

UNCLASSIFIED

12/27/78

UN GOVERNMENT

memorandum

DATE: December 27, 1978  
REPLY TO ATTN OF: POL - F. Allen Harris  
SUBJECT: Disappearance Numbers  
TO: FILE

PF  
~~SECRET~~  
Ret PF  
**AT 056**

On December 22nd, Nunciature First Secretary Kevin Mullen stated at an informal meeting of local Embassy "human rights officers" that a senior army official had informed the Nuncio that the armed services had been forced to "take care of" 15,000 persons in its anti-subversion campaign.

In late November during Brian Blood's farewell call on Ministry of Interior Assistant Secretary for Internal Security, Col. San Roman noted that he was preparing charts showing that the number of disappearances reported to the Ministry of Interior had declined dramatically. In mid-December the FOWG desk officer Martin Saravia, made the same observation. Martin stated that the Ministry of Interior had received approximately 2,500 reports of persons who disappeared in 1976, about 1,500 such reports for 1977 and only [sic] 780 reports of disappearances through September, 1978. Martin stated that this was concrete evidence of Argentina's improving performance in the human rights area.

NOTE: The FOWG desk officer's total of reported disappearances from 1976 to November, 1978 is 4,780. This total parallels the number reported to other organizations. For example, the Permanent Assembly has over 3,100 documented disappearance cases in which habeas corpus petitions have been filed. Plus the Assembly has over 1,000 cases in which reports have been made, but habeas corpus proceedings have not been pursued.

Copies To:  
ARA/ECA - Mr. Bumpus  
HA/HR - Mr. Flood  
AMB/DCM  
POL:FAHarris:sz 12/28/78

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