

1831

Buenos Aires, December 11, 1946

The following description of a press conference held by Ambassador Braden while he was in charge of the Embassy in Buenos Aires was given an officer of this Embassy by a local correspondent of an American non-spot news magazine, who periodically attended Mr. Braden's conferences:

According to this person, none of the press conferences was particularly inspiring; after the one which was described he did not attend any others. This particular press conference was apparently held just prior to the time when Joe Newman and Arnaldo Cortesi took refuge in the Embassy residence. As this correspondent described the scene to the officer of the Embassy, all of the correspondents were tremendously excited and Newman was practically in a state of hysteria. The source said that Mr. Braden did nothing to attempt to instill a spirit of calmness into the situation but instead discussed with the correspondents such questions as whether they should all go armed about the streets of Buenos Aires and whether they should leave the press conference in a body or disperse and leave separately. Newman was described as repeating over and over again: "I'm scared." At the end of the discussion, Mr. Braden suggested that Newman take the subway right in front of the entrance to the Chancery and go directly to the Embassy residence. He suggested that Cortesi spend a few days in the home of one of the other correspondents and then come to the Embassy residence.

Either at this particular press conference or a previous one, the source stated, Mr. Braden described some particular plan or project of action which he was proposing to take and the correspondents, finding it rather surprising, asked him if the Department

would

1871

- 2 -

would support him in the plan. Mr. Braden, according to the source who was present at the conference, replied, "I tell the Department what to do; the Department does not tell me."

The correspondent who is the source of this information is an American.

