

Congress Is 'Bunker' For Argentine

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BUENOS AIRES—Hector Sandler and his wife are living in the columned National Congress building in the Argentine capital—to stay alive.

Sandler, a left-leaning congressman, and his wife took refuge in this historic building last week and are making a temporary home there.

Sandler is marked for death by the Argentine Anti-Communist Alliance, which is made up of fanatical conservative Peronists, and which he thinks may have CIA connections.

The Triple-A as it is known, proudly claims credit for the assassinations of 21 left-wingers and threatens to gun down another 30 or so on its death list. The victims have included Silvio Frondizi, brother of former President Arturo Frondizi, and the four-month-old son of a former university rector, who was killed in a bomb blast meant to eliminate his father.

Many prominent leftists, including two former rectors of the University of Buenos Aires, have fled the country after receiving Triple-A death threats.

In his third-floor office in the Congress Building, Sandler, a relaxed and friendly man in his mid-40s, showed no signs of stress. He joked about taking asylum, saying he was now holed up in his "bunker."

"I just don't think about the death threat," he said.

The chief preoccupation for the congressman is the impunity with which the triple-A death squad operates. The as-

sassins ride in unmarked cars similar to those used by police plainclothesmen. On several occasions, Triple-A killers have gained entry to their victims' lodging with police credentials.

Sandler's aides described their nerve-racking experience trying to get police protection after noticing that some 25 "suspicious" characters had surrounded Sandler's home last week. After requesting a patrol car from a police station three blocks away, one aide said, "we waited an hour and no help came. Finally, by phoning the president and vice president of the Congress, we got help."

Sandler said that he would not be surprised if the CIA was supporting the Triple-A.

"After all," he said, "the death squad is knocking off leftists, and that would be in their interest." At the same time, he likened the right-wing death squad to the fascist bands that operated in Nazi Germany.

Since President Juan D. Peron's death July 1, more than 100 political assassinations have been recorded here. The violence is the result of a right-left power struggle within the ruling Peronist movement, as well as increased terrorism by the Marxist guerrilla Revolutionary Army. It has assassinated five army officers in the past two weeks.

Peronists from the left, spearheaded by the powerful Montonero guerrilla group, want a socialist revolution.

Many Argentines feel that leftist terrorist attacks are aimed at provoking the armed forces into staging a coup to dissolve democratic institutions.