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In 1978, a group of relatives of disappeared Uruguayans formed in Paris an association of families of disappeared Uruguayans (A.F.U.D.E.) to concern itself with the persisting problem of the disappearances of Uruguayan citizens in Uruguay and in neighboring countries. The A.F.U.D.E., composed of mothers, wives, sisters, and husbands of disappeared Uruguayans, seeks to inform international public opinion of the gravity of the systematic practices of the Uruguayan government to cause its citizens to "disappear", and to obtain information on the whereabouts of their disappeared relatives.

Representatives of A.F.U.D.E. have lodged complaints about the inhuman practices of their government before international bodies and have attended meetings of the U.N. Human Rights Commission to talk to governmental representatives and parliamentarians about their disappeared relatives. Two A.F.U.D.E. representatives have come to the United States to talk to U.S. government officials, United Nations representatives, and members of the Organization of American States about the documented list of over 100 persons disappeared since 1973, and also to present new evidence of and testimony to

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☐ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Declassify on \_\_\_\_\_ Reason \_\_\_\_\_

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the consistent practice of the Uruguayan government of violating all international Human Rights conventions and asylum treaties by pursuing the repressive practice of causing Uruguayan citizens to "disappear" in Uruguay, Argentina, Paraguay, and Brazil.

MARIA DEL CARMEN ALMEIDA DE QUINTEROS: Mother of Elena Quinteros (30 years old), who was kidnapped by the Uruguayan armed forces in June 1976 on the grounds of the Venezuelan embassy in Montevideo. As a result of Elena's kidnapping from the embassy, a breach of diplomatic asylum treaties, the Venezuelan government broke off diplomatic relations with Uruguay. For the past three years, Mrs. Quinteros has been trying to get information on the whereabouts of her disappeared daughter.

#### General Background

Since 1973, there has been a progressive deterioration of the human rights situation in Uruguay: the General Assembly was dissolved; constitutional guarantees were suspended; all Union and political activities are prohibited; and cases of arbitrary detention, torture, and disappearances are rising precipitously in number. Many international bodies, including the O.A.S. (see 1978 CIDH report, 1976 CIDH Annual Report) have condemned the brutal practices of the Uruguayan

government and its military.

Approximately 400,000 Uruguayans, 18% of the active population, have left their country, 200,000 of them going to Argentina. There are approximately 5,000 political prisoners in Uruguay and over 50 reported deaths from ill-treatment, suicide, and torture, as well as over 15 disappearances in Uruguay. In 1974, the Uruguayan government began kidnapping political refugees in Argentina. In recent months, testimonies have been received confirming the collusion between the Uruguayan, Paraguayan, Brazilian, and Argentine security forces in the "disappearance" of Uruguayan citizens; this collusion is in violation of asylum treaties. 77 Uruguayans, including 6 children, have disappeared in Argentina. Some of these have been seen in Argentinian jails and pozos (wells), and some have been transferred to Uruguayan jails. 2 Uruguayans who disappeared in Paraguay were later seen in Uruguayan prisons. In Brazil, 4 Uruguayan disappeared in 1978, including 2 children. The O.A.S. Inter-American Commission on Human Rights passed Resolution 2155 in February 1979 accusing the Argentine and Uruguayan governments of cooperation in repressing the political exile community by illegally returning exiles to their home countries.

Mrs. Quinteros has additional information to present to the United Nations, the O.A.S., to the U.S. government, and to Mrs. Rosalynn Carter regarding the problem of disappeared Uruguayans.