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SUBJ: THIS IS (b)(3):10 USC 424

REC'D 14 DEC 78

1. COUNTRY: ARGENTINA (AR), CHILE (CI)
2. REPORT NUMBER: (b)(3):10 USC 424
3. TITLE: (C) BEAGLE CHANNEL DISPUTE-POSSIBLE COVER AND DECEPTION USED BY ARGENTINE NAVY IN PREPARATION FOR CONFLICT
4. PROJECT NUMBER: N/A
5. DATE OF INFORMATION: 781211-781212
6. DATE OF REPORT: 781212
7. DATE AND PLACE OF ACQUISITION: 781211-781212, BUENOS AIRES
8. REFERENCES: (b)(3):10 USC 424 /CONTINUES

PAGE 1

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PAGE 2

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9. ASSESSMENT: (b)(3):10 USC 424

10. ORIGINATOR: (b)(3):10 USC 424

11. REQUEST EVALUATION: OMIT

12. PREPARING OFFICER: (b)(3):10 USC 424

13. APPROVING AUTHORITY: (b)(3):10 USC 424

(b)(3):10 USC 424

14. SOURCE: A MEDIA "LA NACION" 781212 (b)(1);1.4 (c)

15. SPECIALS INSTRUCTIONS: OIRC-NO-NOFORN

(b)(3):10 USC 424

16. SUMMARY: (~~C~~/NOFORN) THIS REPORT DESCRIBES PRESS COVERAGE WHICH LOCATES THE ARGENTINE NAVY FLEET IN THE MAR DEL PLATA AREA--A LOCATION NOT IN KEEPING WITH THE MOBILIZATION AND POSITIONING OF OTHER COMBAT FORCES IN THE BEAGLE CHANNEL DISPUTE. MILITARY TRAINING OF CORRESPONDENTS AND EDITING OF PRESS COVERAGE IS DESCRIBED AS THE BASIS FOR POSSIBLE COVER AND DECEPTION TACTIC. AT LEAST PART OF THE ARGENTINE FLEET IS PROBABLY SOUTH OF MAR DEL PLATA, PERHAPS AS FAR SOUTH AS GOLFO NUEVO.

DETAILS: 1. (U) AFTERNOON PRESS ON 781211 AND MORNING COVERAGE ON 781212 CONTAINED ARTICLES HEADED "THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR (ARGENTINE) NAVY AND NAVAL AIR POWER, BYLINED ABOARD THE CARRIER "25 DE MAYO" AND WRITTEN BY EMILIO IBARRA, THE 781212 "LA NACION" DESCRIBED TRAINING EXERCISES IN PROGRESS NEAR MAR DEL PLATA (b)(3):10 USC 424 UNDER THE COMMAND OF RADM BARBUZZI, CHIEF OF THE NAVAL SURFACE OPERATING FORCES. THE ARTICLE DESCRIBED THE FLEET EXERCISE INCLUDING ACTIVITIES OF CRUISERS, DESTROYERS, FRIGATES, CORVETTES AND SUBMARINES, ALONG WITH AIR OPERATIONS BY CARRIER BASED JET AND ASW PALENS.

2. (~~C~~/NOFORN) (b)(1);1.4 (c) HAVE HEARD THROUGH (b)(1);1.4 (c) (b)(1);1.4 (c) THAT NEWSMAN IBARRA CALLED HIS PAPER (LA NACION) ON 781211 TO RELATE THAT THE CARRIER WAS NEAR MAR DEL PLATA BUT NOT ACCOMPANIED BY OTHER UNITS.

3. (~~C~~/NOFORN) AN (b)(1);1.4 (c) TODAY (781212) THAT CORRESPONDENTS ACCREDITED TO THE ARGENTINE ARMED FORCES MUST ATTEND A SERVICE SCHOOL (DURATION NOT IDENTIFIED). WHEN EMBARKED OR WITH MILITARY UNITS, CORRESPONDENTS ARE UNIFORMED AND SUBJECT TO MILITARY EDITING OF THEIR RELEASES.

(b)(1);1.4 (c) (~~C~~/NOFORN) PRESS COVERAGE OF THE ARGENTINE FLEET MANEUVERS PLACE THE COMBATANTS IN AN ILLOGICAL WAITING

PAGE 2

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PAGE 3

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40738

STATION. "DISINFORMATION" AS PART OF A COVER AND DECEPTION  
PLAN IS POSSIBLE DURING THE HEIGHTENED TENSION WITH CHILE;  
ESTIMATE THAT AT LEAST SOME COMBATANTS ARE AS FAR SOUTH AS  
GOLFO NUEVO. AREA (b)(3):10 USC 424

THIS MSG COORD W AMEMBASSY.

OECL 12 DEC 1998.

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PAGE 3

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