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VZCZCMLT241

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MULTY

ACTION DIA

DISTR CJCS DJS J31(04) J5(02) NMCC NMIC SECDEF ASD/ISA(10)

IDIA(15) SWS(01)

SECSTATE WASH DC

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TRANSIT/251330Z/251415Z/000145TOR2371414

DE RUEBAA #0851 2371350

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P R 251330Z AUG 75

FM (b)(3):10 USC 424

TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC

INFO RULPALJ/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

RULPAKA/193RD INF BGDE FT AMADOR CZ

RULBSAA/USNAVSO FT AMADOR CZ

RULPAPA/USAFSO ALBROOK AFB CZ

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ INFO 0851 AUG 75

THIS IS IR (b)(3):10 USC 424

1. AR

2. MILITARY REACTION TO APPOINTMENT OF COLONEL VINCENTE DAMASCO AS MIN. OF INTERIOR (U)

3. N/A

4. 1975, AUG 20

5. 1975, AUG 20, BUENOS AIRES

6. (b)(3):10 USC 424

7. [REDACTED]

8. [REDACTED]

9. 1975 AUG 22

10. [REDACTED]

11. [REDACTED]

12. [REDACTED]

13. & 14. [REDACTED]

15. 1. (S/NFO)

Sec. 3.3(b) (1);(b)(3):10 USC 424

PAGE 1

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33

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2. ~~(C/NED)~~

Sec. 3.3(b) (1)

EITHER IN A MILITARY OR POLITICAL SENSE. WHEN ASKED IF HE THOUGHT THAT THE CONTROVERSY OVER COL. DAMASCO'S APPOINTMENT WOULD DIE DOWN, HE RESPONDED THAT IT WAS FAR FROM OVER. HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT DAMASCO WOULD LAST THE TWO MONTHS WHICH THE LAW ALLOWS HIM TO STAY IN AN ACTIVE STATUS, SINCE HE IS IN A "NO-WIN" SITUATION. SOURCE POINTED OUT THAT MANY POLITICAL AND LABOR LEADERS RESENT THAT A MILITARY MAN OCCUPIES THE MOST POWERFUL POLITICAL POST IN THE CABINET AND HE DOUBTS THAT THEY WILL GIVE HIM THE SUPPORT AND COOPERATION THAT HE NEEDS. HE WENT ON TO CONFIRM PREVIOUS REPORTS THAT THE AIR FORCE AND NAVY CINCS DEEPLY RESENTED THAT THEY WERE NOT PREVIOUSLY CONSULTED ON THE DAMASCO APPOINTMENT AND THAT THE DIVISION IN THE ARMY IS REAL AND PROFOUND. WHEN PRESSED ON HOW SUCH AN APPOINTMENT COULD HAVE COME ABOUT, SOURCE TOLD OF THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WHICH DEVELOPED BETWEEN GENERAL PERON AND COL. DAMASCO. HE THEN REVEALED THAT PERON ADVISED HIS WIFE FROM HIS DEATH BED NEVER TO SIGN A DECREE WITHOUT FIRST CHECKING WITH "ESTE MUCHACHO" (THIS BOY), REFERRING TO DAMASCO. SOURCE FELT THAT MRS. PERON, REMEMBERING THE GENERAL'S ADVICE, AND HAVING LOST LOPEZ REGA, TURNED IN DESPERATION TO DAMASCO.

Sec. 3.3(b) (1)

4. ~~(C/NED)~~ CMT:

Sec. 3.3(b) (1)

WHETHER MRS. PERON TOOK THE INITIATIVE IN TURNING TO DAMASCO OR DAMASCO PUSHED HIMSELF INTO THE APPOINTMENT AND MRS. PERON MERELY CONCURRED, IS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR. COORDINATED WITH EMBASSY.

~~NO FORN TO AVOID COMPROMISE OF SOURCE IN UNIQUE POSITION.~~

~~DDS DEC 31, 1981~~

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PAGE 2

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