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6/24/77  
~~149-20-242~~

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149-44-6

ARGENTINE COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
HORACIO D. LOFREDO  
OLGA TALAMANTE

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JW  
In connection with my inquiries into lobbying on Capitol Hill in relation to the foreign military assistance bill now before Congress, I found that the above-captioned group and individuals are conducting lobbying activities in various Congressmen's offices. There is attached a copy of a letter which was obtained from Congressman David Obey's aide Mike Marek. In addition, I have developed information to the effect that they have lobbied the Executive Branch of the Government with respect to the same matter.

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There is attached a copy of a pamphlet I obtained from the United States Department of State, which was issued by the organization and which states its composition and purposes. As you will note, on page one, it states that the Commission was formed by a group of Argentine lawyers subsequent to March 24, 1976, and it now has permanent representatives in Geneva, Paris, Mexico City, and Washington, D. C. You will further note on the last page that it states that its bulletin is produced in Argentina, that two members of CADHU (which is the Spanish acronym for the Argentine Commission for Human Rights) testified before the recent hearings on Argentina held in the United States Congress by Representative Frazier. It goes on to say that a new CADHU Information Bureau is now open in Washington, D. C., the purpose of which is to make accurate and up-to-date information about Argentina available to the media, to civic and religious organization, and to anyone interested in human rights. The pamphlet gives the address of the organization as "Argentine Commission for Human Rights, Washington Information Bureau, 1912 "N" Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036."

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New file JW

Under Section 1(c) of the Foreign Agents Registration Act any person who acts as an agent, representative, employee, or servant in the United States under the direction or control of a foreign principal and engages in political activities is required to file a registration statement with the Department of Justice.

By its own statements its Washington, D. C. office is engaged in political activities, as you have noted above. In addition, by its own statements the organization was formed and exists outside of the United States. By its own statements its representatives testified before a Congressional Committee.

According to information I have developed it has lobbied individual Congressmen's offices and has lobbied members of the Executive Branch in attempting to have military assistance to Argentina stopped.

Our files reveal that neither the organization, Olga Talamante or Horacio D. Lofredo have registered with us pursuant to their obligation under the Act.

In the circumstances, it is recommended that we immediately seek an injunction in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, requiring the organization and its officers to file appropriate registration statements with this office. That this step be taken immediately is impelled by the fact that the military assistance bill is before the Congress at this moment and will shortly be going to the Senate.