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CONFIDENTIAL (b)(3): 10 USC 424

1. COUNTRY: ARGENTINA (AR)
2. REPORT NUMBER: (b)(3): 10 USC 424
3. TITLE: (U) (INSURGENCIES -- SUBVERSIVE SITUATION IN MENDOZA AND SAN LUIS PROVINCES
4. PROJECT NUMBER: N/A.
5. DATE OF INFORMATION: 780228
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7. DATE AND PLACE OF ACQUISITION: 780228, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA
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PAGE 1 CONFIDENTIAL 00101101
15. Director: NORFORD TO AVOID EMBASSYPIGMENT TO HOST GOVT.
16. SUMMARY: (U) THIS IR FORWARDS OBSERVATIONS ON THE TERRORIST THREAT IN SAN LUIS AND MENDOZA PROVINCES.
22. DETAILS: (U) DURING A RECENT TRIP THROUGH MENDOZA AND SAN LUIS PROVINCES, THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK TO A NUMBER OF MILITARY OFFICERS AND OBTAIN THEIR IMPRESSIONS OF THE TERRORIST SITUATION IN THOSE AREAS, ALL WERE IN AGREEMENT THAT CONDITIONS WERE MUCH IMPROVED AND THE SUBVERSIVE THREAT HAD DIMINISHED CONSIDERABLY.

(Declassified in Part)

2. (TO NOFORN) SPOKE AT LENGTH TO BG JUAN SAA, THE COMMANDER OF THE 10 MOUNTAIN INFANTRY BRIGADE, REGARDING TERRORISM AND UPCOMING WORLD SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP. THE GENERAL BOASTED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO TERRORIST PROBLEM IN MENDOZA AND HIS FORCES HAD CONTINGENCY PLANS TO COVER VERY EVENTUALITY. HE ADDED THAT THE SUBVERSIVES, PRACTICALLY, HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED, ALTHOUGH HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT A FEW MIGHT BE WANDERING IN THE HILLS. THE SECURITY ATMOSPHERE IN MENDOZA CONFIRMED THE GENERALS COMMENTS AS MILITARY PERSONNEL WERE SEEN WALKING THROUGH THE STREETS IN UNIFORM; A SIGHT THAT WAS EXTREMELY RARE DURING THE HEIGHT OF THE TERRORIST CAMPAIGN. CONCLUDED THAT THE ONLY PEOPLE WITH A SECURITY PROBLEM IN MENDOZA AND THE OTHER PROVINCES FOR WHICH IT IS RESPONSIBLE ARE THE SUBVERSIVES. HE CAUTIONED THAT IN SPITE OF THE IMPROVED SITUATION THE MILITARY WOULD MAINTAIN ITS VIGILANCE AND ONCUTUE TO KEEP PRESSURE ON THE EXTREMISTS ON ALL FRONTS.

3. (TO NOFORN) ANOTHER SOURCE WHO IS A HIGH RANKING OFFICER WAS VERY SATISFIED WITH THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MILITARY IN THE LAST TWO YEARS AND REMARKED THAT THE ARMED FORCES SAVED ARGENTINA FROM IMPENDING DISASTER.
COMMENT: ALL SOURCES WERE EXTREMELY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE SUBVERSIVE SITUATION IN ARGENTINA, YET ALL CAVEATED THEIR REMARKS WITH THE COMMENT THAT THE STRUGGLE HAS NOT YET ENDED. IT APPEARED TO OBSERVATIONS ON THE TERRORISTS
THREAT WERE OVERLY OPTIMISTIC, ESPECIALLY ON THE EVE OF THE WORLD CUP COMPETITION AND CONSIDERING THE SECURITY PROBLEMS WHICH COULD ARISE IF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISTS INTERVENE. OTHERS IN THE GOVERNMENT DO NOT SHARE HIS CONFIDENCE AND ANTICIPATE INCREASED TERRORIST ACTIVITY DURING THE SOCCER GAMES. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT MILITARY PERSONNEL OUTSIDE THE FEDERAL CAPITAL PERCEIVE A DIMINISHED THREAT AND BELIEVE THAT THEY CAN CONTROL THE SITUATION. THIS MSG COORD W/AMEMBASSY 080 DEC 84.

(3) 10 U.S.C. 424