

Presidente de la República Oriental del Uruguay

Montevideo, 21 de mayo de 2008.

Señor Presidente del
Honorable Directorio del Partido Nacional
Dr. Jorge Larrañaga
Presente

De mi mayor consideración:

Envío a usted el material que me hiciera llegar el señor Embajador de los Estados Unidos de América, Frank E. Baxter, referido a la desclasificación de documentos que quien suscribe solicitara oportunamente al señor Presidente de aquel país.

Sin más, lo saluda atte.



Dr. Tabaré Vázquez
Presidente de la República Oriental del Uruguay

Oficinas de la Presidencia de la República
Av. Joaquín Suárez 3773

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PAGE 01 MONTEV 02993 071409Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 MCT-02 HA-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 PA-01 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 EUR-12 /065 W
-----000751 071415Z /43

O 071344Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7171

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MONTEVIDEO 2993

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, UY
SUBJ: FUNERAL OF MARIA CECILIA FONTANA DE HEBER

REF: MONTEVIDEO 2969

1. WIFE OF BLANCO TRIUMVIRATE MEMBER MARIO HEBER WAS INTERRED MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 6 AT MONTEVIDEO MAIN CEMETERY. CROWD OF SEVERAL HUNDRED ATTENDED, INCLUDING ALL LEADING BLANCO OPPOSITION ACTIVISTS, A NUMBER OF RETIRED MILITARY WHO ARE BLANCO SUPPORTERS AND A SMATTERING OF COLORADO LEADERS. (TWO OF THE THREE COLORADO TRIUMVIRS WERE OUT OF TOWN). ONLY RECOGNIZED GOU FIGURE WAS FONOFF PROTOCOL CHIEF ROMERO, WHO OWNS APARTMENT IN SAME BUILDING WITH HEBER FAMILY.

2. EMBASSY WAS REPRESENTED BY POLOFFS YOULE AND SHAW; BRITISH WERE ONLY OTHER DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN ATTENDANCE. AMBASSADOR SENT MEMORIAL WREATH AND FOLLOWING PERSONAL MESSAGE (IN TRANSLATION) TO HEBER FAMILY: "IN THE NAME OF THE STAFF OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, AND IN MY OWN NAME, I HAVE THE SAD DUTY OF TRANSMITTING TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY OUR MOST SINCERE CONDOLENCES AND SYMPATHY FOR THE TRAGEDY WE MOURN TODAY, DEPLORING THIS TERRIBLE, SENSELESS ACT".

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PAGE 02 MONTEV 02993 071409Z

3. INTERMENT WAS SIMPLE, NON-POLITICAL CEREMONY OF ESSENTIALLY FAMILY CHARACTER. THERE WERE NO SPEECHES. MOOD WAS SUBDUED, RESTRAINED AND BEWILDERED.
PEZZULLO

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: DAVID W COX
DATE/CASE ID: 05 SEP 2007 200605260

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PAGE 01 MONTEV 03081 131326Z
ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
AID-05 MCT-02 SY-05 HA-05 /086 W
-----110197 142016Z /14

R 131234Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7217
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
HQ USSOUTHCOM SCJ2

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, UY
SUBJ: BLANCOS HOLD PEACEFUL CEREMONY

REF: MONTEVIDEO 3033 (DTG P R 091655Z SEP 78)

1. ON 10 SEPTEMBER, FIVE DAYS AFTER POISONING OF MARIA CECILIA FONTANA DE HEBER, AND ATTEMPTED POISONING OF HEBER AND TWO OTHER PROMINENT BLANCOS, URUGUAY'S LARGEST PARTISAN POLITICAL DEMONSTRATION SINCE THE MILITARY TAKEOVER IN 1973 TOOK PLACE. IN A MASSIVE DISPLAY OF SUPPORT, AN ESTIMATED 6000 PERSONS ATTENDED THIS YEAR'S COMMEMORATION OF THE 1904 DEATH OF BLANCO PARTY HERO GENERAL APARICIO SARAVIA.

2. THE BRIEF PEACEFUL OUTDOOR DEMONSTRATION, AUTHORIZED BY THE POLICE SOME TIME AGO, FEATURED SHORT SPEECHES, FLORAL TRIBUTES AND SOME CHEERING, WHICH OCCASIONALLY INVOKED THE NAME OF GOU NEMESIS AND BLANCO-IN-EXILE
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PAGE 02 MONTEV 03081 131326Z

WILSON FERREIRA ALDUNATE. FOLLOWING PAST PRACTICE, THE POLICE DETAINED SEVERAL OF THE COMMEMORATIONS ORGANIZERS AND A FEW PARTICULARLY OBSTREPEROUS DEMONSTRATORS, BUT ALL WERE RELEASED THE SAME DAY. PRESS COVERAGE WAS NOT INTENSIVE,

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PAGE 01 MONTEV 02969 061420Z
ACTION ARA-14

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ICAE-00 INRE-00 PA-01 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 /053 W

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O R 061341Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7162
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USSOUTHCOM QUARRY HTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 2969

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, UY
SUBJ: PROMINENT OPPOSITION LEADER'S WIFE DIES OF APPARENT
TERRORIST POISONING

1. THE WIFE OF BLANCO TRIUMVIRATE MEMBER MARIO HEBER USHER
DIED OF APPARENT POISONING MID-DAY SEPT. 5 AFTER DRINKING
FROM ONE OF THREE "GIFT" BOTTLES OF WINE ADDRESSED TO PARTY
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PAGE 02 MONTEV 02969 061420Z

3. OF THREE BOTTLES, THE FIRST WAS OPENED ON SEPT. 3 BY
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7 de mayo de 2008

Excelentísimo Señor Presidente:

En nombre del Presidente Bush, tengo el honor de responder a su carta del 27 de marzo de 2008 en donde solicitaba la cooperación del gobierno de los Estados Unidos para permitir el acceso y la liberación de documentos relacionados al fallecimiento de la Sra. Cecilia Fontana de Heber en el Uruguay en 1978.

Como lo menciona Usted en su carta, una serie de los documentos del Departamento de Estado de los Estados Unidos referentes a este caso, que ya no son considerados de carácter reservado, les fueron proporcionados a partes interesadas en Uruguay (adjunto). Más allá de lo que ya ha sido proporcionado, no hay información adicional en poder del gobierno de los Estados Unidos que ayudaría a identificar a aquellos involucrados en causar el fallecimiento de la Señora de Heber.

Me valgo de esta oportunidad para saludar al Excelentísimo Señor Presidente con mi más distinguida consideración.

Frank E. Baxter

Adjunto: lo indicado.

Excelentísimo

Dr. Tabaré Vázquez,

Presidente de la República Oriental del Uruguay,

Montevideo.



**Embassy of the United States of America
Montevideo, Uruguay**

May 7, 2008

Office of the Ambassador

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of President Bush, I am responding to your letter dated March 27, 2008, requesting United States Government cooperation in the declassification and release of pertinent documents related to the death of Mrs. Cecilia Fontana de Heber in Uruguay in 1978.

As you noted in your letter, a number of declassified United States Department of State documents related to this case were provided to interested parties in Uruguay. (Attached) Beyond what has been previously provided, there is no additional information in the possession of the United States Government that would help identify those involved in causing Mrs. Heber's death.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.


Frank E. Baxter

Enclosure: as stated.

His Excellency

Dr. Tabaré Vázquez,

President of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay,
Montevideo.

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REF: MONTEVIDEO 3033 (DTG P R 091655Z SEP 78)

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ICAE-00 INRE-00 PA-01 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 /053 W

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O R 061241Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
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INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
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PAGE 01 STATE 228532
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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
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APPROVED BY ARA/ECA:CWRUSER
ARA/ECA:DVANTREECK

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P 082325Z SEP 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 228532

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, UY

SUBJECT: WOLA PRESS RELEASE ON POISONING OF BLANCO LEADER'S
WIFE

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF WOLA PRESS RELEASE:

SEPTEMBER 7, 1978: ASSASSINATION OF PROMINENT DEMOCRATIC
URUGUAYAN LEADER'S WIFE CONDEMNED.
THE WASHINGTON OFFICE ON LATIN AMERICA (WOLA) RE-
LEASED A STATEMENT TODAY CONDEMNING THE RECENT ASSASSINA-
TION OF THE WIFE OF SENATOR MARIO HEBER, THE AD HOC PRES-
IDENT OF THE NATIONAL PARTY BLANCO OF URUGUAY. MRS. CECILE
FONTANA DE HEBER DIED LAST WEDNESDAY NIGHT AFTER HAVING
DRUNK A POISONED WINE THAT HAD BEEN DELIVERED TO THE FAMI-
LY AS AN ANONYMOUS GIFT. HER DEATH ALERTED OTHER PROMINENT
POLITICAL LEADERS OF THE NATIONAL PARTY WHO HAD ALSO RE-
CEIVED ANONYMOUS WINE GIFTS.

THE NATIONAL PARTY, THE PRINCIPLE OPPOSITION
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PAGE 02 STATE 228532

PARTY, HAS BEEN VERY ACTIVE IN DENOUNCING THE URUGUAYAN
REGIME. ONLY IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS THE URUGUAYAN PRESS

PUBLISHED A LETTER BY SENATOR HEBER DEFENDING THE EXILED

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IMMEDIATELY RELEASED A COMMUNIQUE ACCUSING THE INTERNATIONAL "CAMPAIGN TO DISCREDIT THE GOVERNMENT" OF THE CRIME. MR. HEBER IS A POPULAR LEADER IN URUGUAY. THERE ARE NO GUERRILLA OR EXTREMIST GROUPS OPERATING IN THAT COUNTRY. MR. AND MRS. HEBER WERE CLOSE PERSONAL FRIENDS OF JUAN. END TEXT. JUAN REFERS TO JUAN R. FERREIRA. CHRISTOPHER

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O R 081331Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7181
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MONTEVIDEO 3013

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, UY
SUBJECT: POISONING OF BLANCO LEADER'S WIFE: UPDATE

REF: (A) MONTEVIDEO 2969 (DTG R 061341Z SEP 78) (B) MONTEVIDEO
2993 (NOTAL) (DTG 071344Z SEP 78)

1. AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 6 INTERIOR MINISTER GENERAL HUGO LINARES BRUM IN PRESS CONFERENCE ON HEBER POISONING CASE STRESSED IN UNUSUALLY FORCEFUL AND FORTHRIGHT TERMS THAT GOU SHARES PUBLIC CONCERN AND WAS DETERMINED TO SPARE NO EFFORT IN SOLVING CRIME. EARLY CONFIRMING SIGNS ARE POLICE ASSIGNMENT TO CASE OF NARCOTICS DIVISION CHIEF CAPT. CAMPOS HERMIDA, WIDELY RECOGNIZED AS COUNTRY'S MOST EFFECTIVE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR, AND UNUSUAL PAINS TAKEN BY POLICE TO KEEP PRESS AND COUNTRY AS A WHOLE INFORMED OF LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AND SOLICIT PUBLIC ASSISTANCE. LINARES' STATEMENT ALSO NOTED THAT GOU ASSUMES CRIME HAD A POLITICAL MOTIVE, WAS DESIGNED TO DISRUPT THE PUBLIC ORDER AND THAT "LOGICALLY IT WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM TERRORIST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 MONTEV 03013 081410Z

GROUPS". THIS PRESUMABLY OFF-THE-WALL REACTION WAS MODIFIED SLIGHTLY BUT SIGNIFICANTLY BY ARMY CINC ALVAREZ IN A STATEMENT CARRIED BY THE PRESS THE FOLLOWING MORNING. ALVAREZ NOTED THAT "I CALL IT TERRORISM BECAUSE I SHARE THE THEORY (ADVANCED BY

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P R 091655Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7195
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ/SCJ2

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 3033

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, UY
SUBJECT: POISONING OF BLANCO LEADER'S WIFE EXACERBATES INTERNAL
PARTY STRAINS

REF: (A) MONTEVIDEO 2969 (DTG) R 061341Z SEP 78), (B) MONTEVIDEO
2993 (NOTAL) (DTG 071344Z SEP 78) (C) MONTEVIDEO 3013
(DTG 081331Z SEP 78)

1. THIS WEEK'S TRAGIC POISONING OF THE WIFE OF BLANCO LEADER
MARIO HEBER, RATHER THAN UNITING THE PARTY, APPEARS TO HAVE
DEEPENED PRE-EXISTING INTERNAL CONFLICTS. THERE IS A
POSSIBILITY OF A VIOLENT AND COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE ACT OF
REPRISAL BY YOUNGER PARTY ELEMENTS.

2. DURING RECENT WEEKS, INTERNAL GRUBMLING IN THE DIVERSE
GROUPINGS OF THE BLANCO OPPOSITION HAS INCREASED NOTICE-
ABLY. CAUGHT BETWEEN PRESSURES FOR ACTION BY THE PARTY'S
EXILED LEADER WILSON FERREIRA ALDUNATE IN LONDON AND A RELUCTANCE
TO MAKE WAVES ON THE PART OF MOST SEASONED PARTY LEADERS
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IN URUGUAY, THE BLANCO TRIUMVIRATE HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY
PARALYZED BY INDECISION. FOR EXAMPLE, WHAT BEGAN AS A BOLD
MOVE TO ISSUE A MAJOR DECLARATION OF PARTY PRINCIPLES, BEARING
SOME 200 SIGNIFICANT SIGNATURES, FOR AUGUST 25 (INDEPENDENCE

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R 131252Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
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INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 1874
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
HQ USSOUTHCOM SCJ2

UNCLAS MONTEVIDEO 3085

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, UY
SUBJ: PRESS REACTION TO HEVER MURDER CASE

REF: MONTEVIDEO 3034 (DTG P R 091656Z SEP 78)

1. PRESS REACTION TO THE INVESTIGATION OF THE PLOT TO MURDER THREE PROMINENT BLANCOS, WHICH SUCCEEDED IN KILLING MRS. HEVER, HAS BEEN POSITIVE IN ITS HANDLING OF POLICE EFFORTS TO CAPTURE THE GUILTY. STRAIGHT NEWS STORIES HAVE FOCUSED ON SYMPATHETIC TREATMENT OF MARIO HEBER AND CARLOS JULIO PEREYRA, ANOTHER OF THE PLOT'S TARGETS, AND THEIR STATED BELIEF THAT THE PLOT WAS AN "ACT OF TERRORISM, WITH CLEAR POLITICAL CONNOTATIONS". NEWS OF THE INVESTIGATION HAS CENTERED ON POLICE ATTEMPTS TO LOCATE THE STORES WHICH SOLD THE SUBSEQUENTLY POISONED WINE AND AN EXPERT'S EFFORTS TO ANALYZE THE HANDWRITING OF THE NOTE ACCOMPANYING THE BOTTLES.

2. IN EDITORIAL REPORTING, THE PRESS HAS REACTED WITH SHOCK
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AND OUTRAGE, A SUPPORTIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE POLICE AND A LAMENTATION THAT "VIOLENCE IS AGAIN ACTIVE IN OUR COUNTRY". "LA MANANA", A PRO-MILITARY MORNING DAILY, BROKE NEW GROUND IN AN 8 SEPTEMBER EDITORIAL WHEN IT AFFIRMED THE GOOD

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AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
HQ USSOUTHCOM SCJ2

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 3103

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, PINT, PGOV, UY
SUBJ: DISMEMBERED BODY OF KIDNAPPED ACCOUNTANT DISCOVERED

1. MIDDAY SEPTEMBER 13, THE DISMEMBERED BODY OF 38-YEAR OLD ACCOUNTANT ROBERTO SAENZ GALLINAL WAS DISCOVERED IN SHANGRILA, A SMALL BEACH-FRONT TOWN 12 MILES EAST OF MONTEVIDEO. SAENZ, YOUNGEST OF EIGHT CHILDREN OF A SOCIALLY PROMINENT FAMILY, HAD LEFT HOME AT 7:00 PM THE PREVIOUS EVENING SUPPOSEDLY FOR A PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENT. SUBSEQUENTLY, MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY RECEIVED A SERIES OF MYSTERIOUS TELEPHONE CALLS ASSURING THEM THAT HE WOULD SOON REAPPEAR. AT NO POINT WERE ANY RANSOM DEMANDS OR THREATS MADE.

2. THE FAMILY REACTION WAS ONE OF SHOCKED DISBELIEF. PRESS, SEPTEMBER 14, REPORTS COMMENTARY OF ONE OF SAENZ' BROTHERS THAT, "HE DID NOT HAVE ENEMIES. THIS WAS A CRIME WITHOUT REASON OR BASIS; WITHOUT CAUSES; WITHOUT EXPLANATION." SAENZ RELATIVES, INCLUDING BLANCO TRIUMVIR MARIO HEBER

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(WHOSE MURDERED WIFE WAS SAENZ' AUNT) AND WILSON FERREIRA INTIMATE HORACIO TERRA (A SECOND COUSIN), TOLD POLOFF THAT WHILE SAENZ WAS A BLANCO SYMPATHIZER, HE HAD NEVER BEEN ACTIVE IN POLITICS. RATHER HE DEVOTED MOST OF HIS TIME TO

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PAGE 01 MONTEV 03135 152016Z
ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 /070 W
-----069583 152018Z /21

P 151949Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7240

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MONTEVIDEO 3135

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, UY
SUBJ: DAILY "LA MANANA" FRONT-PAGES WILA PRESS RELEASE ON
POISONING OF BLANCO LEADER'S WIFE

REF: STATE 228532

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR, AFTERNOON SEPT 14, FONMIN FOLLE MARTINEZ INFORMED THAT GOU HAD ENCOURAGED PUBLICATION OF WOLA PRESS RELEASE CONCERNING THE DEATH OF THE WIFE OF BLANCO LEADER MARIO HEBER (REFTEL). FONMIN INDICATED THAT DECISION TO PUBLICIZE WOLA RELEASE WAS TAKEN THE SAME DAY AT NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL (COSENA) MEETING AND EVIDENCED GOU'S GOOD FAITH IN SEEKING TO CONDUCT FULLEST INVESTIGATION OF MRS. HEBER'S MURDER. HE ALSO CITED PUBLICATION AS EXAMPLE OF FREEDOM GRANTED PRESS TO REPORT ON MURDER INVESTIGATION.

2. SEPTEMBER 15, PRO-MILITARY DAILY "LA MANA" FRONT-PAGED COMPLETE WOLA PRESS RELEASE, WITHOUT ACCOMPANYING MEMORANDUM. HOWEVER, STORY'S HEADLINE ("LATIN AMERICAN OFFICE, IN ANTI-URUGUAYAN COLUMNS") AND INTRODUCTORY TEXT GAVE RELEASE NOTABLY NEGATIVE SLANT. "LA MANANA" STATED THAT RELEASE CONTAINED "A SERIES OF ERROS AND OPEN DEFAMATION OF THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT". IT JUSTIFIED ITS PUBLICATION OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE RELEASE AS INFORMING THE PUBLIC OF THE ATTITUDE OF ANTI-URUGUAYAN SPOKESMEN WHO ARE ACTING OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY.
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ACTION ARA-15

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

-----027221 201448Z /43

O R 201326Z OCT 78
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7472
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MONTEVIDEO 3613

FOR ARA DEP. ASST. SEC. GUZMAN FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, UY
SUBJ: TENSIONS BETWEEN BLANCOS AND GOU RISE

REF: A) MONTEVIDEO 2969; B) MONTEVIDEO 3081; C) MONTEVIDEO 3034;
D) MONTEVIDEO 3261; E) STATE 228532; F) MONTEVIDEO 3135;
G) MONTEVIDEO 3033; H) STATE 262472; I) WOLA COMMUNIQUE
OF OCTOBER 13, 1978

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. ON OCTOBER 13, MONTEVIDEO POLICE RELEASED NEWS OF THE RECENT ARREST OF FOUR BLANCO PARTY MEMBERS: WASHINGTON BERMUDEZ GANDOLFO, EX-DEPUTY TO THE URUGUAYAN PARLIAMENT OSCAR CYRANO LOPEZ BALESTRA, EX-SENATOR HORACIO ALBERTO POLLA PEREDA, AND JUAN CARLOS SILVA GONZALEZ. THE FOUR WERE REPORTEDLY ARRESTED FOR PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTING A FLYER WHICH CRITICIZED AS "ARBITRARY AND PROVOCATIVE" GOU HANDLING OF THE HEVER MURDER CASE (REF A) AND POLICE ACTIONS AT THE SEPT. 10 BLANCO COMMEMORATIVE DEMONSTRATION AT THE SARAVIA MONUMENT (REF B). ALTHOUGH POINTEDLY CITING THE DESIRE OF THE BLANCO LEADERSHIP TO KEEP THE DEMONSTRATION PEACEFUL, THE GOVERNMENT PRESS RELEASE DECRIED THE UNRULY CONDUCT OF SEVERAL YOUNG BLANCOS, WHO CHEERED AND SHOUTED THE NAME OF

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THE PARTY'S EXILED LEADER (AND ARCH-CRITIC OF THE GOU) WILSON FERREIRA ALDUNATE. FERREIRA, HOWEVER, WAS DESCRIBED IN THE RELEASE ONLY AS "A PERSON WANTED BY MILITARY JUSTICE." ALL FOUR BLANCOS WERE CHARGED WITH

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ACTION ARA-15

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

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O R 201326Z OCT 78
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7473
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MONTEVIDEO 3613

FOR ARA DEP. ASST. SEC. GUZMAN FROM AMBASSADOR

ELECTIONS IN 1981 WHICH THE RIGHT VIEWS AS CONTRARY TO ITS INTERESTS (REF C). AS WEEKS PASSED WITH SCANT RESULTS (REF D), THE INVESTIGATION BEGAN TO TAKE AN ABER-RANT PATH. THE EXTREME RIGHT SUCCEEDED IN TURNING THE FINGER OF SUSPICION FROM ITSELF TO THE BLANCO PARTY, DEFTLY MAKING USE OF INTENSE ANTI-BLANCO (INDEED, ANTI-POLITICAL PARTY) SENTIMENT WITHIN THE GOU. THUS, THE INTENDED VICTIMS (THE THREE FAMILIES RECEIVING THE BOTTLES OF POISONED WINE) BECAME THE SUSPECTS. ON TWO SEPARATE OCCASIONS (OCT. 6 AND 10) THEY WERE CALLED BEFORE THE JUDGE NOW CONTROLLING THE INVESTIGATION FOR INTERROGATION AND HAND-WRITING ANALYSIS. IN ADDITION, ALL ARE TEMPORARILY PROHIBITED FROM TRAVELLING OUTSIDE OF URUGUAY, INCLUDING TRIUMVIR CARLO JULIO PEREYRA, WHO WAS FORCED TO POSTPONE A MID-OCTOBER VISIT TO GREAT BRITAIN AT THE INVITATION OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. (PEREYRA'S WELL-KNOWN INTENTION TO MEET WITH WILSON FERREIRA IN LONDON, IN THIS INTER-PLAY OF ACTION/REACTION, MAY BE ANOTHER ACTOR IN IMPOSING THE TRAVEL RESTRICTION.)

5. THE IMPRISONMENT OF THE FOUR OTHER BLANCOS FOR PRINT-ING A FLYER WAS ANOTHER RESULT OF THE WINE-POISONING IN-VESTIGATION. IN SEARCHING FOR THE SOURCE OF THE POISON,
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PAGE 01 MONTEV 01877 212118Z
ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 AID-07 /060 W
-----126329 212133Z /14

O 212029Z MAY 80
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1381

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 1877

E.O. 12065: GDS 5-21-86 (YOULE, JOHN J) OR-P

TAGS: PINT, UY

SUBJ: DEATH OF BLANCO TRIUMVIR HEBER MAY ALTER PARTY POWER BALANCE

REFS: A) MONTEVIDEO 1612, B) MONTEVIDEO 1561

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT)

2. BLANCO TRIUMVIR MARIO HEBER USHER DIED SUDDENLY OF HEART FAILURE ON MAY 19, HOURS AFTER RETURNING FROM A SUCCESSFUL POLITICAL SWING THROUGH HIS TRADITIONAL POWER BASE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RIVERA. HEBER HAD SERVED AS A DEPUTY FOR 14 YEARS PRIOR TO HIS ELECTION TO THE SENATE IN 1971. AFTER WHICH HE ASSUMED THE PARLIAMENTARY LEADERSHIP OF THE CONSERVATIVE HERRERA-HEBER FACTION OF THE BLANCO PARTY. A VIGOROUS 58, HEBER HAD CONTINUED AS ONE OF THE PARTY'S PRINCIPAL SPOKESMEN, IN SPITE OF THE TRAGIC AND STILL-UNSOLVED DEATH OF HIS WIFE IN SEPTEMBER 1978 FROM A BOTTLE OF POISONED WINE.

3. HEBER'S FUNERAL ON MAY 20 WITNESSED THE LARGEST GATHERING OF POLITICAL FIGURES IN URUGUAY SINCE THE MILITARY TAKE-OVER IN 1973. WITH MINIMAL POLICE SURVEILLANCE, AT LEAST

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3000 FRIENDS AND SYMPATHIZERS, INCLUDING A LARGE NUMBER OF BLANCO LEADERS FROM INTERIOR DEPARTMENTS, THRONGED MONTEVIDEO'S CENTRAL CEMETERY. RINGING SPEECHES WERE DELIVERED BY FELLOW TRIUMVIR (AND LONG-TERM RIVAL) DARDO ORTIZ,

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B1, 1.4(D)PAGE 01 MONTEV 03102 132102Z
ACTION ARA-15INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 OMB-01 MCT-02 /056 W
-----124390 132107Z /75O R 132032Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7226
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
/AMEMBASSY BUASILIA 1875
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
HQ USSOUTHCOM SCJ2

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 3102

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, UY
SUBJ: UPDATE ON HEBER MURDER CASE

REF: MONTEVIDEO 3018 (DTG 131234Z SEP 78) AND PREVIOUS

1. SEPTEMBER 12, CARLOS SCHECK ("EL PAIS" PUBLISHER AND ALVAREZ INTIMATE), IN DISCUSSING THE HEBER MURDER CASE WITH THE AMBASSADOR, SAID "WHOEVER COMMITTED THIS CRIME WAS TRYING TO FRUSTRATE THE POLITICAL PROCESSES SET IN MOTION BY THE ARMED FORCES". PRESSED FOR SPECIFICS, HE NOTED THAT THIS WAS AN ATTACK ON THE MODERATES BY THE EXTREME RIGHT.

2. OTHER SIGNIFICANT GOVERNMENT COMMENT CAME FROM EX-ARMY CINC VADORA AND TWO OUTSPOKEN MEMBERS OF THE GOU'S COUNCIL OF STATE. DURING A PRESS INTERVIEW, VADORA TERMED MRS. HEBER'S MURDER "AN ACTION OF POLITICAL ORIGIN AIMED AT DISCREDITING THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT". HE CALLED IT "A CRIME OF UNUSUAL FACETS, WHICH HAS NEVER BEEN SEEN, NOR COULD HAVE BEEN THOUGHT TO OCCUR, IN OUR COUNTRY". DURING A COUNCIL OF

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STATE SESSION, ALSO SEPTEMBER 12, FEDERICO GARCIA CAPURRO BOLDLY DECLARED, "THE IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES, CIRCUMSTANTIAL OR PERMANENT, WHICH POLARIZE URUGUAYANS CANNOT PREVENT CONVEYING TO THE MEMBERS OF THESE THREE FAMILIES THE MORAL,

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BEARING NO INDIVIDUAL SIGNATURES.
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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-02 HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 SS-15 SY-05 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 /067 W
-----050037 261502Z /44

R 251905Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7297
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USSOUTHCOM SCJ II

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 3261

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, UY
SUBJ: UPDATE ON HEBER AND SAENZ MURDER CASES

REF: (A) MONTEVIDEO 3103 (B) MONTEVIDEO 3102 AND PREVIOUS

1. POLICE CONTINUE ACTIVELY TO INVESTIGATE HEBER AND SAENZ MURDERS, AND TO PUBLICIZE LIMITED NEW DEVELOPMENTS AS THEY OCCUR. HOWEVER, LEADS REMAINS FEW, PROGRESS IS SLOW, AND THERE IS SCANT OPTIMISM FOR AN EARLY SOLUTION OF THESE CASES.

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE MANNER OF THESE TWO MURDERS IS STRIKINGLY DIFFERENT, AND NO LINKS BETWEEN THEM HAVE BEEN FIRMLY ESTABLISHED, DURING PAST TEN DAYS MONTEVIDEO HAS BEEN AWASH WITH RUMORS OF SUPPOSED NEW DEATHS, DEATH THREATS AND KIDNAPPINGS. BECAUSE OF THE UNKNOWN ORIGIN OF THE MURDERS OF THESE TWO MEMBERS OF MONTEVIDEO'S UPPER CLASS, THE EMOTIONAL REACTION OF THE POPULACE HAS BEEN ACCENTUATED, AGAIN DEMONSTRATING THE ESSENTIAL SOFTNESS OF URUGUAYAN SOCIETY AND ITS SUSCEPTIBILITY
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TO WHAT ARE PERCEIVED AS "TERRORIST" ACTS.
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ACTION ARA-15

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INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 AID-05 /079 W

-----071893 091758Z /40

P R 091656Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7196
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ/SCJ2

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 3034

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, UY
SUBJECT: ATTEMPTED POISONING OF BLANCO POLITICAL LEADERS

REF: (A) MONTEVIDEO 2969 (DTG) R 061341Z SEP 78), (B) MONTEVIDEO
2993 (NOTAL) (DTG 071344Z SEP 78) (C) MONTEVIDEO 3013
(DTG 081331Z SEP 78)

1. AS THE EMOTIONAL SHOCK OF SRA. HEBER'S MURDER BEGINS TO
DISPEL, A MORE OR LESS DISPASSIONATE CONSENSUS ON THE ORIGINS
OF THE AFFAIR HAS BEGUN TO EMERGE. THE FIRST RESPONSE OF
MANY WAS TO ASSUME THAT "THE GOVERNMENT" OR "THE MILITARY"
-- AS UNDIFFERENTIATED HOSTILE FORCES-- WAS SOMEHOW BEHIND THE
ATTEMPT TO MURDER THREE NOTED OPPOSITION LEADERS. IT IS NOW
COME TO BE GENERALLY APPRECIATED THAT THE GOV OR THE MILITARY
AS A WHOLE CANNOT LOGICALLY BE BLAMED, IN SPITE OF THEIR
GREAT HOSTILITY TO THE "OLD POLITICS" REPRESENTED BY THE
THREE. RATHER, THE THESIS IS INCREASINGLY ACCEPTED THAT THE
FAR RIGHT COMMITTED THE OUTRAGE IN AN ATTEMPT TO
DERAIL AN INCIPIENT POLITICAL PROCESS WHICH WOULD INEVITABLY
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RUN AGAINST THEM. WE ALSO INCLINE TO THIS VERSION.

2. SUSPICION OF CONSPIRACY-- THE MORE COMPLEX THE BETTER--
IS A NORMAL FIRST REACTION TO POLITICAL SURPRISES HERE.

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5. THERE IS ALSO A THEORY, HIGHLY SPECULATIVE AT BEST AND BASED LARGELY ON CIRCUMSTANCE, THAT THE BLANCO LEADERSHIP MAY HAVE BEEN SINGLED OUT BECAUSE THEY WERE ACTUALLY AWARE OF ALVAREZ'S SUPPOSED PLAN, AND MA INDEED HAVE REACHED SOME SORT OF AGREEMENT WITH HIM OVER URUGUAY'S POLITICAL FUTURE. THE ONLY CONCRETE EVIDENCE SO FAR IS A REPORT ATTRIBUTING DETAILED ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE AND APPROVAL OF ALVAREZ'S SUPPOSED PLAN TO BLANCO TRIUMVIR DARDO ORTIZ. THE REPORT, FROM A RELIABLE SOURCE INFORMANT, WAS BASED ON CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN ORTIZ AND GENERALS RAIMUNDEZ AND BORAD--CLOSE CONFIDANTES OF ALVAREZ-- AT A SOCIAL GATHERING DESIGNED TO BRING TOP GOV MILITARY TOGETHER WITH CERTAIN PREVIOUSLY-OSTRACIZED POLITICIANS. IT WOULD EXPLAIN THE CREDIBILITY GIVEN BY THE THREE INTENDED VICTIMS TO THE ANONYMOUS NOTE ACCOMPANYING THE POISONED WINE, WHICH SUGGESTED CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION. WE PRESENTLY HAVE NOTHING MORE SPECIFIC TO CONFIRM (OR DISCARD) THIS HYPOTHESIS, BUT WILL BE SEEKING OUT FURTHER PIECES OF THIS PUZZLE.
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