2. IN CLOSING, THE LATEST ACCOUNTING OF OFFICERS/ NCO'S IN MAGDALENA PRISON, BY MOST DAILIES ON 3 FEB 88, IS AS FOLLOWS - 52 OFFICERS (LTC AND BELOW) AND 72 NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS (NCO'S) ARE STILL IN. 130 NCO'S HAVE BEEN RELEASED AND SENT BACK TO RESPECTIVE PARENT UNITS. THE ARMY HAS ALSO ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE DECLARING LTC ARTURO ((GONZALEZ NAYA)) IN REBELLION, AND IT IS EXPECTED THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE WILL ORDER DROPPING HIM FROM ARMY ROLLS. GONZALEZ NAYA IS STILL A FUGITIVE. ANOTHER DAILY REPORTS THAT MILITARY PERSONNEL RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REBELLION IN THE 161ST AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY BATTALION IN SAN LUIS, ARE BEING TRIED AND THAT SOME OF THEM HAVE BEEN PLACED UNDER RIGOROUS PREVENTIVE ARREST.

EMBASSY COMMENT
DELAY IN JUDGING RICO FOR EASTER WEEK WAS DUE TO JURISDICTIONAL DISPUTE BETWEEN CIVILIAN AND MILITARY JUSTICE. FACT THAT NEW MILITARY JUDGE WAS MOVING ON RICO CASE AND PLANNED TO RETURN HIM TO STRICT PREVENTIVE DETENTION WAS CATALYST FOR JANUARY REVOLT. THERE SEEMS LITTLE DOUBT THAT STRICT SENTENCES WILL BE HANDED DOWN TO THOSE WHO WERE LEADING PARTICIPANTS IN JANUARY EVENTS. RICO SYMPATHIZERS WHO LAID LOW DURING THOSE DAYS MAY ESCAPE SEVERE PUNISHMENT SIMPLY BECAUSE THERE ARE NO SERIOUS CHARGES WHICH CAN BE BROUGHT AGAINST THEM.

END EMBASSY COMMENT

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ADMIN
PROJ: (U)
COLL: (U)
INSTR: (U)
PREP: (U)
ACQ: (U)
DISSEM: (U)
WARNING: (U) REPORT CLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL
DECL: NNNN

#1257
2. (C) THE REVOLT BY SOME UNITS OF THE ARGENTINE ARMY BEGAN WITH THE REFUSAL OF MAJOR ERNESTO ("BARREIRO") OF THE 14TH AIRBORNE BRIGADE (CORDOBA) TO STAND TRIAL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES. OTHER UNITS AROUND THE COUNTRY TOOK A STAND IN SUPPORT OF MAJ BARREIRO, BUT MOST BACKED DOWN WITHIN A DAY. THE ESCUELA DE INFANTERIA OF CAMPO DE MAYO HAS HELD OUT AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT AS OF 1300