

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

**DTG**

241504Z FEB 00

**FROM**

FM (b)(3):10 USC 424

**TO**

TO RUEKDIA/DIA WASHDC

**CONTROLS**

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 (b)(3):10 USC 424

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

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

**BODY**

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

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

SUBJ: IIR (b)(3):10 USC 424 FORMER ARGENTINE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF SUSPENDED INDEFINITELY FROM THE CIRCULO MILITAR (U) (b)(3):10 USC 424

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

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

-----  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
-----

DOI: (U) 20000211.

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

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

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

SUMMARY: (U) RETIRED ARMY GENERAL **MARTIN ANTONIO ((BALZA))** HAS BEEN SUSPENDED INDEFINITELY FROM THE ARGENTINE ARMY CIRCULO MILITAR, A SOCIAL ORGANIZATION THAT MOST ACTIVE AND RETIRED ARMY OFFICERS BELONG TO.

TEXT: 1. ~~(S)~~ FORMER ARGENTINE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL **MARTIN ANTONIO ((BALZA))** RETIRED IN 991200, AFTER EIGHT YEARS AT THE HELM. (b)(1);1.4 (c)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(b)(1);1.4 (c)

2. (U) THE CIRCULO MILITAR DEL EJERCITO (CM) IS A SOCIAL ORGANIZATION OF ACTIVE AND RETIRED ARMY OFFICERS. IT OFFERS VENUES FOR SOCIAL FUNCTIONS AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES, AND MOST OFFICERS ARE MEMBERS. THE CM ALSO SERVES AS AN "UNOFFICIAL" PLATFORM FOR THE ARMY ON ISSUES SUCH AS PAY, HEALTH CARE, ETC. THE LARGE NUMBER OF RETIRED MEMBERS GIVES THE CM A DECIDEDLY CONSERVATIVE INCLINATION.

3. (U) NO SOONER HAD GENERAL BALZA RETIRED, THEN THE CIRCULO MILITAR LEADERSHIP VOTED TO SUSPEND HIM INDEFINITELY FROM THE ORGANIZATION. ALTHOUGH NOT THE MOST DRASTIC OPTION AT THEIR DISPOSAL (WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN "EXPULSION"), IT WAS NEVERTHELESS A PERMANENT SANCTION. THE RATIONALE GIVEN WAS THAT BALZA WAS ALSO A MEMBER OF ANOTHER ORGANIZATION WHICH HAD SPLINTERED OFF FROM THE CM IN THE PAST, AND DUAL MEMBERSHIP WAS INCOMPATIBLE. BALZA WAS VACATIONING AT THE BEACH IN JANUARY WHEN HE GOT THE NEWS. HE PLAYED IT DOWN AT FIRST, BUT HAS SUBSEQUENTLY ASKED CURRENT CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL ((BRINZONI)) TO CONVENE A PANEL (TRIBUNAL DE HONOR) TO DETERMINE THE LEGITIMACY OF THE SUSPENSION. THIS SHOULD OCCUR SOON. IN VINTAGE BALZA STYLE, THE ENTIRE EPISODE HAS BEEN PLAYED OUT IN THE MEDIA SPOTLIGHT.

(b)(1);1.4 (c)

Page 035 of 117

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(1);(b)(3);10 USC 424;1.4 (c)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~DRVD FM: DHS SCG, OCTOBER 97~~

~~DECL ON: X1~~

~~BT~~

~~#6621~~

~~NNNN~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~