SUBJ: IIR ARGENTINE-BRAZILIAN ARMY BILATERAL RELATIONS FLOURISH (U)

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

SUMMARY: (U) RELATIONS BETWEEN THE BRAZILIAN AND ARGENTINE ARMIES ARE EXCELLENT. THE LEADERS OF BOTH ARMIES EXCHANGED AWARDS DURING RECENT STAFF TALKS IN BUENOS AIRES.

TEXT: 1. (U) A BRAZILIAN ARMY DELEGATION, HEADED BY THE MINISTER OF THE ARMY, IS CONCLUDING A VISIT TO BUENOS AIRES THAT INCLUDED STAFF TALKS, VISITS TO UNITS AND THE AWARDING OF DECORATIONS TO THE LEADERS OF BOTH THE ARGARM AND THE BRAZILIAN ARMY.

2. (U) THE BILATERAL STAFF TALKS WERE HIGHLIGHTED THIS YEAR AS BOTH SIDES DECLARED THAT RELATIONS WERE THE BEST THEY HAVE EVER BEEN. ON 940826, THE ARGARM CHIEF OF STAFF, GENERAL MARTIN ANTONIO ((BALZA)) DECORATED HIS COUNTERPART IN THE BRAZILIAN ARMY, MINISTER OF THE ARMY GENERAL ZENILDO ((GONZAGA ZOROASTRO DE LUCENA)). ON 940829, THE BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR TO ARGENTINA RETURNED THE FAVOR BY DECORATING GEN BALZA WITH THE "ORDEN AL MERITO
MILITAR". PRESENT AT BOTH AWARD CEREMONIES WAS THE ARGENTINE MINISTER OF DEFENSE.


4. (U) TO DEMONSTRATE THE DEGREE OF CLOoseness the armies have reached, at an earlier ceremony on 940829 IN GUALEGUAYCHU, THE ARGARM NAMED ITS 12TH TANK REGIMENT AFTER A BRAZILIAN WAR HERO. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT AN ARGARM UNIT HAS CARRIED THE HISTORIC NAME OF A HERO FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY.

(b)(1); 1.4 (c)