

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
MESSAGE CENTER

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL
Authority: EO 13526
DIA FOIA & Declassification Services Offices
Date: Oct 19, 2018

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ACTION

DIA:

DISTR

CJCS DJS J3(14) J5(02) NMCC SECDEF(07) SECDEF: ASD/ISA(10)

1 DIA(15) NMIC CMC

- CSAF WASH DC
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- WHITE HOUSE WASH DC
- NSA WASH DC
- FILE(1)

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JAN 3 12 21 PM '77

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TRANSIT/301501Z/301645Z/001144TOR3651644

DE RUESBAA #0989 3651530

ZNY ~~00000~~

P 301501Z DEC 76

FM (b)(3):10 USC 424

(b)(3):10 USC 42

TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASH DC/DS-6A/

INFO RUEHC/SEC STATE WASH DC/

RULPALJ/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ/SCJ2-AD/

BT

AP

103174
335700
334145
306301
306302
306360
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103220

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ~~NOFORN~~ 0989 DEC 76 STATE FOR MR. BRAY

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

1. ARGENTINA (AR)
2. (b)(3):10 USC 424
3. (U) TERRORIST ACTIVITY
4. N/A
5. 761229
6. 761230
7. 761229, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

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

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

14. PRESS, (b)(3):10 USC 42

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

16. SUMMARY 1. (U) AT 0700 HOURS ON 29 DEC 76, THE

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COMMANDER OF THE 601 ARSENALES (MAINTENANCE) BATTALION, COL FRANCISCO CASTELLANOS, WAS KILLED BY TERRORISTS WHILE ENROUTE TO HIS UNIT IN BOULOGNE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF BUENOS AIRES. COL CASTELLANOS WAS APPROX 2 BLOCKS FROM HIS HOME IN A BUENOS AIRES SUBURB WHEN HE AND HIS DRIVER (A CONSCRIPT SOLDIER) WERE ATTACKED BY THREE OR FOUR GUERRILLAS. ACCORDING TO ONE REPORT, THE DRIVER SAW THE SUBVERSIVES MOVING INTO POSITION TO CUT OFF THE CAR AND TOOK EVASIVE ACTION. UNFORTUNATELY, THE SOLDIER CRASHED INTO A TREE ALLOWING THE TERRORISTS TO DISMOUNT AND RIDDLE THE COLONEL WITH SUB-MACHINE GUN FIRE. ANOTHER ACCOUNT STATES THAT THE TERRORISTS FIRED ON THE VEHICLE, WOUNDING THE DRIVER, CAUSING THE CAR TO SMASH INTO A TREE. IN EITHER EVENT THE COL WAS WOUNDED AND INCAPACITATED AND THEN THE GUERRILLAS DELIBERATELY FIRED INTO HIS BODY TO FINISH HIM OFF. THE VICTIM WHO WAS THE FATHER OF TWO CHILDREN WAS APPARENTLY KILLED INSTANTLY AND THE SOLDIER WAS GRAVELY WOUNDED.

2. (~~CONFIDENTIAL~~) ACCORDING TO A RELIABLE SOURCE, COL CASTELLANOS HABITUALLY USED THE SAME ROUTE TO AND FROM WORK. HIS ESTABLISHED PATTERNS MADE HIM AN EASY TARGET FOR TERRORISTS. THIS WAS ALSO THE CASE LAST YEAR WITH COL REYES (FORMER CO OF THE 601 AIR DEFENSE ARTY GROUP IN MAR DEL PLATA) AND EARLY THIS MONTH WITH COLONEL DAMICO OF THE SUPERIOR WAR SCHOOL. SOURCE STATES THAT ARMY TRADITION CALLS FOR SENIOR OFFICERS TO BE AT THEIR UNITS AT A GIVEN HOUR IN ORDER TO INITIATE THE DAY'S ACTIVITIES. INSPITE OF THE SECURITY RISK OF SUCH ROUTINES COMMANDERS CONTINUE WITH THIS TRADITION WHICH MARKS THEM AS EASY TARGETS FOR THE TERRORISTS.

COMMENT: (~~CONFIDENTIAL~~) IN SPITE OF RECENT GAINS BY THE GOVT IN THE ANTI-SUBVERSIVE CAMPAIGN, TERRORISTS CONTINUE TO MOUNT SMALL BUT EFFECTIVE OPERATIONS. THE GUERRILLAS HAVE ACHIEVED AN IMPRESSIVE SCORE THIS MONTH WITH 14 KILLED IN THE DEFENSE MINISTRY BOMBING AND TWO COLONELS ASSASSINATED (SEE (b)(3):10 USC 424), IN CASE OF THE ASSASSINATIONS, THE TERRORISTS HAVE USED TRADITIONAL TECHNIQUES. THEY TARGET SENIOR OFFICERS WHO ARE LIGHTLY GUARDED AND HAVE ESTABLISHED MOVEMENT PATTERNS. AT THE TIME OF THE KILL, THEY DELIBERATELY GO FOR THE PRINCIPAL TARGET. THE GUERRILLAS APPARENTLY HAVE NO DESIRE TO KILL OR ALIENATE THE CONSCRIPTS AND THEY BECOME VICTIMS ONLY IF THEY GET IN THE WAY OR ATTEMPT TO DEFEND THE OFFICER. THE TERRORISTS HAVE INDEED BEEN HURT BY THE GOVERNMENT IN RECENT MONTHS BUT THE

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SURGE OF ATTACKS DURING DECEMBER SUGGESTS THAT THE GUERRILLAS ARE TRYING TO SHOW THE WORLD THAT THEY ARE STILL ALIVE AND WELL, AS THE TERRORIST SITUATION BECOMES INCREASINGLY DESPERATE, MORE ATTACKS OF A SPECTACULAR NATURE CAN BE EXPECTED. THIS MBG COORD W/EMBASSY. XGDS-2 ~~3106 7006~~

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