSIVE ATTITUDE TAKEN BY THE GOC PROBABLY REFLECTS THE FACT THAT, WHILE CHILEAN OFFICIALS DO NOT PARTICULARLY CARE FOR PEREZ ESQUIVEL'S ORGANIZATION, THEY RECOGNIZE HIS MESSAGE OF PEACE BETWEEN CHILE AND ARGENTINA TENDS TO SUPPORT THE CHILEAN POSITION OF SEEKING A SOLUTION THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS. WE WILL REPORT FURTHER ON PEREZ ESQUIVEL'S VISIT WHEN EDITORIAL AND OTHER COMMENT PROVIDES ADDITIONAL DIMENSIONS.

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