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Date: Oct 18, 2018

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FM [Redacted] (b)(3):10 USC 424

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SUBJ: THIS IS IR [Redacted] (b)(3):10 USC 424

1. ARGENTINA (AR)
2. [Redacted] (b)(3):10 USC 424
3. (U) INSURGENCY-TERRORIST ACTIVITIES
4. N/A
5. 770413
6. 770420
7. 770413, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA
8. [Redacted] (b)(3):10 USC 424
9. B-2
10. [Redacted] (b)(3):10 USC 424
11. N/A
12. [Redacted] (b)(3):10 USC 424
13. [Redacted]
14. [Redacted]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

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15. ~~DIRCI NOI NOFORN TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT TO HOST GOVT.~~
16. SUMMARY: (U) THIS IR FORWARDS SOME RECENT DEVELOPMENTS
ON THE TERRORIST/COUNTER-TERRORIST SITUATION IN ARGENTINA.
22. DETAILS: ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] INFORMED [REDACTED] THAT THE LEVEL OF TERRORIST ACTIVITY HAS DECREASED IN THE LAST SEVERAL WEEKS. THE ARMY'S CHIEF OF INTELLIGENCE, WHO NORMALLY PRODUCED A WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE WRAP-UP ON TERRORIST ACTIVITY, IS NOW PUBLISHING THE DOCUMENT EVERY THREE WEEKS. IN ADDITION, SOURCE POINTED OUT THAT THE NUMBER OF CAPTURED AND KILLED SUBVERSIVES FOR THE TIME FRAME OF 24 MAR - 5 APRIL WAS CONSIDERABLY BELOW PREVIOUS REPORTING PERIODS. HE WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT THE ARMY TASK FORCES THAT HAD BEEN FORMED THROUGHOUT THE NATION TO COMBAT GUERRILLAS ARE LOSING THEIR AUTONOMY, BEING REDUCED IN STRENGTH, AND BEING ATTACHED TO REGIMENTAL/BRIGADE SIZED HEADQUARTERS FOR COMMAND AND CONTROL.

Sec. 3.3(b)(1)

2. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ SOURCE INDICATED THAT THE ARMY BELIEVES THE MONTONEROS ARE CHANGING THEIR TACTICS. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE TERRORISTS NOW, UNLIKE THE PAST, ARE NOT CLAIMING CREDIT FOR THEIR ACTIONS AND CITED RECENT ATTACKS ON A SUPERMARKET CHAIN, KIDNAPPING OF A JOURNALIST AND MURDER OF A BUSINESS EXECUTIVE. SOURCE ADDED THAT THE REASON FOR THIS SHIFT IN POLICY IS TO PLACE THE BLAME ON RIGHT WING AND GOVERNMENT FORCES FOR ATROCITIES AND CAPITALIZE ON SUBSEQUENT HUMAN RIGHTS PROPAGANDA THAT THE EVENTS GENERATE. FURTHER, SECURITY FORCES HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY SUCCESSFUL AT DISRUPTING THE MONTONERO INFRASTRUCTURE. THE TERRORISTS, THEREFORE, HAVE BEEN FORCED TO REBUILD AND REORGANIZE. IN THIS REGARD, THEY HAVE FORMED A NEW PROPAGANDA APPARATUS CALLED ANCLA (AGENCIA NITICIOSA CLANDESTINA ARGENTINA). SOURCE STATED THAT THIS ORGANIZATION IS FLEXIBLE, REQUIRES VERY FEW PERSONNEL (4-5) AND IS MOBILE. IT HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN PATTERNED AFTER THE PALESTINIAN AGENCY Wafa (NFI) WHICH IS LOCATED IN BEIRUT. THE PURPOSE OF ANCLA IS TO DISCREDIT THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT AT HOME AND ABROAD THROUGH NEWS RELEASES, MANY OF WHICH ARE REPORTEDLY SENT DIRECTLY TO THE RED CROSS, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND THE UN COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES. THE MAIN OBJECTIVE IS TO TRY TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE ARGENTINE CITIZEN AND THE WORLD COMMUNITY THAT A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP EXISTS BETWEEN THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT, MULTINATIONAL BUSINESSES AND THE OLIGARCHY. SOURCE STATED THAT ANCLA WILL EXPLOIT THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE TO THE MAXIMUM AND ANY OTHER

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THEME THAT MIGHT BE DISRUPTIVE TO THE GOVERNMENT.
COMMENT: (C) IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT ARMY LEADERS ARE
ACKNOWLEDGING THE LEVELING OFF OF THE TERRORIST THREAT. THE
REPORT THAT THEY ARE REDUCING THE SIZES OF INDIVIDUAL TASK
FORCES AND PLACING THEM UNDER THE TIGHTER CONTROL OF BRIGADES
IS ANOTHER INDICATION THAT THE TERRORIST PROBLEM MAY BE
DIMINISHING AND SUGGESTS THAT THE ARMY MAY ALSO BE TAKING POSITIVE
STEPS TO BRING RIGHT WING TERRORISM UNDER CONTROL. THERE IS NO
DOUBT THAT THE ARMED FORCES HAVE HURT THE GUERRILLAS, WHICH HAS
FORCED THEM TO REORGANIZE. IN THIS REGARD, PROPAGANDA IS A CHEAP
WEAPON WHICH TERRORISTS HAVE USED EFFECTIVELY OVER THE YEARS.
IT IS NOT CERTAIN WHETHER ANCLA IS AS EFFECTIVE AS THE ARMY
MIGHT THINK, THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT THE EXTREME
SENSITIVITY OF THE ARMY TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE HAS CAUSED
IT TO GIVE THE TERRORISTS' NEW PROPAGANDA ARM MORE CREDIT
THAN IT DESERVES. AS OF 19 APR 77 THE ARMY HIGH COMMAND
BEGAN RELEASING INFORMATION AND DETAILS ON ITS ANTI-
SUBVERSIVE OPERATIONS, WHICH IS A 180 DEGREE CHANGE IN
ARMY POLICY. FURTHER REPORTING ON THIS SUBJECT WILL FOLLOW.
THIS MSG COORD W/EMBASSY.

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ANNOTES

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