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confidential section 01 of 02 buenos aires
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serial: (u) ii

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

body

country: (u) argentina (ar); finland (fi); denmark (da).
subj: argentina inaugurates a joint training center for un military observers (u)

warning: (u) this is an information report, not finally evaluated intelligence. report classified confidential.

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department of defense
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doi: (u) 950628.
reqs: (u)

source: a. (u) daily newspaper, "la nacion", buenos aires, argentina, 950628 (u) in spanish. independent-moderate newspaper which appeals to the upper class and intellectuals. tends to report u.s. issues objectively. influential with top policymakers, government officials, politicians, and the military.

b. (u)

summary: (c) argentina activated a joint training center for the instruction of un military observers patterned after those in denmark and finland. the center has an annual budget of 300,000 usd. argentina wants other south american countries to participate -- none have shown interest.

text: 1. (u) argentina formally activated a joint training center for united nations (un) military observers
WHICH IS PATTERNEP AFTER THOSE OPERATING IN DENMARK AND FINLAND. THE CAECOPAZ, A LOCAL NAME FOR THE JOINT TRAINING CENTER, WAS INAUGURATED AT A CEREMONY ON 950627 BY ARGENTINE PRESIDENT CARLOS (MENEM)). ALSO ATTENDING THE CEREMONY WERE DEFENSE MINISTER OSCAR (CAMILON), FOREIGN MINISTER GUDI (DTTELLA) AND JOINT CHIEF OF STAFF LIEUTENANT GENERAL MARIO CANDIDO (DIAZ). THE CENTER IS LOCATED AT THE FORMER SITE OF THE COMBAT SUPPORT OFFICERS SCHOOL WITHIN THE CAMPO DE MAYO ARMY BASE //GEOCOORD: 3432S/05840W// NORTHWEST OF BUENOS AIRES.

2. (U) DURING THE CEREMONY, GENERAL DIAZ READ THE MISSION OF THE TRAINING CENTER: TO INSTRUCT PERSONNEL IN UN OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES, THEORY AND OTHER KNOWLEDGE IN ORDER TO BETTER PREPARE THEM TO FULFILL INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING ACTIVITIES. GENERAL DIAZ DID NOT SPECIFICALLY STATE THE COST OF THE CENTER, BUT HE DID STRESS THE COST REQUIRED CAREFUL MANEUVERING WITHIN THE LIMITED RESOURCES AVAILABLE. UNOFFICIALLY, MEDIA SOURCES REPORTED AN ANNUAL BUDGET OF 300,000 USD.

3. (U) MILITARY PERSONNEL TO BE TRAINED WILL INCLUDE OFFICERS AND SENIOR ENLISTED. THE FIRST GROUP ENROLLED IN 950629 AND COMMENCED TRAINING AS UN MILITARY OBSERVERS.

4. (G) ARGENTINA WOULD LIKE TO SEE CAECOPAZ BECOME THE UN TRAINING CENTER FOR SOUTH AMERICA. THE VISION IS TO HAVE OTHER SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES SEND THEIR UN CONTINGENTS HERE FOR TRAINING. ACCORDING TO SOURCE B, NO OTHER COUNTRY HAS SHOWN INTEREST IN SENDING THEIR PERSONNEL TO ARGENTINA FOR TRAINING. CONSEQUENTLY, THE TRAINING CENTER WILL BE USED EXCLUSIVELY BY THE ARGENTINE MILITARY FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

COMMENTS: (G)—— COMMENTS. FROM THE PRESIDENT ON DOWN, THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT HAS PUBLICLY DISPLAYED ITS POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR THIS CENTER WHICH IMPLIES A LONG-TERM COMMITMENT TO UN OPERATIONS. FOR THE MILITARY, THE COST OF RUNNING THE CENTER WILL PROBABLY BE A BURDEN AS IMPLIED BY GENERAL DIAZ DURING HIS SPEECH. HOWEVER, THE EXPENDITURE WILL BE WORTHWHILE IF OTHER COUNTRIES EVENTUALLY SEND THEIR UN CONTINGENTS TO THE CENTER FOR TRAINING AND REIMBURSE ARGENTINA FOR THE EXPENSES. FINALLY, THE PRESTIGE ASSOCIATED WITH RUNNING ONE OF THE THREE UN MILITARY OBSERVER TRAINING CENTERS IN THE WORLD WILL BE A WELCOME
BOOST TO ARGENTINE MILITARY MORALE WHICH HAS BEEN BATTERED BY A LACK OF RESOURCES AND ITS INVOLVEMENT IN THE DIRTY WAR.

ADMIN
PROJ: (U)
INSTR: (U)
PREP: (U)
ACQ: (U) ARGENTINA, BUENOS AIRES (950628).
DISSEM: (U) EMBASSY AT BUENOS AIRES.
WARNING: (U) REPORT CLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL.
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