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ACTION

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FM (b)(3):10 USC 424

TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASH DC

INFO RULPALJ/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

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RUEBARA/COMNAVINTCOM ALEX VA

RULYVGA/USCOMSOLANT

(b)(3):10 USC 424

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

1. ARGENTINA (AR)

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

3. (U) OTHER - SOVIET VERSION OF FISHING BOAT CAPTURE

4. N/A

5. 771027

6. 771028

7. 771027, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

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

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

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15. ~~DIRC: NO, NOFORN TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT TO HOST GOVT.~~

16. SUMMARY: ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ SOVIET NAVAL ATTACHE TO ARGENTINA CLAIMS THAT CAPTAINS OF CAPTURED FISHING VESSELS HAVE PROOF THAT THEY WERE OUTSIDE THE TWO HUNDRED MILE LIMIT AND ANCHORED WHEN CAPTURED BY THE ARGENTINE NAVY.

22. DETAILS: 1. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ DURING A DINNER AT THE HOME OF THE ECUADORIAN NAVAL ATTACHE, GIVEN FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ATTACHE ASSOCIATION, A DISCUSSION OF THE CAPTURE OF FISHING VESSELS WAS BEGUN BY THE HOST. THE SOVIET MILITARY ATTACHE, COMMANDER VLADIMIR VASILENKO, A MEMBER OF THE CURRENT BOARD AND A PARTICIPANT AT THE DINNER, QUICKLY BECAME THE CENTER OF THE CONVERSATION. VASILENKO CLAIMED THAT ALL THE RECENTLY CAPTURED SOVIET FISHING VESSELS WERE AT ANCHOR, OUTSIDE THE TWO HUNDRED MILE ARGENTINE TERRITORIAL WATERS, WHEN THEY WERE APPROACHED BY ARGENTINE NAVAL VESSELS. ACCORDING TO VASILENKO, THE SOVIET SHIPS DID NOT ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE CAPTURE, AND DID NOT HEAD OUT TO SEA. VASILENKO TOLD THE GROUP OF ATTACHES THAT THE ARGENTINE NAVY APPROACHED THE FISHING VESSELS FROM THE HIGH SEAS TOWARD THE SHORE, THEREFORE HOW COULD THE SOVIET VESSELS HOPE TO EVADE CAPTURE? VASILENKO CLAIMS THAT THE ENTRIES IN THE SHIPS' LOG BOOKS WILL PROVE THAT THEY WERE OUTSIDE THE LIMIT WHEN CAPTURED.

2. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ IN A PROTRACTED AND HIGHLY THEORETICAL CONVERSATION ABOUT LEGALLY SUFFICIENT PROOF OF A SHIP'S POSITION IN THE EVENT OF CAPTURE, VASILENKO CLAIMED THAT THE ONLY VALID PROOF WOULD BE THE POSITIONS LOGGED IN THE SHIP'S LOG BOOK. HE SAID THAT IN THE CASE OF DIFFERENCES IN CLAIMS, THE NATIONAL AUTHORITY THAT HAD SHIPS IN CUSTODY WOULD HAVE TO MAKE THE DETERMINATION OF ACTUAL POSITION SINCE THERE IS NO INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY WITH JURISDICTION, VASILENKO ALSO TOLD THE GROUP THAT THE ALMOST 600 SOVIET PERSONNEL FROM THE SHIPS HAD BEEN GIVEN FREEDOM TO GO ASHORE AND SIGHT-SEE IN THE AREA OF PUERTO MADRYN.

COMMENT: ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ VASILENKO HAS BEEN TAKING A GOOD DEAL OF HEAT FROM HIS ATTACHE COLLEGUES AS A RESULT OF THE RECENT CAPTURES. HIS ATTITUDE AND REACTION HAS BEEN TO JOIN IN THE FUN. AS AN EXAMPLE, HE RECENTLY ASKED IF HE COULD PAY HIS ASSOCIATION DUES IN SLIGHTLY OLD FISH INSTEAD OF DOLLARS. IN A SERIOUS VAIN, THE VASILENKO STORY ABOUT THE CAPTURE

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CONFLICTS WITH THE ARGENTINE VERSION IN ALMOST ALL ASPECTS.
VASILENKO APPEARED MORE WILLING TO DISCUSS DETAILS AT THIS
MEETING THAN HE HAS IN THE PAST. [] THE IMPRESSION THAT
THE SOVIETS HAVE JUST RECENTLY GOTTEN THEIR COLLECTIVE STORY
TOGETHER AND ARE NOW TRYING TO GIVE IT EXPOSURE. THIS MSG
COORD W/EMBASSY.

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