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1. COUNTRY: ARGENTINA (AF	?)	2. REPORT NUMBER:			(b)(3):10 USC 424	
3. TITLE: (U) Military - Po Admiral Massera and Hum	olitical - nan Rights	4. PROJECT NUMBER:	N/A			
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> individual security fm service, and of its known involvement in security investigations leads to opposite conclusions. The Navy's anti-terrorist-operations in 1976 and early 1977 was very tough in such specific areas as Mar del Plata and Bahia Blanca. The Navy Mechanics School has been cited as a tough interrogation center. also Consensus here /is that akson Massera is responsible for whatever the Navy does, There are few "out of control" theories of rumors about the Navy.

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Admiral Massera, whatever his other flaws, is an 3. instinctive and savvy politician who has worked hard-and within some constituencies effectively--to create for himself a base of power grounded upon personal popularity. In addition to his own efforts, Navy officers and civilians especially trusted by Massera go about praising his name and replenishing his laurels. Massera boasts of his contact and popularity with labor people, Peronists, Jews and Civil Rights groups. He has a front man who has even prese opened a "civic center" here in Buenos Aires to act in the Admiral's support. While his actions make him look very much like a populist, Massera criticizes especially/criticizing Army Chief of Staff Viola for his "populist"tendencies. Massera, in fact, bad-mouths his Army colleagues with increasing indiscretion. It was inevitable, we believe, that some bright reporter would |

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open doors upon Massera's not so-private political activities. Just as Massera has used incidents like the Russian trawlers and, to an extent, the Beagle issue to gain popularity within Argentina, he now appears to be using the human rights issue to gain the good will of the US Government.

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4. As of noon January 30 no press coverage of or commentary concerning the "Washington Post" story had a Buenos Aires appeared, except for brief mention in German language daily to President Carter's reference to the "Washington Post" article. We suspect nothing further will appear, but that the story will nevertheless become widely known here and will cause a stir in government circles.

5. Lastly, we should point out that the rivalry game is not one which Massera plays unopposed. Two publications--"Conviccion" XCFEEEX/and "Tribuna de la Republica"--believed linked closely to Massera have had issues seized and been briefly suspended from publication. XELEXCENTIONSCIDEX DELECTORIZED CONVICCION CONSCIDENTS.

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