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(U) The junta's 28 April final report on the government's antiterrorist campaign begun in the 1970s has failed to clarify the issue of the missing persons or to acknowledge responsibility for excesses purportedly committed during the period.

secret

(cia) The 28-page report is an historical review and provides no accounting of the fate of the 6,000 to 30,000 people who reportedly disappeared during the antiterrorist campaign. Rather, it states that these individuals should be considered dead. The report further states that the constitutional government of former President Maria Estela Martinez de Peron authorized the military to carry out whatever action considered necessary to neutralize subversive elements operating in the country. Contrary to public expectations, neither the names of alleged terrorists nor those of armed forces, security, police, and penitentiary personnel accused of committing excesses during the campaign are mentioned. To protect these same personnel from possible retribution by a successor civilian government, the junta has issued a law that could be used to justify giving military courts exclusive jurisdiction over all military personnel.

COMMENT: (cia) The junta's report was probably issued now in an attempt to satisfy the military's longstanding concern that it may eventually be held accountable to a civilian government. Attempts to shift legal responsibility for its actions to the administration of then-President Maria Peron have clearly been overshadowed by the highly critical public reaction to the report in general. The overwhelmingly negative response appears to make it inevitable that the issues of human rights, missing persons, and responsibility for possible crimes committed during the war against subversion will continue to be controversial for some time. (DECLASSIFIED)

DIADIN 126-19A as of 2105 EDT 6 May 83

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