

DIADIN 2539-75
7 OCTOBER 1975

~~SECRET~~



DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE NOTICE



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Authority: EO 13526
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Date: Oct 17, 2018

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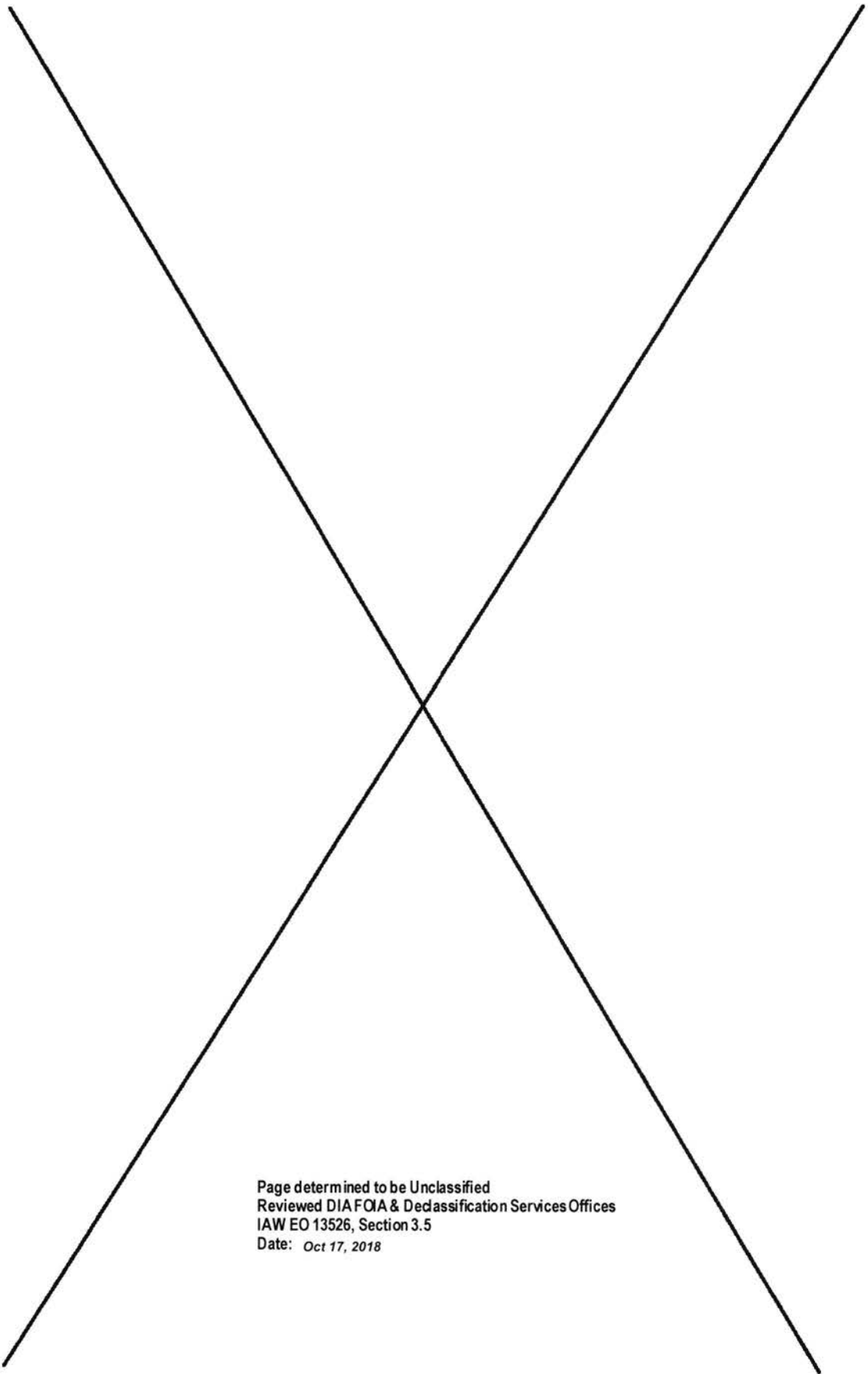
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This Notice is designed to provide intelligence in support of future decisions with respect to security policy or posture.

ARGENTINA

GUERRILLAS ATTACK MILITARY TARGETS.

~~(C/NOFORN)~~ The Montoneros, a dissident leftist Peronist terrorist organization, claims responsibility for the 5 October three-stage assault operation against the military, in which some 26 extremists and security officials were killed.

~~(C/NOFORN)~~ The attack was the Montoneros' first major operation against the armed forces. They simultaneously hijacked a domestic airliner and ordered it to Formosa, some 600 miles north of Buenos Aires. Terrorists had seized the airport there and initiated an assault against a nearby army base in an apparent attempt to release some imprisoned comrades.

~~(C/NOFORN)~~ The well-coordinated effort failed when the attackers encountered heavy resistance at the Formosa base, and they subsequently fled into the surrounding woods. Border guards retook the airport but not until some 18 terrorists had managed to escape in the skyjacked aircraft, which later landed south of Formosa. The guerrillas fled from there in waiting cars.

~~(S/NOFORN/NOINTEL)~~ This incident was only one of several last week, including clashes at several locations. On October 1st, the army reported that five guerrillas were killed on 30 September and large quantities of arms and ammunition captured during its Tucuman Province counterinsurgency campaign. In the capital on 3 October, a military intelligence unit's headquarters was attacked and nearby buildings damaged by bombs. Guard posts of an infantry regiment barracks in Buenos Aires were fired upon by terrorists on the 4th, while another group attacked a police station.

(Continued)

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~~(S/NOFORN/WNINTEL)~~ The army will reportedly increase its counterinsurgency operations in Tucuman Province by sending two task forces there until the terrorist threat is eliminated. In addition, top students in the army's Superior War School will be sent to the province shortly to participate in the antiguerrilla campaign; the remainder will probably go in November. In any event, the army considers the insurgent problem serious and will press ahead with plans to eliminate it.

~~(C/NOFORN)~~ This Montonero attack is the largest against the armed forces to date, but it probably does not reflect a basic change in the terrorists' tactics. If, however, the Formosa event is followed by other major assaults, it could indicate intensified antimilitary activities. The Montoneros' professed objective is to provoke the armed forces to seize power, which the terrorists believe would gain them popular support for further actions. The military, however, are aware of this ploy and are not likely to be provoked into irresponsible acts. Nonetheless, the incidents will probably speed up activities of the recently created Internal Security Council, which is designed to coordinate countersubversion efforts by the government and security forces. ~~(GDC 31 Dec 83)~~

(b)(3):10
USC 424

SOURCES: [redacted] 061735Z Oct 75 ~~(S/NOFORN/~~
~~WNINTEL)~~; Emb Buenos Aires 6675 6 Oct 75 ~~(C)~~

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PREPARED BY:
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