SUMMARY: (C) DURING THE COURSE OF HIS FIRST PRESS INTERVIEW WITH A BUENOS AIRES DAILY, THE ARGARM CHIEF OF STAFF DISCUSSED SOME OF THE MOST PRESSING ISSUES AFFECTING THE ARMY TODAY.

2. (U) ACCORDING TO SOURCE A, THE ISSUES DISCUSSED BY CARIDI WITH ONE OF ITS REPORTERS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

1. THE RELIEF OF BG FAUSTO MARCELO ((GONZALEZ)) AS VICE CHIEF OF STAFF ON 20 JUL 87; 2. LTC ALDO ((RICO'S)) AND MAJ ERNESTO ((BARREIRO'S)) LEGAL SITUATION; 3. SEQUELS OF THE EASTER WEEK MUTINY; 4. VINDICATION OF THE ARGARM AND CONTINUED "ATTACKS" DIRECTED AGAINST THE ARMY BY SOME SECTORS OF ARGENTINE SOCIETY; 5. THE DEFENSE LAW; 6. RESTRUCTURING/MODERNIZATION AND DISCIPLINE IN THE ARMY; 7. WHAT IS NEEDED TO ACHIEVE HARMONY BETWEEN CIVILIANS AND MEN IN UNIFORM. FOLLOWING IS A SYNOPSIS OF THE ISSUES DISCUSSED DURING THE INTERVIEW.

3. (U) RELIEF OF BG GONZALEZ AS VICE CHIEF OF STAFF. WHEN ASKED BY REPORTER HOW HE WOULD DESCRIBE THE RECENT EPISODE WHICH LED TO GONZALEZ'S RELIEF BY THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND IF THAT ACTION HAD BEEN UPON HIS REQUEST, CARIDI SAID IT WAS NECESSARY NOT TO TAKE THAT EPISODE OUT OF THE CONTEXT IN WHICH IT DEVELOPED, MEANING A STRICTLY INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT.

4. (U) ON LTC RICO AND MAJ BARREIRO'S LEGAL SITUATION. ON THIS ISSUE, CARIDI MERELY EXPLAINED THE AS OF YET UNDEFINED LEGAL RAMIFICATIONS OF CIVILIAN VS MILITARY JURISDICTION SURROUNDING BOTH CASES. HE OFFERED NOTHING NEW.


6. (U) VINDICATION OF THE ARMY. WHEN ASKED FOR HIS OPINION ABOUT WHAT HAS BEEN SAID OF LOWER RANKING OFFICERS SEEKING TO VINDICATE THE ARGARM BECAUSE THEY
KNOW IT HAS BEEN AN CONTINUES TO BE THE SUBJECT OF SYSTEMATIC ATTACKS BY CERTAIN SECTORS OF SOCIETY, CARIDI STATED "THE VINDICATION OF THE FORCE IS NOT A PRIVILEGE OF THE LOWER RANKING LEVELS, IT IS A SHARED ASPIRATION FROM THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE GENERAL STAFF (CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMY) DOWN TO THE MOST JUNIOR SERGEANT; WE HAVE BEEN ATTACKED AS AN INSTITUTION ADMIN BT #8300

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COUNTRY: (U) ARGENTINA (AR)
SUBJECT: IIR

THE ARGARM AWAITS VINDICATION BEFORE, ARE BEING ATTACKED NOW AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATION HIMSELF, DURING THE ARMED FORCES COMRADESHIP DINNER, PUBLICLY WARNED ABOUT A COLOSSAL WORSENING OF PSYOP CAMPAIGNS AGAINST THE ARMED FORCES". CARIDI ALSO SAID THEY (THE ARMY) ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE CONVICTION THAT SUCH VINDICATION TO WHICH THEY ASPIRE WILL NOT TAKE LONG IN COMING.


8. (U) ON THE SUBJECT OF THE DEFENSE LAW, SOURCE B TOLD RO THE ALFONSO ADMINISTRATION IS LIKELY TO APPLY STALLING
TACTICS IN THE TREATMENT OF SUCH LAW INSTEAD OF FACING HEAD-ON THE THORNY ISSUE OF WHETHER THE ARMED FORCES SHOULD SHARE WITH OTHER NATIONAL SECURITY FORCES THE MISSION TO DEFEND THE COUNTRY AGAINST INTERNAL (DOMESTIC) THREATS. THE DEFENSE LAW, AS IT APPLIES TODAY, CALLS ONLY FOR THE ARMED FORCES TO DEFEND AGAINST EXTERNAL THREATS. NOTE: THE SENATE AND HOUSE HAVE BOTH PASSED A VERSION OF A DEFENSE LAW. PROBLEM IS THEY ARE DIFFERENT VERSIONS. ALSO, TIME FOR ITS TREATMENT HAS ALREADY LAPPED AND THE GOA HAS TO SUBMIT BILL ANEW. SOURCE B STATED IT IS VERY UNLIKELY THE ALFONSO ADMINISTRATION WILL TREAT THE DEFENSE LAW ISSUE IN AN ELECTION YEAR.

9.(G) RESTRUCTURING/MODERNIZATION AND DISCIPLINE IN THE ARMY. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE SCOPE OF RESTRUCTURING/ MODERNIZING THE ARMY AND HOW LONG IT WILL TAKE TO DO IT, CARIDI BRIEFLY SUMMARIZED THE CONCEPT AS ONE CONSISTING OF BASICALLY THREE PHASES: RATIONALIZATION, RESTRUCTURING AND REDIMENSIONING (RRR) OF THE FORCE. NOTE: [(b)(1);1.4 (c)]

WHEN REFERRING TO DISCIPLINE IN THE ARMY, CARIDI MENTIONED THE NEED FOR A TWO-PRONGED ACTION WHICH WILL REQUIRE SPECIFIC EFFORTS ON THE PART OF MEN IN UNIFORM, EFFORTS WHICH ARE PRESENTLY BEING CARRIED OUT WITH DYNAMISM AND ENTHUSIASM, AND EFFORTS BY THE GOA AND SOCIETY IN PROVIDING THE GUIDING FRAMEWORK IN WHICH TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL.
10. (U) ON WHAT IS NEEDED TO ACHIEVE HARMONY BETWEEN CIVILIANS AND THE MILITARY. CARIDI SAID HARMONY STARTS WHEN ONE DOES NOT APPEAL TO FALSE DILEMMAS. THERE EXISTS ONLY ONE SOCIETY AND IT IS NOT VALID TO DIVIDE IT INTO CIVILIAN AND MILITARY SOCIETIES. CARIDI CONTINUED "EVERY MILITARY MAN HAS A CIVILIAN MOTHER, A CIVILIAN WIFE, CIVILIAN OFFSPRING, CIVILIAN FRIENDS AND EVEN WITHIN THE ARMY HE WORKS SHOULDER-TO-SHOULDER WITH CIVILIANS. IS IT THEN VALID TO TALK ON ONE HAND ABOUT A CIVILIAN SOCIETY AND ABOUT ADMIN BT #8300
IN CLOSING THE INTERVIEW, CARIDI WAS ASKED TO EXPRESS ANYTHING HE DEEMED APPROPRIATE. HE SAID THE FOLLOWING: A. THE UNDERSTANDING TO WHICH ARGENTINE SOCIETY ASPIRES SHOULD BE BASED ON ACTS OF MUTUAL TRUST; B. THROUGHOUT HISTORY, THE ARGARM STOOD BY THE SIDE OF THE NATION’S DESTINY, LOGGING IRREFUTABLE PROOF OF SERVICE-RELATED PERMANENT SACRIFICES; C. IN THIS SENSE WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS WHAT IS PERMANENT OVER WHAT IS CIRCUMSTANTIAL; D. THE ARMY IS FULLY AWARE OF ITS ASSIGNED MAJOR OBJECTIVES AND WISHES THE GROWTH OF THE COUNTRY THROUGH THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF ITS SPECIFIC MISSION. WITHIN THIS FRAMEWORK, THE ARMY ONLY HOPES TO BE A SOLID ABUTMENT OF THE CURRENT REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM IN ARGENTINA TODAY; E. THE ARGENTINE CITIZEN SHOULD HAVE THE ASSURANCE HE HAS A SPIRITUALLY HEALTHY ARMY, WITH SOLDIERS VOCATIONALLY PREDISPOSED TO GIVE THEIR BEST TO THEIR COMMUNITY; F. THE ARMY ASPIRES TO THE UNDERSTANDING
AND RESPECT AS PERMANENT INSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC, FOR IT IS A FUNDAMENTAL PREREQUISITE FOR ITS EXISTENCE AND BECAUSE IT FOSTERS UNDERSTANDING THROUGHOUT ARGENTINE SOCIETY.

(b)(1);1.4 (c)
TO (b)(3):10 USC 424
TO (b)(3):10 USC 424
DTG 112007Z AUG 87
FROM (b)(3):10 USC 424
TO (b)(3):10 USC 424
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RUEOJCS/DIA WASHDC
TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC
RUEOEHA/USCINCOSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN/
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(b)(3):10 USC 424
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IL: (U) IIR (b)(3):10 USC 424
(b)(3):10 USC 424; (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)
COUNTRY: (U) ARGENTINA (AR)
SUBJECT: IIR (b)(3):10 USC 424
THE ARGARM AWAITS VINDICATION
QUITE SOME TIME. THEY SEE THE REACTIVATION OF
ALL
THIS MATERIEL AS A VEKY USEFUL TOOL TO START GIVING
MEN IN UNIFORM A SENSE OF BELONGING AND MOST IMPORTANT,
TO KEEP THEM PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY BUSY IN WHAT THEY
CAN DO BEST, SOLDIER. IDLENESS IN THESE TURBULENT
TIMES COUL BRINE A THREAT OF MORE INCIDENTS LIKE
THOSE OF EASTER WEEK.

(b)(1); 1.4 (c)
Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(1), (b)(3) 10 USC 422a-1.4 (c)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act.