CONFIDENTIAL

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FROM FM (b)(3) 10 USC 424
TO TO RHEFSNG/HMNSG WASHINGTON DC RUEK(DIA/WSHDC/ CONTROLS CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 01 OF 02 BUENOS AIRES AR

CONFIDENTIAL SERIAL: (U) IIR (b)(3) 10 USC 424

********** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE **********

BODY

COUNTRY: (U) ARGENTINA (AR).

SUBJ: IIR (b)(3) 10 USC 424 TWO MORE FORMER NAVY OFFICERS ACCUSED ON THE CHILD ABDUCTION CASE DURING THE DIRTY WAR (U)

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 981210, 981216 (b)(3) 10 USC 424

REQS: (U) 

SOURCE: A. (U) DAILY NEWSPAPER, "BUENOS AIRES HERALD", BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA, 981210, 981216 (U), IN ENGLISH. INDEPENDENT-LIBERAL NEWSPAPER WHICH HAS BEEN A FIRM DEFENDER OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND A FREQUENT CRITIC OF THE GOVERNMENT. CONSIDERED INFLUENTIAL WITH POLICYMAKERS, POLITICIANS, MILITARY OFFICERS AND BUSINESSMEN.

B. (U) DAILY NEWSPAPER, "PAGINA/12", BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA, 981215, 981216 (U), IN SPANISH. CENTER-LEFT NEWSPAPER WHICH REPRESENTS LEFT-LIBERAL AND INTELLECTUAL SECTORS OF ARGENTINE SOCIETY. OFTEN CRITICAL OF THE ARMED FORCES AND THE MENEM ADMINISTRATION AND EXPRESSES SOME OPPOSITION TO U.S.
FOREIGN AND ECONOMIC POLICY.
SUMMARY: (U) ON 981209, FORMER "NAVY MECHANICS SCHOOL" (ESMA) HEAD, REAR ADMIRAL JOSE ((SUPPICICH)) WAS PLACED UNDER ARREST AFTER TESTIFYING IN THE CHILD ABDUCTION CASE. ON 981215 A JUDGE ISSUED A WARRANT FOR THE ARREST OF RETIRED NAVY CAPTAIN JORGE ((ACOSTA)), FORMER HEAD OF INTELLIGENCE AT THE ESMA.

TEXT: 1. (U) ON 981209, FORMER ESMA HEAD, REAR ADMIRAL JOSE ((SUPPICICH)) WAS PLACED UNDER HOUSE ARREST BY JUDGE ADOLFO ((BAGNASCO)), AFTER TESTIFYING IN THE CHILD ABDUCTION CASE. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, ((SUPPICICH)) DENIED THAT A MAKESHIFT MATERNITY WARD HAD BEEN SET UP IN THE ESMA HOWEVER, ADMITTED THAT THERE WAS AN ILLEGAL DETENTION CENTER THERE DURING THE DIRTY WAR*. JUDGE BAGNASCO IS INVESTIGATING WHETHER THERE WAS A "SYSTEMATIC PLAN" TO KIDNAP CHILDREN BORN IN CAPTIVITY DURING THE 1976-83 MILITARY DICTATORSHIP (CITE II) [

2. (U) ON 981215, A JUDGE ISSUED A WARRANT FOR THE ARREST OF RETIRED NAVY CAPTAIN JORGE ((ACOSTA)) (AKA "TIGRE"), FORMER HEAD OF INTELLIGENCE AT ESMA DURING THE DIRTY WAR. ACOSTA FAILED TO SHOW UP IN COURT TO TESTIFY IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHILD ABDUCTION CASE.

3. (U) ACCORDING TO SOURCE B, ACOSTA WAS THE MASTER MIND BEHIND THE TORTURES. HE ALSO AMASSED A FORTUNE THROUGH ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES DURING HIS TENURE AT ESMA.

4. (U) ACCORDING TO ARGENTINE LAW, A PERSON OVER 70 YEARS OLD UNDER AN ARREST ORDER HAS THE RIGHT, IF SOLICITED, TO SERVED UNDER HOUSE ARREST. ACOSTA, 56, DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR HOUSE ARREST AND MOST LIKELY WILL HAVE A PLACE RESERVED FOR HIM AT THE "CAMPO DE MAYO" MILITARY BASE JAIL.

COMMENTS: 1. (CONFIDENTIAL) COMMENTS. THE ARRESTS OF FORMER MILITARY OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO ESMA DURING THE DIRTY WAR ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE BEFORE THIS CASE IS CLOSED. THE MILITARY OPENLY CONTINUES TO OBEY AND RESPECT THE DECISIONS MADE BY THE CIVILIAN COURTS, AND THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THESE ONGOING INVESTIGATIONS WILL CAUSE ANY ACTIONS TO THE CONTRARY. 2. (U) SOURCES ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR FURTHER
EXPLOITATION/CONTACT REGARDING THE CONTENTS OF THIS

ADMIN
INSTR: (U) (b)(3) 10 USC 424
PREP: (U) (b)(3) 10 USC 424
ACT: (U) BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA (981216).
DECEM: (U) USEMB, BUENOS AIRES AR.
WARNING: (U) REPORT CLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL.
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