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162053Z OCT 95

FROM

FM (b)(3):10 USC 424

TO

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CONTROLS

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SERIAL: (U) IIR (b)(3):10 USC 424

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

COUNTRY: (U) **ARGENTINA (AR)**.

SUBJ: IIR (b)(3):10 USC 424 ARMY CHIEF DECLINES COMMENT ON
PARDONS FOR REBELS (U)

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT
FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 950921.

REQS: (U) (b)(3):10 USC 424

SOURCE: (U) DAILY NEWSPAPER "CLARIN", BUENOS AIRES,
ARGENTINA, 950921 (U), IN SPANISH. INDEPENDENT-
MODERATE NEWSPAPER WITH NATIONALIST ORIENTATION WHICH
PRESENTS A WIDE RANGE OF VIEWS AND INFORMATION.
CRITICAL OF MENEM ADMISITRATION, PARTICULARLY IN
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL MATTERS. INFLUENTIAL WITH TOP
POLICYMAKERS, POLITICIANS AND CONGRESSMEN.

SUMMARY: (U) ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, LTG MARTIN ((BALZA))
DECLINED COMMENT WHEN ASKED BY MEDIA ABOUT A POSSIBLE
PARDON FOR EITHER LEFTIST OR RIGHTIST REBELS. BALZA
STATED THAT SUCH AN OPINION IS OUTSIDE HIS AUTHORITY.

TEXT: 1. (U) ARGENTINE ARMY (ARGARM) CHIEF OF STAFF,
GENERAL **MARTIN ANTONIO BALZA** DECLINED COMMENT DURING A
PRESS INTERVIEW ON 950919 WHEN ASKED ABOUT POSSIBLE
PARDONS FOR MEMBERS OF THE "MOVIMIENTO TODOS POR LA
PATRIA"--MTP (ALL FOR THE FATHERLAND MOVEMENT) AND FOR
THE "CARAPINTADAS" OF THE LAST ANTI-GOVERNMENT MILITARY

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UPRISING.

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

2. (U) DURING THE IMPROMPTU PRESS INTERVIEW, WHILE GENERAL BALZA WAS OBSERVING A TRAINING EXERCISE AT THE THIRD CORPS HEADQUARTERS IN CORDOBA, HE STATED THAT THE SUBJECT OF PARDONS WAS NOT WITHIN HIS AUTHORITY TO DISCUSS PUBLICLY. HE FURTHER STATED THAT, FROM NEWSPAPER REPORTS HE HAD READ, PRESIDENT CARLOS ((MENEM)) HAD BEEN VERY CLEAR IN DENYING REPORTS OF ANY IMMINENT PARDONS OF THE PARTICULAR GROUPS CITED. NEVERTHELESS, GENERAL BALZA ADDED THAT PACIFICATION BETWEEN ALL ARGENTINES IS THE OBJECTIVE SHARED BY ALL AND FOR WHICH ALL SHOULD PREDISPOSE THEIR SPIRITS.

COMMENTS: 1. (U) SOURCE COMMENTS. ON 17 SEP 95, SOURCE PUBLISHED REPORTS BASED ON INFORMATION FROM UNSPECIFIED POLITICAL AND MILITARY SOURCES TO THE EFFECT THAT SUBJECT PARDONS WERE BEING CONSIDERED BY THE PRESIDENT. PRESIDENT MENEM HAS ALREADY AUTHORIZED PARDONS FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL RESPONSIBLE FOR ILLEGAL ACTIONS DURING THE SO-CALLED "DIRTY WAR," FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVOKING THE SOUTH ATLANTIC WAR, FOR THE FIRST "CARAPINTADA" UPRISING (DURING THE RAUL ((ALFONSIN)) GOVERNMENT), AND FOR FORMER GUERRILLA LEADERS OF THE 1970'S.

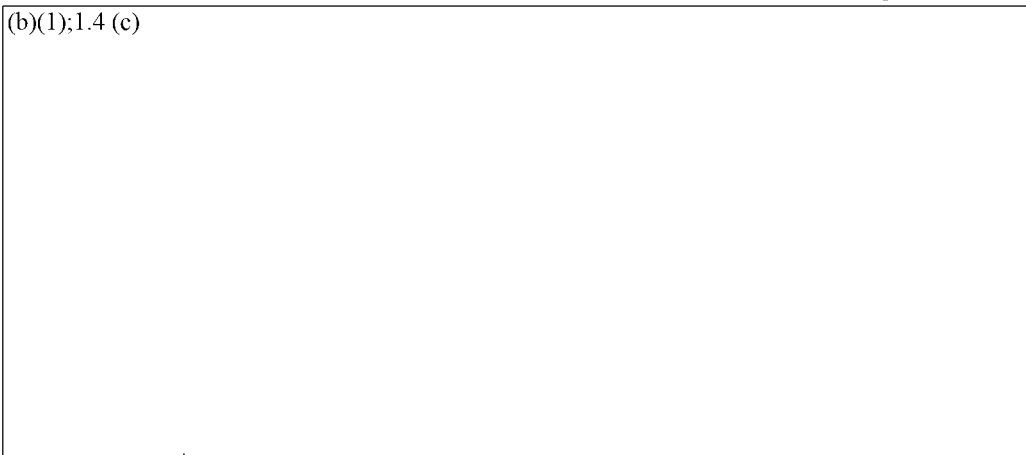
2. (U) OPPOSITION RADICAL PARTY SPOKESMEN, FERNANDO ((DE LA RUA)) AND JORGE ((VANOSSI)) WERE AMONG THE FIRST TO REJECT REPORTS OF ADDITIONAL PARDONS, STATING THAT THE LAW IS TO BE OBEYED. ON THE OTHER HAND, CATHOLIC PRIEST ANTONIO ((PUIGJANE)), WHO IS SERVING 20 YEARS IN CASEROS PRISON FOR HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE LA TABLADA ATTACK, EXPRESSED ON 19 SEP 95 THAT SUCH A PARDON WOULD BE WELCOME. OTHER IMPRISONED MTP LEADERS INDICATED THAT THEY FAVORED A FULL AMNESTY.

3. (U) THE HEAD OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCAY ORGANIZATION CENTER FOR LEGAL AND SOCIAL STUDIES

(CELS), EMILION ((MIGNONE)), EXPRESSED APPROVAL FOR A PARDON OF MTP MEMBERS BUT REJECTED A SIMILAR PARDON FOR THE "CARAPINTADAS." MIGNONE SAID THE MTP MEMBERS WERE YOUNG IDEALISTS WHO ALLOWED THEMSELVES TO BE INFILTRATED AND MISLED BY CRIMINAL DOUBLE AGENT ENRIQUE ((GORRIARAN MERLO)) (NFI) WHILE THE "CARAPINTADAS" COMMITTED SEDITION.

4. (U) DESPITE THE PUBLIC DENIAL OF THE REPORTED PARDONS, AN UNSPECIFIED PRESIDENTIAL STAFF MEMBER INDICATED OBLIQUELY THAT IF ANYONE WERE CONSIDERING SUCH A PARDON, THE LEAK OF THE NEWS WOULD CAUSE THE DECISION TO BE POSTPONED. SOURCE HAD EARLIER REPORTED AN ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD BE MADE AS EARLY AS OCTOBER.

(b)(1);1.4 (c)



//IPSP: (U)
//COMSOBJ: (U)
ADMIN
PROJ: (U).
INSTR: (U)
PREP: (U)
ACQ: (U)
DISSEM: (U)

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