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	- Buenos Aires	1401 
DIST. POL-4  AMB DCM ECON DAO ICA SCI FAS CHRON RF (  CHRON RF (	Ref: Buenos Aires 1200  1. During his meeting with the Foreign Minister March 8,  Ambassador Enders expressed our satisfaction over the progress  made in restoring human rights here and our expectation that  this progress would continue. Enders noted specifically the  continuing releases of PEN prisoners and the clearly positive  reaction of the GOA to the latest outbreak of anti-Semitism  reftel). The Foreign Minister stressed his own commitment  and that of his colleagues to human rights in the fullest  sense. He said that during last week's cabinet meeting    DRAFTING DATE   TELLEXT   CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:   Shlaudeman/jt   3/11/82   200   AMB: HWShlaudeman	
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President Galtieri floated the idea of putting an end to the state of siege here. Costa Mendez said the remaining PEN prisoners not up for trial would be exiled or paroled in that event. (Comment: We doubt that the military would agree to allow people they regard as exceedingly dangerous to escape all possibility of surveillance through exile. The state of siege has been in force since December 6, 1974. End Comment.)

(U) Assistant Secretary Enders met at their request with two leaders of the Mothers of the Plaza del Mayo, Señoras Antokoletz and Epelbaum. ladies reviewed from their point of view the agonizing problem of the disappeared. They insisted that the situation of human rights here has not in fact improved, referring in that context to the lack of an accounting of the disappeared and to recurring rumors of disappeared being held in secret camps. The two ladies arrived at the Embassy accompanied by about 40 mothers, who, with their customary white kerchiefs on their heads, stationed themselves at the front gate. This attracted a considerable detachment of police, but there were no incidents. The one press account to appear (in Diario Popular) quotes Antokoletz and



Epelbaum as saying that Enders listened to them with interest and assured them that human rights continue to be a concern of the USG. (Comment: The mothers and some others who have lost relatives, continue to purvey rumors that there are clandestine camps holding a few prisoners, at least. However, most observers discount these stories and we have seen not evidence to support them. End Comment.)

- The Assistant Secretary also met with Mario Gorenstein, president of DAIA, the umbrella organization of the Argentine Jewish community.

  Gorenstein said the community's relationship with the GOA is better than that with any Argentine government in recent times. Gorenstein explained the nature of the continuing discrimination against Jews in Argentina. The Assistant Secretary invited Gorenstein to stop by and see him when next in Washington.
- 4. Enders paid a courtesy call March 9 on the Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Cardinal Aramburu. Their conversation included a brief discussion of the social situation here. The Cardinal described it as difficult but not desperate. He thought the general populace would make the sacrifices required by the government's austerity program without undue outburst.



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- 5. (U) The Assistant Secretary in both his public appearances referred to the progress in restoring the rights of the individual in this country and expressed the confidence of Argentina's friends that this process will be carried through to its completion.
- 6. (U) Ambassador Enders departed Buenos Aires without seeing this message.

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