

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

MESSAGE

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ACTION DIA:

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DE RUEBBA #0366M 1001415

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P 101345Z APR 75

FM (b)(3):10 USC 424

TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC

INFO RULPALJ/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

RULPAKA/193RD INF BDGE FT AMADOR CZ

RULBSAA/USNAVSO FT AMADOR CZ

RULPAPA/USAFSO ALBROOK AFB CZ

BT

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

1. ARGENTINA

2. ACTIVITY AT GOVT HOUSE/ARMY HQS (U)

3. N/A

4. 1975 APR 7

5. 1975 APR 8

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

7.

8.

9. 1975 APR 9

10. N/A

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

12.

13. 8. 14. (b)(3):10 USC 424;(b)(6)

15. 1. ~~IC/NEO~~ UNUSUAL HELICOPTER ACTIVITY AT GOVT HOUSE WAS NOTHING MORE THAN GOVT'S SOLUTION TO GET MINISTERS TO CABINET MEETING WHEN CITY STREETS WERE BLOCKED BECAUSE OF TRANSIT STRIKE, LONG MEETING AT ARMY HQS WAS CALLED A "PERIODIC BRIEFING OF GENERAL

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STAFF BY ARMY CG ON 'LA ACTUALIDAD' (ACTUALITY/CURRENT SITUATION)".
MAJOR POINTS COVERED WERE:

- A. MISTONES ELECTION
- B. TRANSPORT STRIKE
- C. ECONOMIC SITUATION
- D. POLITICAL SITUATION
- E. AMNESTY
- F. TUCUMAN TERRORIST SITUATION
- G. ARMED FORCES (READ ARMY) ROLE IN GOVT.

MEETING LASTED TOTAL OF THREE AND ONE HALF HOURS, PERMITTED OFFICERS TO VENTILATE, LET ANAYA SEE FROM WHAT SECTORS HE MAY EVENTUALLY HAVE PROBLEMS. ON THE WHOLE HE CAME OUT OF MEETING STRONGER -- HE KNOWS HIS GENERAL STAFF IS UNHAPPY WITH HIM. PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF HIS LACK OF FIRM POSITION ON ANYTHING. BY LECTURING THEM FOR SEVERAL HOURS, TELLING THEM TO STAY IN LINE AND FOLLOW ORDERS, HE HAS SOMEWHAT REESTABLISHED HIMSELF AS CINC.

OPINIONS OF SEVERAL OFFICERS WHO ATTENDED BRIEFING WERE AS FOLLOWS:

A. ECONOMIC SITUATION A DISASTER. ARMY FEELS MIN ECON GOMEZ MORALES IS TRYING HARD TO SOLVE MONUMENTAL PROBLEMS, BUT HAS HIS HANDS TIED BY LOPEZ REGA. ARMY EXPECTS GOMEZ MORALES TO DEMAND A FREER HAND IN SOLVING ECONOMIC SITUATION OR OPT OUT (RESIGN).

B. ARMY THINKS COUNTRY CONTINUES TO STUMBLE ALONG POLITICALLY IN A VOID OF POWER EXCEPT FOR THE EXCESSIVE POWER WIELDED BY ISABEL'S PRIVATE SECRETARY LOPEZ REGA. ARMY WANTS HIM OUT NOW, BUT IS NOT PREPARED TO PUSH ITS DEMAND.

C. AMNESTY OF COLORADOS (1962-63), COLONELS GROUP (EARLY 71), AND MIN-COUP GROUP OF OFFICERS IN AZUL-TANDIL-OLAVARRIA UP-RISING (OCT 71) WAS EXPLAINED. AMNESTY OF THESE GROUPS WAS ENTHUSIASTICALLY RECEIVED (FIRST GROUP WANTED A MILITARY DICTATORSHIP, LOST TO AZULES, THEN LATER SAW AZULES DO IN 1966 JUST WHAT THEY HAD PROPOSED IN 1962 -- SECOND AND THIRD GROUPS WERE ANTI-LANUSSE, AND AS LANUSSE IS NOW CONSIDERED THE GOAT FOR PERON'S RETURN THE OFFICERS WHO ACTED AGAINST HIM ARE NOW HEROES).

D. ARMY IS STILL TRYING TO CONVINCE ITSELF THAT EVERYTHING IS GOING GREAT IN TUCUMAN COUNTER-INSURGENCY CAMPAIGN. ARMY CG ANAYA GOT FEW TAKERS, HOWEVER, AS NEWS FROM TUCUMAN IS NOT GOOD.

E. THE BIG TOPIC WAS ARMY'S ROLE IN GOVT (WHICH REALLY MEANS DOES IT ACT NOW OR LATER, AS IT NOW IS TALKING ABOUT THE "NECESSITY" FOR ITS ONCE AGAIN PLACING ITSELF IN POLITICAL

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ARENA). DECISION, WITH GENERAL APPROVAL OF STAFF, WAS TO FOLLOW THE CHILEAN EXAMPLE AND WAIT TO ACT UNTIL THE LAST POSSIBLE MOMENT (PROS AND CONS OF THIS SOLUTION HAVE BEEN REPORTED PREVIOUSLY BUT IT BEARS REPEATING THAT IN ARGENTINA THE ARMY WILL PUT OFF MOVING AGAINST THE GOVT UNTIL THE LAST MOMENT FOR THREE PRIMARY REASONS -- ARMY PRESENTLY HAS NO LEADER STRONG ENOUGH TO PULL OFF SUCH A MOVE; ARMY IS STILL SMARTING FROM ITS LAST EXPERIENCE IN GOVT AND WANTS TO PUT OFF POSSIBLE REPETITION OF SUCH AGONY AS LONG AS POSSIBLE; ARMY WILL PROCRASTINATE AS LONG AS POSSIBLE BECAUSE THERE IS NO REAL CONSENSUS ON HOW TO MOVE, GOALS, ALLIES, METHODS, ETC. THIS LAST POINT PROBABLY THE MOST IMPORTANT -- WHILE MOST EVERYONE AGREES THAT THE "CHILEAN SOLUTION" IS WHAT IS NEEDED IN ARGENTINA, NO TWO OFFICERS AGREE ON JUST WHAT THE "CHILEAN SOLUTION" MEANS HERE, AND UNTIL THEY CAN AGREE ON WHAT IS TO BE DONE AND HOW TO DO IT, ANY MOVE WILL BE PREMATURE AND, IN ALL PROBABILITY, A CHINESE FIRE DRILL. ~~NO FORN TO AVOID COMPROMISE OF SOURCE IN UNIQUE POSITION. 000 DEC 81.~~

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