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FROM

FM (b)(3):10 USC 424

TO

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

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

(b)(3):10 USC 424

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

SUBJ: IIR (b)(3):10 USC 424 ARGENTINE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF

COMMENTS ON DESIRABILITY OF REGIONAL INTEGRATION (U)

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT

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- DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 940922.

REQS: (U) (b)(3):10 USC 424

SOURCE: (U) (b)(3):10 USC 424;(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

SUMMARY: (U) ARGENTINE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF LIEUTENANT GENERAL **MARTIN ANTONIO ((BALZA))** EXPRESSES STRONG SUPPORT FOR POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND MILITARY INTEGRATION AMONG SOUTH AMERICAN NATIONS AT ALL LEVELS, INCLUDING BI-LATERAL, SUB-REGIONAL, AND REGIONAL.

TEXT: 1. (U) AT AN INFORMAL BRIEFING FOR FOREIGN MILITARY ATTACHES RESIDENT IN BUENOS AIRES ON 940922, ARGENTINE ARMY (ARGARM) CHIEF OF STAFF LIEUTENANT GENERAL (LTG) **MARTIN ANTONIO ((BALZA))** EXPRESSED STRONG PERSONAL SUPPORT FOR ALL EFFORTS AT REGIONAL INTEGRATION AMONG SOUTH AMERICAN NATIONS. HE ADDED THAT SUCH INTEGRATION IS CONSTRUCTIVE AND DESIRABLE AT ALL LEVELS OF COORDINATION (I.E., BI-LATERAL, SUB-REGIONAL, AND REGIONAL) AS WELL AS ACROSS THE SPECTRUM OF GOVERNMENTAL DISCIPLINES (I.E., POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, MILITARY, ETC.).

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2. (U) THE BRIEFING AT WHICH LTG BALZA MADE HIS COMMENTS WAS CALLED BY THE LATTER AS AN INFORMAL SEMINAR TO ANSWER ATTACHES' QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE STATUS OF THE ARGENTINE ARMY. THERE WAS NO FORMAL PRESENTATION OR KEYNOTE ADDRESS, AND THE EVENT WAS CHAIRED BY LTG BALZA, HIMSELF, IN AN UNRESTRICTED QUESTION-AND-ANSWER FORMAT. LTG BALZA WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS AIDES AND SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL STAFF; HOWEVER, HE PERSONALLY HANDLED ALL OF THE QUESTIONS.

3. (U) CONCERNING A QUESTION REGARDING THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA'S POSITION ON INTERNATIONAL INTEGRATION BELOW THE REGIONAL LEVEL, BALZA EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT POLITICAL STABILITY, ECONOMIC PROSPERITY, AND MILITARY SECURITY ARE ALL WELL SERVED BY INTERNATIONAL INTEGRATION AT ANY AND ALL LEVELS POSSIBLE. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT HE HAS CONSISTENTLY PURSUED A POLICY OF ENHANCING BI-LATERAL AND/OR MULTI-LATERAL CONTACTS WITH ALL OF THE NATIONS BORDERING ARGENTINA AS WELL AS WITH AS MANY OTHER NATIONS AS HE HAS BEEN ABLE. AS EVIDENCE HE CITED RECIPROCAL PERSONAL VISITS WITH OTHER CHIEFS OF STAFF; BI-LATERAL AND MULTI-LATERAL MILITARY EXERCISES AND EXCHANGES WITH A VARIETY OF COUNTRIES (INCLUDING TRADITIONAL RIVALS CHILE AND BRAZIL); ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN MULTI-NATIONAL CONVENTIONS SUCH AS THOSE ON NUCLEAR, CHEMICAL, AND BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS AND BALLISTIC MISSILES; HOSTING THE CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN ARMIES FOR 1994-1995; AND ABOVE ALL, ARGENTINA'S CONSPICUOUS PARTICIPATION IN NUMEROUS INTERNATIONAL PEACE KEEPING MISSIONS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN RECENT YEARS.

4. (U) WHEN ASKED IF ANTICIPATED BUDGET CONSTRAINTS DURING THE COMING YEAR (COUPLED WITH THE ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL STRAIN OF THE IMMINENT ALL-VOLUNTEER ARMY) WOULD REDUCE THE ARGARM'S PARTICIPATION IN SUCH EXCHANGES, EXERCISES, AND OTHER MILITARY UNDERTAKINGS OF AN INTERNATIONAL NATURE, LTG BALZA INSISTED THAT IT WOULD NOT. WHILE HE DID NOT ELABORATE ON HOW THE ARGARM MIGHT BE ABLE TO AFFORD THE AMBITIOUS PROGRAM OF INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS AND COOPERATION IT HAS RECENTLY ESTABLISHED, LTG BALZA MADE IT CLEAR THAT SUCH A PROGRAM IS A KEY VEHICLE TO BUILDING CONFIDENCE AND TRUST BETWEEN NATIONS AND, THUS, IN FOSTERING

COOPERATION, MUTUAL SECURITY, AND RECIPROCAL PROSPERITY. AS SUCH, HE PERSONALLY FEELS THAT SUCH INTEGRATION IS A WORTHWHILE INVESTMENT OF EVEN LIMITED RESOURCES.

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