

# DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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1. COUNTRY: Argentina	8. REPORT NUMBER: (b)(3):10 USC 424
2. SUBJECT: (U) Biographical Information on Brigadier General Ramon Genaro DIAZ BESSONE, Argentine Army	9. DATE OF REPORT: 1976, December 01
3. ISC NUMBER: N/A	10. NO. OF PAGES: 1
4. DATE OF INFORMATION: 1976, December 01	11. REFERENCES: (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424
5. PLACE AND DATE OF ACQ: 1976, December 01, Buenos Aires	12. ORIGINATOR:
6. EVALUATION: SOURCE INFORMATION	13. PREPARED BY:
7. SOURCE: (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424	14. APPROVING AUTHORITY: (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424

15. SUMMARY:	(Leave Blank)
(U) IR Forwards biographical information on Brigadier General Ramon Genaro DIAZ BESSONE, Argentine Army currently serving as Minister of Planning.	
NOFORN TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT TO GOVT OF ARGENTINA AND TO THE US GOVT	
WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED	
<p>RECEIVED DS-40 DEC 17 10 50 PM '76</p> <p>DECLASSIFIED IN FULL Authority: EO 13526 DIA FOIA &amp; Declassification Services Offices Date: Oct 17, 2018</p> <p>REQUEST PHOTOS REMOVED FROM FOIA ORDER BY IR AND PHOTO LOG NUMBER</p> <p>1618</p> <p>901210AR</p>	

16. DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR: USCINCSO 193rd INF BDE	17. DOWNGRADING DATA: (b)(3) 10 USC 424  CLASSIFIED BY EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652, EXEMPTION CATEGORY TWO, DECLASSIFY ON 31 DEC 2006	18. ATTACHMENT DATA: 1. (U) DD Form 1396-1 2. (C/NOFORN/NOFORN) DD Form 1396-1S 3. (U) Photograph (2)
<p>ND, FORM 1396-1 SEP 62</p> <p><del>CONFIDENTIAL</del> <del>NOT FOREIGN</del> (Classification and Control Markings)</p> <p>REPLACES DA FORM 1048, 1 AUG 60, OPNAV FORM 3820 (Rev 10-61), AF FORM 112, JUL 61, WHICH MAY BE USED UNTIL 1 JAN 68.</p>		

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BIOGRAPHIC REPORT			
GENERAL INFORMATION			
1. COUNTRY Argentina		2. DATE OF INFORMATION (Yr, mo, day) 1976-12-01	
3. DATE OF REPORT (Yr, mo, day) 1976-12-01			
4. NAME a. FULL NAME (Give full name in Roman letters, in natural order, and with natural capitalization. Underline surname, or, if known by name(s) other than surname, underline same. Give phonetic pronunciation of name as appropriate).  Ramon Genaro DIAZ BESSONE			
b. NAME OR NAMES BY WHICH INDIVIDUAL PREFERRED TO BE ADDRESSED (1) IN OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE: General de Brigade Ramon Genaro DIAZ BESSONE (2) ORALLY AT OFFICIAL GATHERINGS: General DIAZ BESSONE			
5. FULL NAME IN NATIVE ALPHABET Ramon Genaro DIAZ BESSONE			
6. VARIANTS, ALIASES, OR NICKNAMES			
7. POSITION a. PRESENT POSITION Minister of Planning		b. DATE ASSUMED POSITION (Year, month, day) 1976-10-23	
c. RANK/TITLE (In English and Native language) Brigadier General/General de Brigada		d. DATE OF RANK (Yr, mo, day) 1972-12-31	
e. SERVICE Army		f. BRANCH OF SERVICE Artillery	
8. DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH (Town, State, Province, Country) 1925-10-27, San Rafael, Mendoza, Argentina			9. SEX Male
10. PRESENT ADDRESS (Including unit location if applicable) (b)(6)		TELEPHONE NO	
11. NATIONALITY Argentine	12. RACE Caucasian	13. PHOTO SUBMITTED (b)(6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
14. CITIZENSHIP (Indicate dual citizenship where applicable) Argentine		15. RELIGION <input type="checkbox"/> PRACTICING <input type="checkbox"/> NONPRACTICING	
16. TITLES AND HONORIFICS (Prince, Doctor, Pandit, etc.) General Staff Officer		17. MARITAL STATUS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MARRIED <input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE <input type="checkbox"/> DIVORCED <input type="checkbox"/> WIDOWED	
PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION			
18. AGE 52	19. BEARD <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	MUSTACHE <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	20. TEETH (Natural) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
21. PROMINENT OR UNUSUAL FEATURES (Moles, scars, birthmarks, etc.) None			
22. COLOR EYES Brown	23. COLOR HAIR Black/Graying	24. BALD <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	25. HEIGHT 1.77 meters
26. WEIGHT 75 kilograms			
27. BUILD (Small, medium, large) Medium		28. POSTURE Erect	29. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RIGHT HANDED <input type="checkbox"/> LEFT HANDED
30. PHYSICAL DEFECTS None		31. GENERAL STATE OF HEALTH Excellent	
32. HARD OF HEARING <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		33. GLASSES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO Reading	
PERSONAL BACKGROUND			
34. CIVIL EDUCATION (List schools, location(s), major course, degree(s), honors, and inclusive dates (Year, month, day).  Normal elementary/high school education			
35. LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY (Include dialects, degree of fluency, and ability to act as translator/interpreter). French - believed fluent			
36. TRAVEL (List countries, dates, and purpose). Belgium and all of Western Europe 1957-59			

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3. MILITARY SERVICE (a. List military service in chronological order. Include military schooling; promotions; decorations; foreign service; units served with and position held; location of school or unit; retired or reserve status.)

(b. List awards and decorations, together with circumstances surrounding any unusual award/decoration.)

1943 Entered Military Academy  
 1945 Graduated from the Military Academy commissioned as artillery officer.  
 1949 Promoted to 1st Lieutenant  
 1952 Promoted to Captain; attended the Superior War College  
 1954 Graduated as General Staff Officer  
 1956-1960 Served in G-3 Operations  
 1957 Promoted to Major; Attended the Belgian War College  
 1966 Promoted to LTC; Served as Commander of the Army Artillery in the IV Air Transported Battalion.  
 1967 Attended Superior Strategy School  
 1968-1969 Chief of Staff of the VIII Mountain Brigade  
 1969 Promoted to Colonel  
 1972 Secretary of the Planning and Action Committee of the Government  
 1973 Commandant of the VII Mountain Brigade; Federal Interventor in the Mendoza Province  
 1975 Army G-3  
 1975 (Aug) - Commander, V Army Corps in Bahia Blanca  
 1976 (Sept) - Commander, II Army Corps in Rosario  
 1976 (Oct) - Became Minister of Planning

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38. EMPLOYMENT OTHER THAN MILITARY SERVICE (List employers, positions, skills, locations, and inclusive dates (Year, month, day).)

39. MEMBERSHIP IN ORGANIZATIONS (Professional, social, military, other; give inclusive dates (Year, month, day).)

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40. U.S. ACQUAINTANCES AND RELATIVES (Name, position or occupation of relatives; domicile, nature and duration of relationship; include U.S. military or other U.S. official acquaintances/relatives under this item.)

Subject has never visited the US although he has manifested an interest in doing so.

In the last year, he has made acquaintance with [REDACTED]

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and has maintained contact with them. Knows and respects COL

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41. PREFERENCES (Personal preference in food, drink, tobacco, entertainment, sports, hobbies.)

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42. PUBLISHED WORKS (Title of article or book; if article, name of publication appearing in, date published, publisher.)

In 1973, as Colonel on the General Staff, he was in charge of a Commission that published "Proyecto Nacional." This book studies Argentina along with its role in the world in the future (30 years).

SPOUSE - FAMILY

43. FULL NAME OF SPOUSE.

(b)(6)

44. MAIDEN NAME OF SPOUSE

45. DATE (Year, month, day) AND PLACE OF BIRTH

46. NATIONALITY (Indicate dual citizenship where applicable)

47. RACE

48. RELIGION

☐ PRACTICING

☐ NONPRACTICING

49. BACKGROUND (Education; languages; preference in food and drink; hobbies; preference in entertainment; special interests; professional societies.)

50. CHILDREN (Names, sex, ages, marital status, other items of interest such as schools, health, military service.)

4 children

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1. COUNTRY Argentina	2. FULL NAME OF SUBJECT Ramon Genearo DIAZ BESSONE	3. DATE OF INFORMATION (Yr, mo, day) 1976-12-01
<p><b>GUIDANCE:</b> This supplementary information will be attached to DD Form 1396 - 1. This supplement has been designed to prevent the disclosure of sensitive information to foreign nationals and to provide for a collector's assessment of subject. Sensitive information of an operational nature which must be tightly controlled (paragraph 7b, DIAI 58 - 13) should not be included in this supplement. Where practicable, the following information will be furnished:</p>		
51. POLICE RECORD (Other than minor violations): Unknown		
52. RELIGION - Effect of subject's religion or religious connections on his actions, military advancement, political views, etc. (b)(6)		
53. ACQUAINTANCES AND RELATIVES - Apparent influence of acquaintances and relatives on subject's views or career. Brigadier General (RE) Juan CARRANZA ZAVARIAS (retired in 1973 upon return of Peron is now working in Planning Ministry and reportedly is influential. He attended French War College and Inter-Force Superior School in Paris from 1960-63. Apparently shares pro-French (Europe) bias with DIAZ BESSONE. DIAZ BESSONE was one of CARRANZA ZAVARIAS' subordinates in the Planning Secretariat in 1972.		
54. CHARACTER - Subject's character, strengths and weaknesses, intelligence, loyalty, judgment, ability to communicate, leadership ability, and influence. Significance of individual in shaping international policies of his country. Subject's principal trait is his strength and resolve. He exudes authority, but does not abuse or run roughshod over subordinates. That people fight for the privilege of putting in 20 hour days as his subordinate attests to his leadership ability. While he has an excellent ability to communicate face-to-face, in a recent hour long television address he did not come across well. As the senior minister of government he obviously will exercise great influence in shaping policy. One significant weakness may keep him out of the Presidency, and that is his unsuccessful marriage. (b)(6) It is questionable whether the Argentine people, or more specifically the rather prudish Argentine Army, would accept him as a replacement for VIDELA, who is a paragon of Argentine Catholic virtue. (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424		
55. POLITICAL ORIENTATION - Attitude towards United States and other countries. Remarks and actions of subject toward representatives of the United States and its allies, and to representatives of nonaligned nations and Communist bloc nationals. Political activities and attitudes, important political contacts, party affiliations, potential political influence in country in the event of a change in government. Subject admires the US and wants Argentina to emulate the US where possible, but he does not have a personal or sentimental attachment to the US, feeling much closer to Western Europe. This results from his heritage (Spanish on father's side, Italian on mother's) as much as from his personal experiences. He is strongly anti-communist and is convinced that Argentina's current subversion is Marxist oriented and is aided and encouraged from the US and Western Europe, especially by the liberal press. For more on his political views see referenced IR's and Amembassy message.  DECLASSIFIED IN FULL Authority: EO 13526 DIA FOIA & Declassification Services Offices Date: Oct 17, 2018  CLASSIFIED BY [redacted] (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424 EXEMPT FROM AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE 241 AND 242 EXEMPTION THIS ORDER 11652 EXEMPTION CATEGORY TWO DECLASSIFY ON 77 DEC 2006 Encl 2 11		

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56. PERSONAL APPEARANCE - Appraisal of subject's dress, personal habits, mannerisms, eccentricities, peculiarities of speech and gait, prominent or unusual physical features, e.g., teeth, eyes, shape of face, complexion, tendency toward balding, etc.

General DIAZ BESSONE is a striking officer. He looks, walks and talks like a general. He is well groomed, wears tailored uniforms and civilian clothing and is impeccable in his dress. Subject is graying at the temples and appears to be a very distinguished gentleman. He speaks very clearly and in a well organized manner imparting an impression of strength.

57. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON SPOUSE - Spouse's political views, appearance, personality, attitude toward United States and other countries, influence on husband. Spouse's family connections influencing the husband's career.

Apparently there is very little possibility for a reconciliation.

58. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

a. Length of time collector has known subject and frequency of contact(s). Indicate how much of the information is based on the collector's own observation. Indicate other sources for information on subject.

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b. Best ways of gaining subject's confidence and exerting influence on him.

Subject is an amiable person who is interested in a variety of topics. A straight forward approach would be the best method to obtain his confidence and military subjects would be good for openers. He is fond of classical music and one schooled in this topic could use the subject effectively. He enjoys talking about his experiences in Europe while a student (1957-59). Subject has a large ego and one might gain his confidence by flattery, but this would have to be done very deftly over an extended

Sec. 3.3(b)(1)

Sec. 3.3(b)(1)

c. Military reputation, competence, and significance. Include financial status, dependence on personal or political connections for military position. Reputation in own service, collector's own assessment of military competence, and military and/or political potential of subject.

Subject is proud of being the most senior man of his military academy class still on active duty. Actually, he stood #3, but one senior died and the other retired. While he has a good reputation as a troop commander, a hard, but firm, taskmaster, and a tireless worker, he is particularly respected by most army officers as an intellectual. He basks in this reputation and likes to think of himself as a philosopher, and a futurologist. Although he denies that he is personally ambitious, he impresses RO as a man who has prepared himself all his life to be a national leader and as one who is convinced that he will eventually wield great power. As Planning Minister, and acting President when LTC VIDELA leaves the country, he finds himself in a favorable position. When VIDELA leaves office, for whatever reason, it is very likely that his classmates will also leave and turn over the reigns to a junior class. There is historical precedence for this. DIAZ BESSONE is the senior man in the class behind VIDELA'S. Therefore, DIAZ BESSONE must at this writing be considered the most likely successor to VIDELA both as Army Commander and President.

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