

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 1980

HEADS OF BRITISH AND U.S. JOURNALIST ORGANIZATIONS CALL UPON
PRESIDENT VIDELA TO HALT POLICE VIOLENCE AGAINST NEWSMEN IN ARGENTINA

RECENT LETTER BY THE PRESIDENTS OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF
JOURNALISTS AND THE NEWSPAPER GUILD URGES GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATION
INTO WHEREABOUTS OF "DISAPPEARED" JOURNALISTS

In a recently-written joint letter to Argentine President Jorge Videla, Charles Perlik, Jr., President of The Newspaper Guild (U.S.), and Jake Ecclestone, President of the National Union of Journalists (U.K.), have expressed their concern over the plight of journalists working in Argentina. They called upon the Argentine leader to launch a thorough investigation into the legal status of more than 300 journalists who are being held by the government without charges.

Special concern was also expressed about the fate of more than 60 journalists who have disappeared in Argentina since the military coup of 1976. Many of these missing newsmen are known to have been arrested by men who identified themselves as members of the Argentine security forces. Repeated efforts by the journalists' families to determine their whereabouts have proven fruitless.

Included among the missing newsmen are more than 10 editors and publishers. At least one prominent editor, Jacobo Timerman, has stated that he suffered physical and psychological torture during the two years he was in jail. Timerman, a founder and former publisher of the Buenos Aires daily La Opinion, was recently released and allowed to emigrate to Israel.

Among more than a score of Argentine journalists who have been killed, Hector Ferreiros, a former Catholic priest, was found shot to death with his hands tied behind his back, five days after his arrest. And Robert Cox, the editor of Argentina's leading English-language paper, the Buenos Aires Herald, quit the country in December for a "leave of absence" in his

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