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SECT 01 OF 55070

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

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 1 OF 2 (b)(3):10 USC 424

SUBJ: THIS IR NO. (b)(3):10 USC 424 (U)

1. COUNTRY: ARGENTINA (AR)/CHILE (CI)

2. REPORT NUMBER: (b)(3):10 USC 424

3. TITLE: ARGENTINA/CHILE - MILITARY ORDER OF BATTLE

BEAGLE CHANNEL (U)

4. PROJECT NUMBER: N/A

5. DATE OF INFORMATION: 781104-781106

6. DATE OF REPORT: 781107

7. DATE AND PLACE OF ACQUISITION: 781106-781107, BUENOS

AIRES, ARGENTINA

8. REFERENCE: (b)(3):10 USC 424

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9. ASSESSMENT: (b)(3):10 USC 424
10. ORIGINATOR: [REDACTED]
11. REQUEST EVALUATION: OMIT
12. PREPARING OFFICER: (b)(3):10 USC 424
13. APPROVING AUTHORITY: [REDACTED]

(b)(3):10 USC 424

14. (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

15. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: DIRC-NO

16. SUMMARY: (S) THIS REPORT DESCRIBES EARLY NOVEMBER MILITARY ACTIVITY AND ORDER OF BATTLE SIGHTINGS IN SOUTHERN ARGENTINA. AFTER-BURNER AIRCRAFT WERE NOTED AT RIO GALLEGOS, TROOPS AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT WERE BEING UNLOADED AT USHUAIA, AND CLOSE AIR SUPPORT PUCARA AIRCRAFT WERE SIGHTED AT THE AIRFIELD THERE. THE PARTIAL MOBILIZATION ACTIVITY WAS NOT PARALLELED BY AGGRESSIVE STATEMENTS FROM AREA MILITARY COMMANDERS NOR CIVIC LEADERS.

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

DURING PASSENGER PICKUP AT BAHIA BLANCA, COMANDOANTE ESPORA AIRPORT (b)(3):10 USC 424 FRESH EARTH WAS VISIBLE SURROUNDING CANVAS COVERED ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPONS AND REVETMENTS WERE NOTED ON THE MILITARY SIDE OF THE FIELD (b)(3):10 USC 424 THE TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT, AN F-28 OPERATED BY THE ARGENTINE AIR FORCE, REFUELED AT RIO GALLEGOS (b)(3):10 USC 424 TWO OBSERVERS REPORTED THE TAKE-OFF OF AN AFTER-BURNER EQUIPPED AIRCRAFT WHILE THEY WERE WAITING IN THE PASSENGER TERMINAL. A GUARD FORCE WAS POSTED TO MAINTAIN SECURITY FOR THE F-28 AIRCRAFT WHILE IT WAS BEING REFUELED (b)(3):10 USC 424

ENROUTE TO USHUAIA, THE F-28 PILOT OFFERED TO OVERFLY THE BEAGLE CHANNEL AND ASSURED THE PASSENGERS HE COULD DO SO WITHOUT CAUSING ANY PROBLEMS. NO BUILD-UP OF MILITARY FORCES ON THE DISPUTED ISLANDS OF PICTON, LENNOX, OR NUEVA WILLIAMS (b)(3):10 USC 424

UPON ARRIVAL AT USHUAIA, THE OFFICIALS WERE MET BY THE

(b)(1);1.4 (c)

THE PERIOD OF THEIR VISIT, CONVEYED THE IMPRESSION THAT ALL WAS PEACEFUL IN TIERRA DEL FUEGO. THIS SAME MESSAGE WAS PASSED BY THE TERRITORIAL GOVERNOR AND CITY MAYOR. NO CURFEW OR BLACKOUT EXERCISES WERE HELD AND BOTH POLICE

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AND MILITARY PRESENCE WAS VERY LOW KEY. DURING THE OVERNIGHT STAY AND EARLY MORNING HOURS OF 781105, THE OFFICIALS SAW TWO FAST PATROL BOATS, TWO NAVY CARGO SHIPS, TWO AUXILIARY OCEAN TUGS (ONE POSSIBLY WAS A FLEET OCEAN TUG) AND UP TO FIVE MOTOR TORPEDO BOATS/PATROL BOATS. OTHER SIGHTINGS AT USHUAIA INCLUDED SMALL GROUPS OF MILITARY WITH WHAT APPEARED TO BE NEWLY ISSUED UNIFORMS AND A FLAT-BED TRAILER WITH THREE ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPONS MOVING WEST OF TOWN. INQUIRIES ABOUT THE TROOPS WERE (b)(1);1.4 (c) THEY HAD DISEMBARKED FROM THE NAVY CARGO SHIPS DURING THE EVENING HOURS OF 781103. ON DEPARTURE FROM USHUAIA, THREE TURBO-PROP PUCARAS AND A SMALL HELICOPTER WERE SEEN (b)(3);10 USC 424

RETURNING TO BUENOS AIRES, THE F-28 STOPPED AT RIO GRANDE

(b)(3);10 USC 424 WHERE TEN 6X6 MILITARY TRUCKS WERE NOTED IN A CONVOY HEADED SOUTH TOWARD USHUAIA. LIVE-STOCK PRODUCERS IN THE AREA DESCRIBED BORDER TENSIONS AS A DETRIMENT TO THEIR INTEREST, PARTICULARLY IN THE CASE OF A FAMILY WHICH OPERATED A LARGE RANCH IN BOTH CHILE AND ARGENTINA (b)(3);10 USC 424

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(b)(3):10 USC 424

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(b)(1);1.4 (c)

ONLY (b)(1);1.4 (c) AIRCRAFT REVETMENTS AND FRESH
EARTH SCARRING AROUND GUN POSITIONS AT COMMANDANTE ESPORA.
THERE ARE CANVAS COVERED ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPONS AT THE FIELD

(b)(1);(b)(3):10 USC 424;Sec. 1.4(c) BUT NO REVET-
MENTS WERE SEEN BY IN SEPTEMBER, IT IS POSSIBLE THE

(b)(1);1.4 (c) REVETMENTS AT RIO GALLEGOS (b)(3):10 USC 424

AND (b)(1);(b)(3):10 USC 424;Sec. 1.4(c) AND CONFUSED THE
LOCATION.

(b)(1);1.4 (c)
SIGHTING OF THE AFTER-BURNER AIRCRAFT AT RIO GALLEGOS

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WAS NOTED BY (b)(1);1.4 (c) ONE OF WHOM HAS FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE AS A PASSENGER IN CONTEMPORARY FIGHTER AIRCRAFT. ALTHOUGH NO VISUAL IDENTIFICATION WAS POSSIBLE, MIRAGE III IS THE ONLY AFTER-BURNER AIRCRAFT IN ARGENTINA, NORMALLY BASED AT MORENO (b)(3);10 USC 424 NEAR BUENOS AIRES, THE AIRCRAFT MAY HAVE BEEN MOVED SOUTH IN CONNECTION WITH TRAINING OR AREA FAMILIARIZATION.

THE (b)(1);1.4 (c) OF THE BEAGLE CHANNEL AND ADJACENT ISLANDS BY AN F-88 OPERATOR AN UNCERTAIN (b)(1);1.4 (c)

(b)(1);1.4 (c) IN THE AREA THE LACK OF REACTION BY THE CHILEANS IN FORM OF DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS PROBABLY REFLECTS LACK OF RADAR COVERAGE.

THE ARGENTINE MILITARY COMMANDER'S AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE TENDING TO DOWNPLAY THE LIKELYHOOD AND DESIRABILITY OF CONFLICT TRACKS WITH OFFICIAL PRESS STATEMENTS CONVEYED BY FBIS. THE NAVAL ORDER OF BATTLE IN THE AREA IS CONSISTENT WITH OTHER OBSERVATIONS. THE TRANSPORT OF GROUND FORCES AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPONS TO USHUAIA IS IN KEEPING WITH THE PARTIAL MOBILIZATION CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS. PERHAPS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT OOB CHANGE IS SEEN IN THE PRESENCE OF 3-PUCARAS AT USHUAIA. ONE OFFICIAL WAS CONVINCED THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY OF MISIDENTIFYING THESE AIRCRAFT SINCE HE HAD PREVIOUSLY HAD A FAMILIARIZATION RIDE IN ONE AS A PASSENGER. THE ARGENTINE NAVY USES BOTH RIO GRANDE AND USHUAIA AS TRAINING BASES, TYPICALLY DEPLOYING INSTRUCTORS AND STUDENTS IN T-28 OR MACH1 AIRCRAFT FOR INSTRUMENT AND AREA FAMILIARIZATION. PUCARAS HAVE BEEN SIMILARLY DEPLOYED TO COMMODORO RIVAGAVIA (b)(3);10 USC 424, TWO WERE SEEN THERE IN SEPTEMBER 1978 BY (b)(1);1.4 (c). THE USE OF A NAVY BASE (USHUAIA) BY ARGENTINE AIR FORCE AIRCRAFT IS ATYPICAL AND SHOWS A LEVEL OF INTER-SERVICE COOPERATION NOT PREVIOUSLY KNOWN.

SIGHTINGS OF TROOPS MOVING SOUTH FROM RIO GRANDE TO USHUAIA ARE IN KEEPING WITH THE READINESS POSTURE CURRENTLY BEING MAINTAINED BY THE ARGENTINE MILITARY. THIS MSG COORD W/AMBASSY.

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(b)(1);Sec. 1.4(c)