Defense Intelligence Summary

21 SEPTEMBER 1984
(FOR JULIAN DAY 264)

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ARGENTINA: Sabato Commission Report. (U)

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ARGENTINA: Sabato Commission Report. (U)

(U) The government-appointed Sabato Commission investigating the fate of disappeared persons was expected to present its final report by 20 September.

(CT/HA) The commission was appointed and tasked to investigate alleged human rights abuses by the military shortly after President Alfonsin's inauguration. News media leaks indicate the nearly 50,000-page document will detail the incidence of military repression during the late 1970's and identify the location of detention and torture centers, one of the most notorious being the Navy Mechanic's School in Buenos Aires. The aspect of the report most likely to increase tensions between the government and the military is the list of some 700 military personnel allegedly involved in disappearance cases. Sources available to the US Embassy say that as many as 250 of these are still on active duty and some may have been promoted recently (DIADIN 261-15A, 17 September). Meanwhile, in less than 2 weeks the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces is expected to report its own findings on human rights charges against the nine members of the nation's last three military juntas.

COMMENT: (CT/HA) Disclosure of the Sabato report is likely to generate much controversy and antimilitary sentiment throughout the country. Consequently, the weeks immediately following its release will be of major significance in relations between the Alfonsin government and the military. Regarding the military court's investigations of the former junta members and other personnel who may be mentioned in the commission's report, Alfonsin has stated that those most responsible for the repression's brutal methods will be punished. Others who acted under orders from superiors will be protected. Should the government maintain this policy, it will avoid condemning the entire military institution and thereby minimize discontent from within the ranks. Nonetheless, the Armed Forces undoubtedly will closely monitor reaction to the report and other human rights developments involving both active duty and retired personnel. (DECL OADR)

DIADIN 264-12A as of 1746 EDT 20 Sep 84
Prepared by: [Redacted]

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