DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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MULT
ACTION
DIA:

DISTR
IAADB(01)  J5(02)  J31NMCC  SECDEF(07)  SECDEF: ASD:ISA(13)
ATSDIAE(01)  ASDIPAGE(01)  11DIA(20)  NMTC NIDS
-  CMC CC WASHINGTON DC
-  CSAF WASHINGTON DC
-  CNO WASHINGTON DC
-  CSA WASHINGTON DC
-  CIA WASHINGTON DC
-  SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC
-  NSA WASH DC

FILE

Rec'd RDS-3B/ 1 OCT 79

NOFORN IMMEDIATE

TRANIT/2712146/2712204/000:18 TDR 2712159
DE RUESBAA #0208 2712146
ZNY-CEEC
D P 2821457 SEP 79
FM

TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC/DB-3E1/IMMEDIATE
INFO RULPALJ/USCINCSD QUARRY HTS CZ//SCJ2-AD/,
RUEADWD/HODA WASHDC//DAMI-FII//
RUEAMCHA/HQ USAF WASHDC//X0XWXX

BT

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SUBJ: THIS IS TR

THIS IS AN INFO REPORT, NOT FINISHED INTELLIGENCE
1. (U) CONTRY: ARGENTINA (AR)
2. (U) REPORT NUMBER:
3. (U) TITLE: ARMY COMMANDERS LINE UP ON SUCCESSION FOR COMMANDER IN CHIEF
4. (U) PROJECT NUMBER: AB
5. (U) DATE OF INFORMATION: 790619
6. (U) DATE OF REPORT: 790928
7. (U) DATE AND PLACE OF ACQUISITION: 790916, BUENOS AIRES
8. (U) REFERENCE:
9. (U) ASSESSMENT:
10. (U) ORIGINATOR:
11. (U) REQUEST EVALUATION: OMIT

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PAGE 1

208
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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PAGE 2

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12. (U) PREPARING OFFICER:

13. (U) APPROVING AUTHORITY:

14. (U) SOURCE:

15. (U) SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: NO FURNISH TO PRECLUDE
RELEASE TO THIRD PARTY COUNTRIES AND TO PROTECT SOURCES
AND METHODS.

16. (C/NOFORN) THIS REPORTS THAT THE SENIOR ARGENTINE ARMY
GENERALS ARE BEGINNING TO LINE UP IN THEIR POSITIONS WITH
RESPECT TO APPOINTMENT OF THE NEW ARMY CINC. THE ELEVEN
MAJOR GENERALS APPEAR TO HAVE LINED UP SEVEN TO FOUR IN
FAVOR OF GENERAL DE DIVISION (MAJ. GEN.) LEOPOLDO GALTIERI,
ENGINEER, CURRENT I CORPS COMMANDER. THE SPLIT APPEARS TO
BE A CLASSIC "CAVALRY AGAINST THE OTHERS" BATTLE. THE
CONSENSUS OF OPINION OF THE MAJOR GENERALS CARRIES
ONSIDFRALBE WEIGHT IN THE CONSULTATIVE DECISION MAKING PROCESS,
WHICH APPEARS TO BE A TRADEMARK OF THE VIDELA ERA (SEE CITE
22. (C/NOFORN) DETAILS! (ALL PARAGRAPHS ARE C/NOFORN) 1.

SOURCE INDICATED THAT THE LINES ARE BEGINNING
TO SOLIDIFY AMONG THE ELEVEN MAJOR GENERALS WITH RESPECT TO
SUCCESSION TO COMMANDER IN CHIEF AT THE END OF 1979. SOURCE
INDICATED THAT THE LINE UP IS TAKING ON A "CAVALRY AGAINST
THE OTHERS" HUE, REMINISCENT OF THE "COLOPADO-AZUL" (RED-BLUE)
PROBLEM OF THE 1960's.

2. IT APPEARS NOW THAT SEVEN OF THE ELEVEN, INCLUDING
THE THREE INFANTRY GENERALS, ARE IN FAVOR OF GALTIERI,
AN ENGINEER) AND FOUR--ALL CAVALRY--ARE FOR SUAREZ MASON.
THIS LINE UP WOULD PLACE THE FOLLOWING SUPPORTING
GALTIERI:
1. URRICARRIET - MIL. ENGINEER
2. RIVEROS - ARTILLERY
3. GALTIERI-COMBAT ENGINEER
4. VAQUERO-INFANTRY
5. MONTES-INFANTRY
6. GALLINO-ARTY.
7. BUSSI-INF.

THE FOLLOWING WOULD LINE UP AS SUAREZ MASON SUPPORTERS:
1. SUAREZ MASON
2. MENENDEZ
3. HARGUINDEGU
4. JUAREGUI
3. SOURCE FURTHER INDICATED THAT IF GALTIFRI BECAME CINC, MAJ GEN VAQUERO, CURRENT V CORPS COMMANDER, WOULD BECOME CHIEF OF STAFF.

   COMMENT: (CONFIRM) NOTE THAT IF GALTIFRI BECOMES CINC IT WOULD REQUIRE RETIREMENT OF:
   1. URRICARRIET
   2. SUAREZ MASON
   3. RIVEROS
   4. MENENDEZ

   THIS RETIREMENT ROLL WOULD REMOVE TWO OF THE SENIOR CAVALRY OFFICERS WHO HAVE GENERALLY BEEN REGARDED AS HARD-LINERS AND THORNS IN THE SIDE OF VIOLA.

   B. (CONFIRM) THE RECENT EVENTS OF THE IAHRC VISIT, THE TIMERMAN RELEASE, THE CAMPORA PROBLEM, AND NOW THE TERRORIST BOMBING OF DR. GUILLERMO KLEIN'S HOME (SEE CITE [b](3) 10 USC 424) COULD CAUSE SWINGS FROM THE GALTIFRI SUPPORTERS TO THE RIGHT.

   Sec. 3.3(b)(1)

   THE MOST LIKELY TO SHIFT WOULD BE URRICARRIET AND RIVERSO, WHO WERE SUSPECTED OF HAVING RESISTED VIOLA'S APPOINTMENT AS CINC IN 1978.

   AMBASSASSY COORDINATED.

   RTVR 28 SEP 1999