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FROM

FM (b)(3):10 USC 424

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SERIAL: (U) IIR (b)(3):10 USC 424

BODY

(b)(3):10 USC 424

COUNTRY: (U) **ARGENTINA (AR)**.

SUBJ: IIR [redacted] ARGARM LEADERSHIP CONFIRMS ITS STRONG COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY (U)

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED

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- DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 941212.

REQS: (U) (b)(3):10 USC 42

SOURCE: (S)

(b)(1);(b)(3):10 USC 424;Sec. 1.4(c)

SUMMARY: (U) THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARGENTINE ARMY FREQUENTLY EMPHASIZES THE MILITARY'S COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY HE STRESSED THIS COMMITMENT RECENTLY IN HIS GRADUATION ADDRESSES AT SEVERAL ARMY SCHOOLS.

TEXT: 1. (U) THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARGENTINE ARMY, GENERAL **MARTIN ANTONIO ((BALZA))**, EMPHASIZES THE ARMY'S COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY WHENEVER IT IS APPROPRIATE DURING HIS PUBLIC SPEECHES AND COMMENTS. DURING DECEMBER, GENERAL BALZA'S SPEECHES AT THE MILITARY ACADEMY AND SUPERIOR TECHNICAL SCHOOL GRADUATIONS FOCUSED ON THE MILITARY'S DUTIES WITHIN A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT.

2. (U) AT BOTH GRADUATIONS, GEN BALZA EMPHASIZED THAT THE ARMY IS COMPOSED OF THE SAME CITIZENS THAT IT EXISTS TO SERVE AND THERE IS NEVER JUSTIFICATION FOR OBEYING ILLEGITIMATE ORDERS, REGARDLESS IF THE GOAL

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ITSELF IS LEGITIMATE. IF ILLEGAL, IMMORAL OR ILLEGITIMATE PROCEDURES ARE FOLLOWED TO ACHIEVE AN END, THERE IS NO ETHICAL JUSTIFICATION FOR THE ENDS ACHIEVED. THE ONLY LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT IS THE ONE ESTABLISHED BY THE PEOPLE AND THEIR WILL IS EXPRESSED THROUGH THEIR DULY ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES.

3. (U) AT BOTH GRADUATIONS, THE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF EXPLAINED THE MORAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF MILITARY OFFICERS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT SUBORDINATES MUST BE RESPECTED, OFFICERS OWE OBEDIENCE ONLY TO LEGITIMATE ORDERS FROM LEGITIMATE AUTHORITIES, IMMORAL ORDERS MUST NEVER BE ISSUED AND ANYONE ATTEMPTING TO DO SO IS GUILTY OF MISCONDUCT, AND WEAPONS CAN ONLY BE USED WHEN THE CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITIES ALLOW IT.

4. (U) GEN BALZA BELIEVES THE ARMY HAS LEARNED MANY LESSONS FROM ITS PREVIOUS INVOLVEMENTS IN POLITICS. THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE IS THAT THE MILITARY HAS NO BUSINESS GETTING INVOLVED IN CIVILIAN POLITICS. HE EXPLAINS TO EVERYONE WHO WILL LISTEN THAT THE ARMY WILL NEVER GET INVOLVED IN POLITICS DURING HIS TENURE, NOR SHOULD IT AT ANY TIME IN THE FUTURE AS THOSE WHO SUPPORT MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN THE GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN PURGED FROM ITS RANKS.

(b)(1);1.4 (c)

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