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

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

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~~C O N F I D E N T I A L / N O F O R M~~ (b)(3):10 USC 424

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

1. COUNTRY: ARGENTINA (AR)

2. REPORT NO: (b)(3):10 USC 424

TITLE: (U) POLITICAL MILITARY ARGENTINA VIEWS OF BEAGLE CHANNEL
DISPUTE

4. PROJECT NO: N/A

5. DATE OF INFO: 780111

6. DATE OF REPORT: 780112

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7. DATE AND PLACE OF ACQUISITION: 780111, BUENOS AIRES ARGENTINA

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

9. ASSESSMENT SOURCE INFO: B-2

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

11. REQUEST EVALUATION: N/A

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

13. APPROVING OFFICER:

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

16. SUMMARY: (C/NOPORN) THIS REPORT DESCRIBES ARGENTINE
(b)(1);1.4 (c) VIEWS ON THE CURRENT BEAGLE CHANNEL SITUATION.

(b)(1);1.4 (c) THIRD COUNTRY GOOD OFFICES MIGHT PREVENT CONFLICT BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND CHILE. THIS IS THE FIRST INDICATION THAT THE ARGENTINE NAVY MIGHT CONSIDER ANOTHER COUNTRY'S FORMAL ASSISTANCE NORTHWILE. BALANCING THIS INFORMATION, INCREASED FLEET READINESS AND EMBARKATION OF NAVY CINC WERE DESCRIBED AS TENSIONS INCREASE.

22. DETAILS: (C/NOPORN) (b)(1);1.4 (c)

LUNCHEON FOR [] AT ARGENTINE NAVAL HEADQUARTERS.

(b)(1);1.4 (c)

WERE ALSO PRESENT. AFTER OPENING THE SUBJECT, [] REVIEWED THE HISTORICAL DIVISION OF ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC WATERS, THEN TURNED TO STANCE TAKEN BY CHILE REGARDING TERRITORIAL WATERS. WITHOUT PROMPTING, (b)(1);1.4 (c) THAT INTERNAL POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS CONSTRAINED BOTH GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA AND GOVERNMENT OF CHILE FROM MAKING APPARENT CONCESSIONS; A THIRD PARTY (OTHER THAN THE BRITISH) COULD HELP ADD A NOTE OF IMPARTIALITY AND FACILITATE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS MENTIONED AS POSSIBLE IN THIS CONTEXT AS IMPARTIAL GOOD OFFICES WERE FRANCE, HOLLAND OR US.

2. (C/NOPORN)

(b)(1);1.4 (c)

[] WAS EMBARKED WITH ARGENTINE NAVAL UNITS ALONG WITH ADM LAMBRUSCHINI (C/S ARA). RETURN DATE TO PUERTO BELGRANO FOR THE UNITS WAS EXPECTED TO BE WITHIN TWO TO THREE WEEKS; (b)(1);1.4 (c) RETURN TO BUENOS AIRES WAS SCHEDULED FOR 12 JAN; ADM LAMBRUSCHINI WOULD BE AT-SEA UNTIL 13 JAN. (b)(1);1.4 (c) FURTHER RELATED THAT ADDITIONAL MARINE UNITS HAD MOVED SOUTH SINCE CHILE HAD ABROGATED PREVIOUS AGREEMENT NOT TO REINFORCE IN THE AREA, (b)(1);1.4 (c) THAT CHILE HAD DOUBLED

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(b)(1);1.4 (c)

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THEIR FORCE IN TWO OR THREE CRITICAL AREAS IN THE SOUTHERN AREA. THE EXISTENCE OF ARGENTINE CONTINGENCY PLANS AND READINESS TO MEET NATIONAL AND SECURITY RESPONSIBILITIES WAS (b)(1);1.4 (c) ALONG WITH REMINDER THAT PERUVIAN AND BOLIVIAN PROBLEMS WERE ALSO FACING CHILE. (b)(1);1.4 (c) CONCLUDED BY POINTING OUT PROSPECTS FOR A SUMMIT MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENTS VIDELA AND PINOCHET TO ATTEMPT RECONCILIATION SHORT OF CONFLICT.

(b)(1);1.4 (c)

SPEAKING FIRMLY, (b)(1);1.4 (c) THAT THE NAVY UNITS AT SEA HAVE INCREASED THE PROSPECT OF CONFLICT. AT THE SAME TIME, THE DOOR IS APPARENTLY NOT CLOSED TO FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS WITH MINISTERIAL, PRESIDENTIAL, OR THIRD COUNTRY PARTICIPATION IN THE SCENARIO. FLEET RETURN TO HOME PORT SPECIFIED IS PERHAPS KEYED TO A RESUMPTION OF MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS. SHOULD A NEW ROUND OF TALKS DEVELOP, WEATHER FACTORS IN THE AREA AFTER MARCH/APRIL COULD COOL THE SITUATION SINCE NAVAL INVOLVEMENT WOULD THEN BE MORE DIFFICULT. FURTHER DEVELOPMENT WILL BE REPORTED WHEN AVAILABLE. THIS MSG COORD W/AMEMBASSY, GDS

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