PARAGUAY HAS HAD AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES THROUGHOUT A HISTORY MARKED BY WARS, INSURRECTIONS AND COUPS. SINCE 1954, PRESIDENT ALFREDO STROESSNER HAS GOVERNED PARAGUAY RULING THROUGH THE COLORADO PARTY, THE MILITARY AND POLICE FORCES, AND THE GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY, ALL OF WHICH HE DOMINATES. HE WAS ELECTED IN 1983 TO A SEVENTH TERM IN A CONTROLLED ELECTION PROCESS IN WHICH GOVERNMENT FIGURES SHOW HE RECEIVED OVER 90 PERCENT OF THE POPULAR VOTE. ELECTIONS ARE HELD EVERY FIVE YEARS FOR THE PRESIDENCY AND THE NATIONAL LEGISLATURE, AS WELL AS FOR MUNICIPAL COUNCILS. HOWEVER, THE OPPOSITION'S ABILITY TO CONDUCT AN EFFECTIVE CAMPAIGN IS SEVERELY RESTRICTED BY THE GOVERNMENT, AND IN PRACTICE THERE IS NO EFFECTIVE CHALLENGE TO PRESIDENT STROESSNER'S AUTHORITY. SOME OPPOSITION PARTIES ARE NOT LEGALLY RECOGNIZED AND THEIR POLITICAL ACTIVITIES ARE SUBJECT TO VARYING DEGREES OF HARASSMENT BY GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES. THE GOVERNMENT CONTROLS THE ELECTORAL APPARATUS AND LIMITS ACCESS OF THE UNRECOGNIZED
OPPOSITION TO THE MEDIA. THERE HAVE BEEN ALLEGATIONS OF VOTE COUNT IRREGULARITIES AND THE RULING COLORADO PARTY HAS IN SOME INSTANCES RECEIVED MORE VOTES THAN THE PUBLISHED NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS IN THAT JURISDICTION. IN THE 1985 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, THE OPPOSITION DID NOT WIN A MAJORITY OR PLURALITY IN ANY OF THE COUNTRY'S 190 MUNICIPALITIES.


PARAGUAY'S TURBULENT POLITICAL HISTORY, COMBINED WITH ITS GEOGRAPHIC ISOLATION, SMALL POPULATION AND TRADITIONALLY AGRARIAN ECONOMY, PRODUCED A RELATIVELY SLOW RATE OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROWTH UNTIL A DECADE AGO. PRESIDENT STROESSNER'S RULE HAS BROUGHT MUCH NEEDED POLITICAL STABILITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, BUT AT CONSIDERABLE COST TO POLITICAL RIGHTS AND INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES. AFTER A PERIOD OF RAPID ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE LATE 1970S AND EARLY 1980S, PARAGUAY ENTERED A STEEP RECESSION. FOLLOWING TWO YEARS OF DECLINE, AN AGRICULTURE-LED ECONOMIC RECOVERY COMMENCED IN 1984. ECONOMIC POLICIES AND INTERNATIONAL PRICES FROM PARAGUAY'S EXPORTS, HOWEVER,
HAVE NOT EVOLVED IN A MANNER TO SUSTAIN THE RECOVERY, WHICH MAY BE ABORTED IN 1986. THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS REMAINS IN A DEFICIT POSITION, AND SUBSTANTIAL DELAYS ON INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS STILLPOSE PROBLEMS.

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PHUM, PA

SUBJECT: 1985 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOR PARAGUAY


IN THIS YEAR AS IN PAST YEARS, THERE HAVE BEEN CREDIBLE CHARGES OF TORTURE AND PHYSICAL ABUSE DIRECTED AGAINST POLICE AUTHORITIES WHICH HAVE LED IN SOME CASES TO DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS, AND IN OTHERS TO DENIAL OF THE CHARGES. ALTHOUGH THE PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENT HAS REJECTED ANY ROLE FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS IN MONITORING CONDITIONS IN PARAGUAY, IT HAS BEEN WILLING TO ALLOW REPRESENTATIVES FROM SUCH GROUPS TO ENTER THE COUNTRY AND MEET WITH A BROAD RANGE OF CONTACTS.

RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

SECTION 1: RESPECT FOR THE INTEGRITY OF THE PERSON,
- INCLUDING FREEDOM FROM:

(A) POLITICAL KILLING.

THERE WERE NO REPORTED CASES IN 1985 OF KILLINGS FOR POLITICAL MOTIVES BY THE GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL PARTIES OR
OTHER ENTITIES.

(B) DISAPPEARANCE.

THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS SINCE 1980 OF ANY PERSONS HAVING DISAPPEARED UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH SUGGEST POLITICALLY MOTIVATED ABDUCTION OR TERRORISM.

EARLIER CASES INVOLVED A SECURITY ACTION IN 1980 IN WHICH THE AUTHORITIES CLAIMED SEVERAL PERSONS HAD DIED IN AN ARMED CLASH, BUT THE BODIES WERE NEVER TURNED OVER TO FAMILY MEMBERS AND DEATH CERTIFICATES WERE NOT ISSUED.

ABOUT 24 PARAGUAYANS DISAPPEARED BETWEEN 1970 AND 1977 EITHER IN ARGENTINA OR PARAGUAY.

(C) TORTURE AND CRUEL, INHUMAN, OR DEGRADING - TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT.

THERE WERE NINE REPORTS OF MISTREATMENT OR VIOLENCE COMMITTED BY THE POLICE AGAINST SUSPECTS OR PRISONERS IN 1985. IN FEBRUARY, A POLICE COMMISSIONER AND TWO POLICE CONSCRIPTS WERE CHARGED WITH THE DEATH OF A PRISONER. THEY SAID HE HAD COMMITTED SUICIDE BY HANGING HIMSELF, BUT HE WAS FOUND TO HAVE DIED FROM A BLOW TO THE HEAD.

IN APRIL, A FRACTONAL POLITICAL DISPUTE LED FIVE RULING COLORADO PARTY MEMBERS TO BE JAILED. THEY CHARGED POLICE OFFICIALS WITH HAVING TORTURED THEM AND THE OFFICERS WERE DISMISSED AND CHARGED. IN JUNE, IN YPACARAI, BENEDICTO LOPEZ WAS DETAINED AND HELD FOR 14 DAYS DURING WHICH HE CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN SEVERELY BEATEN. HE DIED TEN DAYS AFTER HIS RELEASE, ACCORDING TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES FROM PNEUMONIA.

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PHUM, PA
SUBJECT: 1985 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOR PARAGUAY

ALSO IN JUNE, A DOMESTIC EMPLOYEE WHO WAS INTERROGATED ABOUT A ROBBERY ASSERTED THAT SHE HAD BEEN TORTURED BY ELECTRIC SHOCK. THE POLICE DENIED THE CHARGE. TWO OTHER SIMILAR CASES WERE ALSO REPORTED IN JUNE WHERE ROBBERY SUSPECTS ALLEGED TORTURE. IN JULY, IN CONCEPCION, A PRISONER WAS KILLED, SUPPOSEDLY WHILE ESCAPING. AN INVESTIGATION RESULTED IN TWO POLICE OFFICERS AND TWO CONSCRIPTS BEING CHARGED. ALSO IN JULY, A NAVY CONSCRIPT DIED IN POLICE CUSTODY, ALLEGEDLY FROM THE ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE OF HIS GUN. HOWEVER, HIS BODY SHOWED SIGNS OF TORTURE. HIS FATHER'S EFFORTS TO OBTAIN AN INVESTIGATION HAVE HAD NO APPARENT EFFECT.

IN ANOTHER CASE IN JULY, AN ASUNCION BUS DRIVER DENOUNCED POLICE BEATING AS A RESULT OF HIS REFUSAL OF PASSAGE TO A PERSON WHO DID NOT HAVE THE CORRECT FARE, WHO IT LATER TURNED OUT WAS A POLICE OFFICER.

THESE REPORTS OF POLICE VIOLENCE WERE ATYPICAL IN THAT THEY APPEARED IN THE PRESS. NONETHELESS, PHYSICAL MIS-TREATMENT OF SUSPECTS AND PRISONERS BY THE POLICE, EITHER BELIEVED TO OCCUR FREQUENTLY. THE SO-CALLED "INVESTIGATIONS POLICE" ARE WIDELY KNOWN FOR SUCH ACTIONS. IN MOST CASES, ONCE FORMALLY ARRAIGNED, DETAINES GO TO REGULAR PRISON FACILITIES, WHERE CONDITIONS ARE GENERALLY
BETTER THAN IN POLICE STATIONS. PRISONS ARE AUSTERE, ESPECIALLY THE MAXIMUM SECURITY FACILITIES ADMINISTERED DIRECTLY BY THE INTERIOR MINISTRY AND THE ASUNCION POLICE, WHICH ARE USED IN MORE SENSITIVE CASES. COURT AND JUSTICE MINISTRY OFFICIALS VISIT THE REGIONAL PRISON FACILITIES SEVERAL TIMES EACH YEAR TO EXAMINE CONDITIONS AND INTERVIEW PRISONERS. THEY DO NOT REGULARLY VISIT THE MAXIMUM SECURITY FACILITIES, ALTHOUGH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS ARE PERMITTED ACCESS.

(D) ARBITRARY ARREST, DENTENTION AND EXILE.

DETECTIONS ARE USED AS A FORM OF WARNING OR PUNISHMENT FOR THOSE WHO CRITICIZE THE GOVERNMENT OR WHOSE POLITICAL BELIEFS OR ACTIVITIES ARE DEEMED TO BE THREATENING. SOMETIMES INDIVIDUALS ARE PICKED UP BY THE POLICE, DETAINED IN LOCAL POLICE STATIONS WHERE THEY ARE OFTEN HELD INCOMMUNICADO AND RELEASED AFTER A FEW DAYS, USUALLY WITHOUT FORMAL CHARGES HAVING BEEN BROUGHT. OTHER DETENTIONS MAY BE WEEKS IN LENGTH.


IN THE ABSENCE OF IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION, THE GOVERNMENT AND COURTS TAKE THE POSITION THAT STATE OF SIEGE RESTRICTIONS SUPERSEDE THE SAFEGUARDS ON HUMAN RIGHTS CONTAINED ELSEWHERE IN THE CONSTITUTION AND LEGAL CODE. SEVERAL PROMINENT LEGAL SCHOLARS AND THE OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES CONTEST THIS INTERPRETATION.


THE DETENTION OF TWO OPPOSITION POLITICIANS OF A NONRECOG-
IZED PARTY IN APRIL, WHO ATTENDED A MEETING IN ITACURUBI, IS ILLUSTRATIVE. THEY WERE DETAINED FOR SEVEN DAYS WITHOUT BEING INFORMED OF THE REASONS FOR THEIR DETENTION AND THEIR DETENTION WAS NOT BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF A JUDGE. THESE ACTIONS VIOLATE SPECIFIC E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PHUM, PA
SUBJECT: 1985 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOR PARAGUAY
PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION.

DURING 1985, THERE WERE 72 KNOWN INSTANCES OF PERSONS ARBITRARILY DETAINED. ALL OF THESE INDIVIDUALS WERE SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED. IN ONE CASE IN JANUARY, FOURTEEN MEMBERS OF THE NONRECOGNIZED AUTHENTIC RADICAL LIBERAL PARTY WERE ARRESTED FOR HOLDING A MEETING ON PRIVATE PROPERTY. TWENTY-TWO MEMBERS OF THAT PARTY WERE DETAINED IN SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES IN MAY. A MEMBER OF THE OPPOSITION FEBRERISTA PARTY WAS DETAINED WITHOUT CHARGES FOR FORTY-THREE DAYS AT MID-YEAR.

OVER THE YEARS MANY POLITICAL OPPOSITIIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE EITHER BEEN FORCED, OR HAVE VOLUNTARILY GONE, INTO EXILE. IN DECEMBER 1983, THE INTERIOR MINISTER STATED THAT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF TWO PROMINENT OPPOSITION FIGURES -- DOMINGO LAINO AND LUIS RESCK -- ALL EXILES WOULD BE PERMITTED TO RETURN TO PARAGUAY. AS A RESULT, A NUMBER OF POLITICAL FIGURES, MANY OF WHOM HAD BEEN IN EXILE FOR MANY YEARS, HAVE RETURNED TO PARAGUAY SINCE EARLY 1984. PROMINENT AMONG THEM WERE OFFICIALS OF THE COLORADO POPULAR MOVEMENT (MOPOCO), A DISSIDENT FACTION OF THE RULING COLORADO PARTY WHOSE LEADERS HAD BEEN EXPELLED FROM PARAGUAY IN 1960. A NUMBER OF THOSE WHO RETURNED HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO VARIOUS FORMS OF HARASSMENT, TEMPORARY DETENTION, AND INTERNAL EXILE BY THE GOVERNMENT. FOUR MOPOCO MEMBERS WERE EACH DETAINED FOR OVER A MONTH IN THE SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER PERIOD -- ALL WITHOUT CHARGES. THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION CONCERNING THE POSSIBLE RETURN OF DRS. LAINO AND RESCK, AND A THIRD PERSON, AUGUSTO ROA BASTOS, AN AUTHOR ACCUSED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF BEING AN "INDOCTRINATOR" WAS ADDED TO THIS CATEGORY. IN JUNE, DR. HERIBERTO ALEGRE, A RESPECTED LAWYER, WAS RELEASED AFTER NINE MONTHS DETENTION WITHOUT A TRIAL, WHICH REPORTEDLY RESULTED FROM SUSPICIONS THAT HE ENCOURAGED LANDLESS CAMPESINOS TO SEIZE LAND. DR. ALEGRE WAS DEFENDING THE CAMPESINOS AFTER THE SEIZURE HAD TAKEN PLACE.

(E) DENIAL OF FAIR PUBLIC TRIAL.
PARAGUAY, LIKE MOST OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, DOES NOT HAVE TRIAL BY JURY. TRIALS ARE CONDUCTED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY BY PRESENTATION OF WRITTEN DOCUMENTS TO A JUDGE, WHO THEN RENDERS A DECISION. ALL JUDGMENTS ARE AUTOMATICALLY REVIEWED BY AN APPELLATE-LEVEL JUDGE, AND APPEALS TO THE SUPREME COURT ARE POSSIBLE. PART OF THE TRIAL PROCESS IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND TRIALS ARE
ROUTINELY REPORTED IN THE PRESS.
NUMEROUS SAFEGUARDS SET FORTH IN THE CONSTITUTION AND THE PENAL CODE, IN THEORY, PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL DURING THE TRIAL PROCESS. HOWEVER, THE JUDICIARY HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN SUBJECT TO EXTENSIVE INFLUENCE BY THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT AND BY THE MILITARY. THIS, TOGETHER WITH BUDGETARY AND OTHER INSTITUTIONAL FAILINGS IN THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM, CONTINUES TO COMPROMISE THE ABILITY OF AN ACCUSED PERSON TO RECEIVE A FAIR, SPEEDY TRIAL.

OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS, A NUMBER OF CHANGES HAVE NONETHLESS BEEN MADE WHICH MANY OBSERVERS CREDIT WITH HAVING IMPROVED THE QUALITY AND SPEED OF THE JUDICIAL PROCESS. WIDESPREAD CHANGES IN THE PERSONNEL OF THE JUDICIARY SYSTEM, PARTICULARLY JUDGES AND THEIR CLERKS, ARE SAID TO HAVE REDUCED THE AMOUNT OF CORRUPTION. ONE JUDGE WAS SUSPENDED DURING 1985 AFTER HAVING BEEN CHARGED WITH TAKING A BRIBE TO KEEP A PERSON OUT OF A NARCOTICS CASE. HOWEVER, IT IS WIDELY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE COURTS STILL ARE NOT INDEPENDENT OF THE INFLUENCE OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH IN POLITICALLY SENSITIVE CASES.

AS OF DECEMBER 31, THERE ARE AN ESTIMATED SIX PERSONS -- ALREADY TRIED AND SENTENCED OR WhOSE TRAILS WERE UNDERWAY -- WHO COULD BE CONSIDERED POLITICAL PRISONERS, OR WhOSE TRAILS APPEARED TO BE SERIOUSLY COMPROMISED BY IRREGULARITIES. THIS REPRESENTS THE SAME LEVEL AS LAST YEAR. THERE ARE AN ADDITIONAL TWO INDIVIDUALS WhOSE CASES INVOLVED CRIMINAL OFFENSES BUT WHOSE LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVERS BELIEVE WERE AFFECTED IN PART BY POLITICAL FACTORS. THIS REPRESENTS A CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT OVER PREVIOUS YEARS.

(F) ARBITRARY INTERFERENCE WITH PRIVACY, FAMILY, HOME OR CORRESPONDENCE.

GOVERNMENT AND SECURITY FORCES DO NOT INTERVENE AS A MATTER OF COURSE IN THE DAILY LIFE OF THE AVERAGE CITIZEN. THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDES THAT, EXCEPT TO PREVENT THE COMMISSION OF A CRIME, PRIVATE HOMES MAY NOT BE ENTERED WITHOUT A JUDICIAL WARRANT. NONETHLESS, SOME PRIVATE CITIZENS COMPLAIN OF THEIR RIGHT TO PRIVACY BEING ABUSED BY THE SECURITY AUTHORITIES. LEADERS OF COLORADO POPULAR MOVEMENT ARE FOLLOWED BY THE POLICE WHEREEVER THEY GO, DAY AND NIGHT. THEY ALSO COMPLAIN THAT THEIR TELEPHONES ARE TAPPED, THEIR PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE MONITORED, AND THEIR ABILITY TO MOVE ABOUT RESTRICTED. THE POLICE HAVE REPORTEDLY TOLD THEM THAT THEY MAY NOT MEET IN GROUPS OF MORE THAN THREE, AND IT IS CLAIMED THAT THOSE WHOM LEADERS OF THE GROUP CONTACT ARE LATER QUESTIONED. OTHER OPPOSITION FIGURES AND CRITICS OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE SIMILARLY COMPLAINED ABOUT INTERFERENCE WITH THEIR MAIL, PARTICULARLY FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE, AND OF HAVING THEIR TELEPHONES TAPPED. ALTHOUGH THE PARAGUAYAN POLICE, IN A

CONFIDENTIAL
STATEMENT IN OCTOBER 1984, DENIED THE CHARGES MADE AGAINST THEM BY THE MEMBERS OF THE COLORADO POPULAR MOVEMENT, AND SAID THAT NO SUCH HARASSMENT BY THEM HAD TAKEN PLACE, IT IS WIDELY BELIEVED THAT THE CHARGES MADE BY THIS OPPOSITION ORGANIZATION ARE TRUE. FINALLY, ALTHOUGH PUBLICATIONS CRITICAL OF THE GOVERNMENT CIRCULATE FREELY IN THE COUNTRY, THERE CONTINUE TO BE CASES IN WHICH FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES, OR BOOKS CONTAINING MATERIAL CRITICAL OF THE PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENT ARE CONFISCATED AT THE PORT OF ENTRY.

SECTION 2: RESPECT FOR CIVIL RIGHTS, INCLUDING:
(A) FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND PRESS.
THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION WAS APPEALED TO THE SUPREME COURT WHICH RULED THAT THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR HAD ACTED WITHIN HIS POWERS AND IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST. SINCE THEN, GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES HAVE TAKEN THE POSITION THAT THE CLOSURE IS A CLOSED CASE.
FORMER ABC COLOR STAFFERS, ONE OF WHOM WAS BRIEFLY DETAINED BY THE INVESTIGATIONS POLICE SHORTLY AFTER THE MAGAZINE'S DEBUT. THE NONRECOGNIZED POPULAR COLORADO MOVEMENT (MOPOCO) PUBLISHES A MONTHLY NEWSPAPER "PATRIA LIBRE" WHICH REGULARLY LAMBASTES THE GOVERNMENT. SIMILARLY, THE COLORADO PARTY PUBLISHES A DAILY PAPER WHICH REGULARLY AND OFTEN SHRILLY ATTACKS THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION. THE GOVERNMENT CLAIMS THAT IT PERMITS THESE NEWSPAPERS CONSIDERABLE LATITUDE BECAUSE THEIR POLITICAL BIAS IS CLEARLY ESTABLISHED. HOWEVER, IN ADDITION, THEY HAVE LESS IMPACT BECAUSE OF THEIR SMALL CIRCULATION AND LESS FREQUENT APPEARANCE.

THE DAILY PAPERS REPORT ACTIVITIES OF THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION, BOTH RECOGNIZED AND UNRECOGNIZED, AS WELL AS INFORMATION ON CHARGES OF ABUSE OF AUTHORITY. HOWEVER, THEIR COVERAGE IS NOT MARKED BY THE AGGRESSIVE INVESTIGATORY JOURNALISM WHICH CHARACTERIZED "ABC COLOR."

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PHUM, PA

SUBJECT: 1985 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOR PARAGUAY

PARAGUAY'S TWO TELEVISION STATIONS ARE BOTH PRIVATELY OWNED. THEIR NEWS PROGRAMS ARE CAREFULLY SELF-CENSORED AND CLOSELY MONITORED BY THE GOVERNMENT. THEY VIRTUALLY ALWAYS CARRY COMMENTARY LAUDATORY OF THE GOVERNMENT, AND REPORTING ON THE ACTIVITIES OF OPPOSITION PARTIES IS VIRTUALLY NONEXISTENT.

TWO OF ASUNCION'S RADIO STATIONS, RADIO CARITAS - WHICH IS AFFILIATED WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, AND RADIO NANDUTI -- WHICH IS PRIVATELY OWNED, HAVE BEEN NOTABLE FOR THEIR WILLINGNESS TO BROADCAST MORE SENSITIVE ITEMS OF LOCAL NEWS. RADIO NANDUTI, IN PARTICULAR, HAS SPECIALIZED IN CARRYING INTERVIEWS WITH POLITICIANS OF ALL PARTIES, INCLUDING THOSE WHICH ARE NOT LEGALLY RECOGNIZED, SOMETIMES ON SENSITIVE ISSUES. AS A RESULT, THE STATION WAS SHUT DOWN FOR 30 DAYS IN JULY 1983, AND FOR TEN DAYS IN 1985. THE STATION'S OWNER, HUMBERTO RUBIN, HAS RECEIVED OCCASIONAL WARNINGS FROM PARAGUAYAN AUTHORITIES ABOUT AIRING THE VIEWS OF "UNRECOGNIZED" POLITICIANS AND ABOUT GIVING TOO MUCH COVERAGE TO THE CLOSURE OF ABC COLOR. THE STATION OPERATES "ILLEGALLY" IN THE SENSE THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS REFUSED TO ACCEPT PAYMENT FOR RENEWAL OF THE STATION'S LICENSE FOR SEVERAL YEARS.

(B) FREEDOM OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION.

DESPITE CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES CONCERNING THE RIGHTS OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION FOR LEGAL ENDS, THESE RIGHTS ARE OFTEN VIOLATED IN PRACTICE. UNDER THE STATE OF SIEGE WHICH IS IN EFFECT IN THE CAPITAL, IT IS TECHNICALLY NECESSARY TO OBTAIN PERMISSION FOR ANY ASSEMBLY OF MORE THAN A CERTAIN NUMBER OF PERSONS, FOR WHATEVER PURPOSE. GENERALLY, HOWEVER, THE PROVISION IS NOT APPLIED TO ORGANIZATIONS WHICH ARE APOLITICAL IN NATURE AND THIS RESTRICTION IS ENFORCED ONLY IN THE CASE OF GATHERINGS SPONSORED BY OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES.
OR OTHER ORGANIZATIONS CRITICAL OF THE GOVERNMENT. FOR EXAMPLE, A GROUP OF OPPOSITION LIBERAL PARTY MEMBERS WHO FORMED A MOVEMENT TO REUNIFY THE VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THAT DIVIDED PARTY WERE DENIED PERMITS TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETINGS TO GIVE PUBLICITY TO THEIR MOVEMENT. ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE WERE OCCASIONS WHEN THE GOVERNMENT DID PERMIT PUBLIC MEETINGS BY THOSE POLITICAL PARTIES WHICH ARE NOT LEGALLY RECOGNIZED. FOR EXAMPLE, THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY WAS ABLE TO HOLD THE INAUGURATION OF A NEW CENTER FOR TRAINING PARTY MEMBERS IN ASUNCION. SIMILARLY, WHILE THE POLICE NORMALLY DO NOT PERMIT PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, EVEN PEACEFUL ONES, THAT CRITICIZE THE GOVERNMENT OR ITS POLICIES, OCCASIONALLY SUCH EVENTS DO TAKE PLACE.

THE RIGHT TO FREE ASSOCIATION IS CURTAILED IN THE CASE OF THE PARAGUAYAN LABOR FORCE. IN PRACTICE, PARAGUAYAN WORKERS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO ORGANIZE FREELY, AS INDICATED BY THE TREATMENT OF A BUS UNION LEADER WHO, WITH OTHER ACTIVISTS, WAS FIRED FROM HIS JOB AND WAS ARBITRARILY DETAINED TWICE DURING THE YEAR FOR HIS EFFORTS TO ORGANIZE "SOLIDARITY" RALLIES TO PRESSURE FOR THEIR REINSTATEMENT. STRIKES ARE VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO CALL LEGALLY AND ILLEGAL ONES ARE NOT PERMITTED BY THE GOVERNMENT. EFFORTS AT COLLECTIVE BARGAINING BY THE FEW INDEPENDENT LABOR UNIONS WHICH ARE PERMITTED TO EXIST ARE SOMETIMES FRUSTRATED WITH THE TACIT BACKING OF THE GOVERNMENT. MOST OF THE LABOR UNIONS IN PARAGUAY ARE MEMBERS OF THE FEDERATION OF PARAGUAYAN WORKERS WHICH CLAIMS TO REPRESENT OVER 90 PERCENT OF ORGANIZED LABOR. THE FEDERATION IS CAREFULLY CONTROLLED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND IS NOT ABLE TO DEFEND EFFECTIVELY THE INTERESTS OF THE PARAGUAYAN WORK FORCE. THE LEADERSHIP OF THE FEDERATION, AND OF MOST OF ITS MEMBER UNIONS, IS NOT FREELY ELECTED BY THE MEMBERSHIP, BUT RATHER IS CHOSEN ON THE BASIS OF ACCEPTABILITY TO THE GOVERNMENT. UNION OFFICIALS WHO DIFFER WITH THE FEDERATION'S POLICIES ARE OFTEN HARASSED OR FIRED BY THEIR EMPLOYERS WITH TACIT SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT.

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF INDEPENDENT UNIONS IN PARAGUAY, SOME OF THEM ORGANIZED AT THE COMPANY LEVEL. SOME HAVE BEEN STRONG ENOUGH TO BARGAIN WITH MANAGEMENT, DESPITE EFFORTS BY THE PRIVATE FIRMS --SOMETIMES SUPPORTED BY THE GOVERNMENT-- TO RESIST THEIR EFFORTS. SOME OF THE INDEPENDENT UNIONS HAVE BEEN GRANTED LEGAL RECOGNITION E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR TAGS: PHUM, PA SUBJECT: 1985 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOR PARAGUAY BY THE GOVERNMENT, BUT OTHERS HAVE NOT, MAKING IT DIFFICULT OR IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO BARGAIN EFFECTIVELY. THE GOVERNMENT IS LESS LIKELY TO RECOGNIZE GROUPS WHICH IT PERCEIVES TO BE MORE INDEPENDENT OF ITS CONTROL. FOR EXAMPLE, THE UNION OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS HAS NEVER BEEN GRANTED LEGAL RECOGNITION, DESPITE ITS CLAIMS TO
HAVE SATISFIED ALL THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS. THE PRESIDENT OF THIS UNION IS A WELL-KNOWN JOURNALIST WHO IN THE PAST HAS BEEN HIGHLY CRITICAL OF THE GOVERNMENT AND WHO HAS BEEN HELD WITHOUT CHARGES BY THE POLICE THREE TIMES FOR EXTENDED PERIODS, MOST RECENTLY IN 1983.

THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INDEPENDENT UNIONS ARE CAREFULLY MONITORED BY THE SECURITY FORCES AND THE MINISTRY OF LABOR. THEIR LEADERS ARE OFTEN SUMMONED BY OFFICIALS OF THE POLICE OR THE MINISTRY OF LABOR FOR QUESTIONING ABOUT THEIR ACTIVITIES AND, ON OCCASION, TO BE WARNED AWAY FROM THOSE ACTIVITIES OF WHICH THE GOVERNMENT DISAPPROVES.


SOME OF THE INDEPENDENT LABOR UNIONS IN PARAGUAY DO MAINTAIN TIES WITH INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, AND THE ICFTU, IN CRITICIZING THE PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENT, HAS CALLED FOR GREATER INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR THESE INDEPENDENT UNIONS.

AN INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF THE CATHOLIC ACTION WORKERS MOVEMENT (MOAC), UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF THE PARAGUAYAN ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, TOOK PLACE IN JULY, ABSENT THREE COLOMBIAN PARTICIPANTS WHO WERE DETAINED BY GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES AND SENT OUT OF THE COUNTRY BECAUSE THEY WERE CARRYING PUBLICATIONS OF "AN EMINENTLY SUBVERSIVE NATURE." THE COLOMBIANS WERE ALSO CARRYING MONEY TO DEFRAY CONFERENCE EXPENSES, WHICH THEY CHARGE WAS TAKEN FROM THEM BY AUTHORITIES. THE GOVERNMENT DENIED THIS LATTER CHARGE.

ANOTHER INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, OF ORIT AFFILIATED LABOR LEADERS, TOOK PLACE IN ASUNCION SPONSORED BY THE PARAGUAYAN FREE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT, INTERSINDICAL. IT WAS CRITICIZED IN THE GOVERNMENT MEDIA, BUT WAS NOT INTERFERENCE BEYOND THE PRESENCE OF THE POLICE, WHO ROUTINELY ATTEND ALL LABOR MEETINGS.

IN THE ILO, IN JUNE 1985, PARAGUAY REQUESTED A DIRECT CONTACT MISSION TO TREAT THE ISSUE OF THE APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS NUMBER 87 (FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION) AND 98 (RIGHT TO ORGANIZE AND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING). THE AREAS OF CONCERN DEAL WITH THE LACK OF GUARANTEES IN PARAGUAYAN LAW FOR SUCH RIGHTS AS COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, STRIKES IN PUBLIC SECTOR ENTERPRISES, FIRING WITHOUT INDEMNIZATION OR PREVIOUS NOTICE, ETC. THE ACCEPTANCE BY PARAGUAY OF THE NEED FOR A DIRECT CONTACT MISSION REPRESENTED A STEP FORWARD IN THAT PREVIOUSLY THE
GOVERNMENT OF PARAGUAY HAD TURNED ITS BACK ON ILO
EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN.

(C) FREEDOM OF RELIGION.
THE CONSTITUTION ESTABLISHES ROMAN CATHOLICISM AS THE
OFFICIAL STATE RELIGION, BUT IT ALSO GUARANTEES FREEDOM
OF CONSCIENCE FOR OTHER DENOMINATIONS. WITH VERY FEW
EXCEPTIONS, THIS FREEDOM IS RESPECTED. ADHERENCE TO A
PARTICULAR CREED CONFER NO ADVANTAGES WITHIN PARAGUAYAN
SOCIETY AND CONVERSION FROM ONE FAITH TO ANOTHER IS
PERMISSIBLE. MANY DENOMINATIONS CONDUCT THEIR ACTIVITIES
FREELY, AND MISSIONARIES ARE, FOR THE MOST PART, PERMITTED
TO ENTER THE COUNTRY AND PROSELYTIZE. HOWEVER,
PARAGUAYAN LAW PROHIBITS THE GRANTING OF LEGAL STATUS
TO NEW RELIGIOUS GROUPS AND A FEW EVANGELICAL CHURCHES
HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN GOVERNMENT APPROVAL FOR
THEIR OPERATIONS. THE JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES, FOR EXAMPLE,
LOST LEGAL REGISTRATION IN 1979. THE CHURCH FILED AN
APPEAL WITH THE PARAGUAYAN SUPREME COURT, BUT NO ACTION
HAS EVER BEEN TAKEN ON IT. FURTHERMORE, UNDER ORDERS
E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PHUM, PA
SUBJECT: 1985 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOR PARAGUAY
OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, JEHOVAH'S WITNESS CHILDREN
HAVE BEEN EXPELLED FROM SCHOOL BECAUSE OF THEIR REFUSAL,
AS A MATTER OF THEIR FAITH, TO SALUTE THE NATIONAL FLAG
OR SING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM. LOWER COURTS HAVE FOUND IN
FAVOR OF THE CHILDREN, BUT THE CASES HAVE BEEN OVERTURNED
UPON APPEAL, AND THE FIRST TEST CASE IS NOW BEFORE THE
SUPREME COURT.

(D) FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT WITHIN THE COUNTRY, FOREIGN
- TRAVEL, EMIGRATION AND REPATRIATION.
THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDES FOR FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT, WHICH
IS USUALLY NOT RESTRICTED WITH THE COUNTRY. MOST CITIZENS
MAY ENTER OR LEAVE THE COUNTRY FREELY. HOWEVER, MEMBERS
OF ONE UNRECOGNIZED POLITICAL GROUP HAVE COMPLAINED
ABOUT A POLICE REQUIREMENT THAT THEY REPORT ANY INTENTION
TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE. IN ADDITION,
OPPOSITION FIGURES AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS CONTINUE
TO COMPLAIN ABOUT DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING PASSPORTS.
NONETHELESS, THERE APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN FEWER INCIDENTS
OF SUCH RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVEL RECENTLY, AND A NUMBER OF
PROMINENT CRITICS OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE TRAVELLED TO
INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS. THREE PARAGUAYANS LIVE IN EXILE
AND ARE NOT PERMITTED TO RETURN DESPITE THE 1983 OPEN-
DOOR POLICY WHICH RESULTED IN THE RETURN OF SEVERAL
POLITICAL OPPONENTS. THESE THREE ARE DOMINGO LAINO, THE
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNRECOGNIZED PLRA; LUIS RESCK,
FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE UNRECOGNIZED CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT
PARTY; AND AGOSTO ROA BASTOS, A LEFTIST WHO IS ARGUABLY
PARAGUAY'S MOST FAMOUS NOVELIST. MEMBERS OF THE OUTLAWED
PARAGUAYAN COMMUNIST PARTY LIVING IN EXILE WOULD LIKELY
FACE IMPRISONMENT IF THEY RETURNED. DURING 1985 THE
GOVERNMENT USED STATE OF SIEGE POWERS TO RELEGATE THREE
INDIVIDUALS TO INTERNAL EXILE.
SECTION 3: RESPECT FOR POLITICAL RIGHTS:  
- THE RIGHT OF CITIZENS TO CHANGE THEIR GOVERNMENT.


E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PHUM, PA
SUBJECT: 1985 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOR PARAGUAY

THE DOMINATION OF THE NATION'S POLITICAL LIFE BY THE
COLORADO PARTY STEMS IN CONSIDERABLE MEASURE FROM ITS ABILITY TO DISPENSE PATRONAGE AND TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY OFFERED BY THE MACHINERY OF GOVERNMENT TO MAINTAIN ITS PREDOMINANCE. ACCESS TO POSITIONS IN THE GOVERNMENT, AS WELL AS IN THE OFFICER RANKS OF THE MILITARY AND THE POLICE, IS IN PRACTICE LIMITED TO MEMBERS OF THE PARTY. INDIVIDUALS OFTEN JOIN THE PARTY FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ADVANTAGES SUCH AS ENROLLMENT IN THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OR PERMISSION TO BID ON PUBLIC CONTRACTS. AT THE LOCAL LEVEL, POLICE AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS USE THEIR CONSIDERABLE POWERS AND INFLUENCE TO SUPPORT THE COLORADO PARTY. THE OPPOSITION HAS YET TO WIN EVEN ONE MUNICIPAL ELECTION CONTEST AMONG THE 190 MUNICIPALITIES OF THE COUNTRY.

IN ADDITION TO THE THREE LEGALLY RECOGNIZED OPPOSITION PARTIES, THERE ALSO EXIST THREE POLITICAL PARTIES WHICH DO NOT ENJOY JURIDICAL RECOGNITION FROM THE GOVERNMENT, AND THEREFORE CANNOT PARTICIPATE IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS, IF THEY WISHED TO DO SO. THESE PARTIES, THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT PARTY, THE AUTHENTIC RADICAL LIBERAL PARTY, AND THE POPULAR COLORADO MOVEMENT ARE JOINED WITH THE FEBRERISTA PARTY IN THE NATIONAL ACCORD. THE NATIONAL ACCORD HAS AS ONE OF ITS PRINCIPLES THAT IT WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS UNTIL THE ENTIRE ELECTION PROCESS AND SECURITY RESTRICTIONS HAVE BEEN OPENED UP. SINCE THEY ARE NOT LEGALLY RECOGNIZED, THESE PARTIES HAVE MORE SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN ATTEMPTING TO PROSELYTIZE AND OTHERWISE CARRY ON NORMAL POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. BECAUSE OF THE ONE RECOGNIZED PARTY IN THEIR MIDST, THE NATIONAL ACCORD MEMBERS OCCASIONALLY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO RECEIVE PERMITS FOR MEETINGS THROUGH APPLICATION BY THE FEBRERISTA PARTY. REGARDLESS OF THEIR LEGAL STATUS, HOWEVER, ALL THE NATIONAL ACCORD PARTIES ARE SUBJECT TO LIMITATIONS ON THEIR POLITICAL ACTIVITIES BY THE AUTHORITIES.

SECTION 4: GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE REGARDING INTERNATIONAL AND NONGOVERNMENTAL INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS.


THE LAST VISITS BY PRIVATE HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS WERE IN 1984 WHEN THE INTER-AMERICAN PRESS SOCIETY AND AMERICA'S WATCH SENT MISSIONS. THEY WERE RECEIVED AND
PERMITTED WIDE ACCESS, ALTHOUGH NOT UNTIL AFTER INITIAL DIFFICULTIES WHICH DISPLAYED THE PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENT'S AMBIVALENCE TOWARDS SUCH VISITS.

WHILE FOR THE MOST PART WILLING TO ALLOW VISITS BY HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS, THE GOVERNMENT REJECTS ANY SUGGESTION THAT SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS EXIST IN PARAGUAY. THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE RULING COLORADO PARTY ROUTINELY DISMISSES THE FINDINGS OF SUCH ORGANIZATIONS AS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, WHICH HAS FOR MANY YEARS EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE SITUATION IN PARAGUAY. THE GOVERNMENT ALLOWED INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO TRACK DOWN IN PARAGUAY JOSEPH MENGELE, THE NAZI WAR CRIMINAL, DESPITE ITS REPEATED ASSERTIONS THAT MENGELE WAS NOWHERE IN THE COUNTRY. THE GOVERNMENT POINTS TO THE CONFIRMATION OF MENGELE'S RESIDENCE AND DEATH IN BRAZIL AS INDICATIVE THAT THE INTERNATIONAL MEDIA IS TOO READY TO BELIEVE INFORMATION ADVERSE TO IT.

A NUMBER OF LOCAL PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS CONTINUED TO BE ACTIVE DURING 1985 IN TRYING TO PROTECT INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES. THESE INCLUDE THE INTER-FAITH COMMITTEE WHICH IS SUPPORTED BY THREE DIFFERENT CHURCH GROUPS, E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: PHUM, PA
SUBJECT: 1985 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOR PARAGUAY

SECTION 5: ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL SITUATION.
PARAGUAY'S POPULATION, ESTIMATED TO BE 3.7 MILLION IN 1985 AND GROWING AT A RATE OF THREE PERCENT PER YEAR, IS SMALL IN RELATION TO ITS LAND AREA -- 157,047 SQUARE MILES, AND ABOUT THE SIZE OF CALIFORNIA. AGRICULTURE (INCLUDING FORESTRY AND RANCHING) IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ECONOMIC ACTIVITY, ACCOUNTING FOR NEARLY ONE-THIRD OF GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT, ONE-HALF OF EMPLOYMENT, AND OVER 95 PERCENT OF EXPORTS. PROBABLY BECAUSE OF THE RELATIVE ABUNDANCE OF GOOD LAND, URBAN POVERTY AND LANDLESSNESS --
THOUGH ON THE RISE -- ARE NOT AS APPARENT IN PARAGUAY
AS IN MANY OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IN URBAN AREAS
19 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION FALLS BELOW THE ABSOLUTE
POVERTY LEVEL, ACCORDING TO ESTIMATES MADE IN 1978.
APPROXIMATELY TWO-THIRDS OF THE TOTAL POPULATION
LIVES IN RURAL AREAS, HOWEVER, WHERE 50 PERCENT FALLS
BELOW THE ABSOLUTE POVERTY LEVEL.

IN THE MID-1970S, PARAGUAY BEGAN A PERIOD OF UNPRECEDENTED
ECONOMIC EXPANSION STIMULATED BY THE OPENING UP OF THE
COUNTRY'S ISOLATED INTERIOR FOR AGRICULTURAL AND RANCHING
DEVELOPMENT AND BY THE CONSTRUCTION OF HYDROELECTRIC
DAMS, ESPECIALLY THE MASSIVE PARAGUAYAN-BRAZILIAN
ITAIPU PROJECT, HARNESSING THE WATERS OF THE PARANA
RIVER.ALTHOUGH STATISTICS ISSUED IN 1978 SHOW THAT
19 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION FALLS BELOW THE ABSOLUTE
POVERTY LEVEL IN URBAN AREAS, AS DOES 50 PERCENT IN RURAL
AREAS, THE RELATIVE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY FROM THE MID-
1970S TO EARLY 1980S PUSHED PARAGUAY INTO A MIDDLE-INCOME
DEVELOPING COUNTRY CATEGORY WITH A PER CAPITA GROSS
DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) SURPASSING $1,000. SINCE THAT
TIME,ECONOMIC RECESSION AND CURRENCY DETERIORATION HAVE
ERODED SOME OF THE ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT, WHILE POPULATION
GROWTH HAS REMAINED HIGH. GIVEN THE CONFUSION WITH
RESPECT TO THE APPROPRIATE EXCHANGE RATE AND ESTIMATES
OF ECONOMIC GROWTH, THERE IS NO ONE RELIABLE FIGURE
FOR PER CAPITA GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT IN DOLLARS. SEVERAL
OFFICIAL ESTIMATES PLACE PER CAPITA GDP ABOVE $1,400,
WHILE ESTIMATES BASED ON MARKET EXCHANGE RATES WOULD BE
AROUND $700 IN 1984. MOREOVER, GIVEN THE HIGH INCIDENCE
OF POVERTY IN RURAL AREAS, WHERE SUBSISTENCE AGRICULTURE
IS STILL COMMON, THIS INCOME DISTRIBUTION IS SKewed IN
FAVOR OF URBAN AREAS, WHERE THERE ARE ALSO OBVIOUS
DISPARITIES IN INCOME DISTRIBUTION.

THE GOVERNMENT OF PARAGUAY OFFICIALLY ESPouses A PRIVATE
ENTERPRISE ECONOMIC SYSTEM, BUT THE SCOPE OF GOVERNMENT
IN RECENT YEARS HAS INFRINGED UPON AREAS PREVIOUSLY
LEFT TO PRIVATE INITIATIVE. EMPLOYMENT IN THE PUBLIC
SECTOR AND FREQUENTLY CONTRACTS FOR GOVERNMENT RELATED
PROJECTS DEPEND ON OFFICIAL CONNECTIONS OR MEMBERSHIP
IN THE RULING PARTY. AS THE PUBLIC SECTOR HAS GROWN,
INSTANCES OF OFFICIAL ABUSE OF PUBLIC TRUST THROUGH
GRAFT AND CORRUPTION HAVE INCREASED. SOME CASES ARE
BEING PROSECUTED. PUBLIC INVESTMENT PRIORITIES HAVE
BEEN CRITICIZED, AND INVESTMENT IN DUBIOUS OR EXCESSIVELY
LARGE PUBLIC SECTOR PROJECTS HAVE CAUSED LARGE INCREASES
IN THE FOREIGN DEBT BURDEN WHILE THE CAPACITY TO REPAY
HAS DECLINED.

EVEN THOUGH NEARLY ONE QUARTER OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
BUDGET IS DEVOTED TO HEALTH AND EDUCATION, FUNDS AVAILABLE
FOR SOCIAL PROGRAMS ARE LOW RELATIVE TO NEEDS. USERS
COMPLAIN THAT PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY FUNDS GO
TO HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION AND SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT
PURCHASES WHILE STAFFING FOR BASIC HEALTH NEEDS AND
E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PHUM, PA
SUBJECT: 1985 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOR PARAGUAY
SUPPLIES OF MEDICINE ARE INADEQUATE. BASIC HEALTH
INDICATORS, HOWEVER, ARE IMPROVING. LIFE EXPECTANCY
AT BIRTH IS 66 YEARS AND INFANT MORTALITY IS MEASURED
AT 52.2 PER THOUSAND LIVE BIRTHS, DOWN SHARPLY FROM
109 IN 1982. THE POPULATION AS A WHOLE IS JUDGED TO
HAVE A DAILY CALORIC INTAKE APPROXIMATELY 20 PERCENT
GREATER THAN THE MINIMUM DAILY REQUIREMENT. IN THE
AGRARIAN-BASED PARAGUAYAN ECONOMY, ADEQUACY OF FOOD IS
SELDOM A PROBLEM, ALTHOUGH AN IMBALANCED DIET SOMETIMES
LEADS TO PROBLEMS OF MALNUTRITION AMONG THE POOR.
GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE AGENCIES ATTEMPT TO ADDRESS THE
LATTER PROBLEM THROUGH STRONGER HOME EXTENSION SERVICES.

STATISTICS ON ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER IN PARAGUAY
ARE ALSO PROBLEMATIC. A LOW FIGURE WOULD SHOW ACCESS
BY 21 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION -- 39 PERCENT IN URBAN
AREAS AND 10 PERCENT IN RURAL AREAS, ACCORDING TO 1980
ESTIMATES. HIGHER PARAGUAYAN OFFICIAL FIGURES ESTIMATE
THAT 41 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION HAS ACCESS TO A
PUBLIC POTABLE WATER SUPPLY BECAUSE THEY TAKE INTO
ACCOUNT THE AVAILABILITY OF SAFE WATER IN RURAL AREAS
IF RUDIMENTARY SANITARY PRECAUTIONS ARE TAKEN. THE
PUBLIC WATER AGENCIES ARE PLANNING EXPANSION OF SEVERAL
SYSTEMS AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES MAINTAIN PROGRAMS
FOR IMPROVING RURAL SANITATION SO THAT ACCESS TO SAFE
DRINKING WATER, AND WITH IT BASIC HEALTH INDICATORS, WILL
RISE.

ADULT LITERACY WAS LAST ESTIMATED AT 80 PERCENT IN 1972.
OVER THE YEARS, EDUCATION HAS BECOME MORE WIDELY AVAILABLE
SO THAT VIRTUALLY ALL CHILDREN RECEIVE SOME SCHOOLING.
THERE ARE WIDE DISPARITIES, HOWEVER, IN THE QUALITY OF
PRIMARY EDUCATION AND THE AVAILABILITY OF SECONDARY
EDUCATION IN RURAL AREAS WHERE IT IS MORE DIFFICULT TO
PROVIDE SERVICES. WHEREAS NEARLY TWO-THIRDS OF URBAN
PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN ENTER THE SIXTH AND LAST YEAR
OF BASIC EDUCATION, LITTLE MORE THAN A QUARTER OF RURAL
SCHOOL CHILDREN DO SO. THE TOTAL RETENTION RATE FROM
THE FIRST TO THE SIXTH YEAR OF PRIMARY EDUCATION IS
ABOUT 40 PERCENT.

THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN SECONDARY SCHOOL IS
STILL RATHER SMALL AND, DESPITE IMPROVEMENTS IN BOTH
RETENTION AND GRADUATION RATES, THE AUTHORITIES RECOGNIZE
THAT RESULTS ARE NOT YET SATISFACTORY. NEARLY TWO-THIRDS
OF PRIMARY SCHOOL GRADUATES PASS ON TO SECONDARY
EDUCATION, BUT ONLY ONE-HALF THAT NUMBER ACTUALLY
GRADUATE FROM THE SIXTH YEAR OF SECONDARY OR INTERMEDIATE
LEVEL EDUCATION. EFFORTS ARE ALSO BEING AIMED AT
IMPROVING TEACHING STANDARDS AND RELATING THE CONTENT OF
SECONDARY EDUCATION TO THE TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE COUNTRY.
PARAGUAY HAS AN UNASSIMILATED INDIAN POPULATION ESTIMATED AT 45,000. THE GOVERNMENT'S NATIONAL INDIGENOUS INSTITUTE CAN PURCHASE LAND ON BEHALF OF THE INDIANS AND EXPROPRIATE PRIVATE PROPERTY TO ESTABLISH TRIBAL HOMELANDS. IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROGRAM HAS BEEN SLOW AND THUS FAR ITS PROMISE HAS NOT BEEN REALIZED, BUT DURING 1985 THE INSTITUTE PURCHASED LAND ON BEHALF OF INDIANS FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR. THE PROBLEMS OF THE INDIAN POPULATION CONTINUE TO RECEIVE WIDE PUBLICITY IN THE PARAGUAYAN MEDIA. THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE DURING 1985 CONCERNED EFFORTS BY A PROMINENT BUSINESSMAN TO FORCIBLY EVICT INDIANS FROM TRADITIONAL TRIBAL AREAS ON A LARGE LANDHOLDING HE HAD PURCHASED. THIS OCCURRED DESPITE ASSURANCES FROM THE INSTITUTE THAT IT WOULD PROTECT THEM FROM EXPULSION.

TAGS: PHUM, PA
SUBJECT: 1985 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOR PARAGUAY
THE PARAGUAYAN LEAGUE OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS, A WING OF THE RULING COLORADO PARTY; AND THE UNION OF PARAGUAYAN WOMEN, AN ORGANIZATION FOUNDED IN 1982 BY A FORMER OPPOSITION MEMBER OF THE PARLIAMENT.
THE PARAGUAYAN LABOR CODE (LAW 729/61) CONTAINS MINIMUM GUARANTEES, BENEFITS AND WORKER RIGHTS. TEMPORARY, PUBLIC SECTOR AND DOMESTIC WORKERS ARE NOT COVERED. MAXIMUM HOURS ARE EIGHT HOURS PER DAY OR SEVEN HOURS IF AT NIGHT, WITH ONE DAY OF REST PER WEEK. A MINIMUM WAGE IS ESTABLISHED BY THE LABOR AUTHORITY DEPENDING ON THE TYPE OF WORK AND THE REGION, BASED UPON STUDIES OF THE COST OF LIVING BY THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC COORDINATING COMMITTEE. IN 1985 THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED TWO INCREASES: 10 PERCENT IN FEBRUARY AND A 20 PERCENT INCREASE IN SEPTEMBER. THE MAXIMUM URBAN WAGE IS NOW
ABOUT U.S. DOLLARS 2.32 PER DAY AND U.S. DOLLARS 1.97 IN RURAL AREAS. OTHER WAGES MUST RISE BY THE SAME ABSOLUTE AMOUNT OF ADJUSTMENT, BUT NOT PROPORTIONALLY. THE LAW PROVIDES FOR A ONE MONTH ANNUAL BONUS. MINORS BETWEEN 15 AND 18 YEARS OF AGE MAY BE EMPLOYED ONLY WITH PARENTAL AUTHORIZATION AND CANNOT BE EMPLOYED IN DANGEROUS OR UNHEALTHY CONDITIONS. BETWEEN 12 AND 15 YEARS, THESE SAME STANDARDS APPLY BESIDES THE RESTRICTION THAT WORK BE AT FAMILY ENTERPRISE, APPRENTICESHIP, OR AGRICULTURAL ENDEAVOR. MARRIED WOMEN REQUIRE THEIR HUSBANDS' CONSENT TO ENTER A LABOR CONTRACT, HOWEVER IT MAY NOT BE DENIED TO WOMEN WHO WORKED PRIOR TO THEIR MARRIAGE. PAID MATERNITY LEAVE OF SIX WEEKS PRIOR TO AND AFTER BIRTH IS REQUIRED. DAY CARE CENTERS FOR CHILDREN UNDER TWO YEARS ARE SPECIFIED FOR ENTERPRISES EMPLOYING MORE THAN FIFTY WOMEN. SEVERANCE PAY IS SPECIFIED AND COMPENSATION IS PROVIDED FOR IN THE CASE OF UNJUSTIFIED DISMISSAL. ALL WORKERS MUST BE ENROLLED IN THE SOCIAL SECURITY INSTITUTE.

CLARE

END OF MESSAGE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNNN