

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

DEFENSE CENTER

VZCZCHAY282116742

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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MULT

ACTION DIA:

DISTR CMC (01) DJS (03) J3 (04) J5 (02) NMCC NMIC SECDEF:

ASSTISA (10) DIA (15) SWS (01)

SECSTATE WASH DC

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FILE (1)

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DE RUEBAA #0827 2262140

ZNY ~~SECRET~~

P H 142050Z AUG 75

FM (b)(3):10 USC 424

TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC

INFO RULPALJ/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

RULPAKA/193 INF BGDE FT AMADOR CZ

RULPAFA/USAFSO ALBROOK AFB CZ

RULBSAA/USNAVSO FT AMADOR CZ

BT

~~CONFIDENTIAL NOFORN~~ 0827 AUG 75

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

1. AR
2. REACTION TO DAMSCO'S APPOINT (U)
3. /A
4. 1975 AUG 13
5. 1975 AUG 13 BUENOS AIRES
6. (b)(3):10 USC 424
7. [Redacted]
8. [Redacted]
9. 1975 AUG 13

10. [Redacted]

11. [Redacted]

12. [Redacted]

13. & 14. [Redacted]

15. 1. ~~(C, NEB)~~: ACCORDING TO SOURCE, ARMY CINC, LTG LAPLANE, WAS CONSULTED PRIOR TO CCL. DAMASCO'S APPOINTMENT AS INTERIOR MINISTER (SEE IR (b)(3):10 USC 424; Sec. 3.3(b) (1))

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15 AUG 75 19 45Z

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DIRECTLY FROM THE GENERAL. HE ADDED THAT SOME ARMY GENERALS, TO INCLUDE AT LEAST TWO CORPS COMMANDERS, ARE UNHAPPY WITH DAMASCO'S ROLE IN THE GOVERNMENT. HE REPORTS THAT DESPITE THE OBJECTIONS, LAPLANE SUPPORTS THE APPOINTMENT ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT WILL BE A GREAT ADVANTAGE TO HAVE "HIS MAN" IN THE CABINET.

2. ~~(C, REF)~~ SOURCE STATED THAT AS OF 1200 HOURS TODAY (13 AUG 75) GENERAL LAPLANE'S APPOINTMENTS WERE CANCELLED FOR THE REST OF THE DAY FOR URGENT REASONS. ABOUT AN HOUR LATER SOURCE REPORTED THAT THE COMMANDERS-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES WOULD MEET DURING THE AFTERNOON. SOURCE, WHO IS A GREAT ADMIRER OF GENERAL LAPLANE, WAS OBVIOUSLY WORRIED ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF THE MEETING. WHEN ASKED IS HE WOULD DESCRIBE THE DAMASCO APPOINTMENT AS LAPLANE'S MOST DIFFICULT MOMENT AS CINC, HE READILY AGREED.

(b)(3):10 USC 424

3. (U) DAMASCO'S APPOINTMENT AS INTERIOR MINISTER AND THE MILITARY'S REACTION HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST BY THE NEWS MEDIA. REPORTS HAVE REFERRED TO A LAW WHICH GOVERNS THE STATUS OF ACTIVE MILITARY PERSONNEL IN THESE MATTERS. ESSENTIALLY THE LAW PROVIDES THAT A MILITARY MAN CAN SERVE IN A MINISTERIAL POST FOR A TWO MONTH PERIOD IN ACTIVE STATUS AND FOR AN ADDITIONAL FOUR MONTHS IN AN INACTIVE STATUS WITHOUT AFFECTING HIS PROMOTION CHANCES. AFTER SIX MONTHS HOWEVER, HE MUST EITHER RETURN TO FULL MILITARY DUTIES OR RETIRE. IN OTHER REACTIONS, ONE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE CALLED ATTENTION TO THE ABSENCE OF GENERAL VIDELA, CHIEF OF THE JOINT GENERAL STAFF FROM THE CELEBRATION OF AIR FORCE DAY WHICH DAMASCO AND OTHER NEW CABINET OFFICERS ATTENDED ALONG WITH THE PRESIDENT. OTHER REPORTS SAY THAT MANY IN THE ARMED FORCES ARE UNHAPPY WITH DAMASCO'S APPOINTMENT SINCE THEY FEEL IT WILL LINK THE ARMED FORCES DIRECTLY WITH THE ACTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SENSITIVE AREA OF INTERNAL SECURITY.

4. CMT ~~(C, REF)~~: THE DAMASCO APPOINTMENT HAS CAUSED SOME SERIOUS STRAINS WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES. ASIDE FROM THE PERSONAL JEALOUSIES AND PROTOCOL PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE SURFACED WITHIN THE ARMY, SOME DEEPER FISSURES MAY ALSO BE APPEARING. FOR INSTANCE, THE CINC'S OF THE NAVY AND AIR FORCE MAY FEEL THAT THEY WERE NOT ADEQUATELY CONSULTED IN THE DECISION.

~~NOFORN TO AVOID COMPROMISE OF SOURCE IN UNIQUE POSITION.~~

~~GDS DEC 31 1981~~

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