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

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HEADER

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FM DIA WASHINGTON DC

INFO RUENAAA/CNO WASHINGTON DC

RUEAHQA/CSAF WASHINGTON DC

RUEACMC/CMC WASHINGTON DC

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

RUCBSAA/CINCUSACOM NORFOLK VA (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

RUWSMXI/AMC INTEL CEN SCOTT AFB IL//IN//

RUCQVAB/USCINCSOC CEN MACDILL AFB FL

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RUEHC /SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC

RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC

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RUDMGRD/COGARD WASHINGTON DC

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TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC

INFO RUEAHQA/SAF WASHDC (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

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

BODY

COUNTRY: (U) ARGENTINA (AR). (b)(3):10 USC 424

SUBJ: [REDACTED] ARGENTINE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF
PLACES ARMY RESTRUCTURING IN PERSPECTIVE (U)
WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT
FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED

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- DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 941027.

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

SOURCE: (U) DAILY NEWSPAPER, "LA PRENSA," BUENOS
AIRES, ARGENTINA, 941028 (U), IN SPANISH. INDEPENDENT-
CONSERVATIVE NEWSPAPER WHICH USUALLY SUPPORTS THE US
AND HAS AN INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION FOR INTEGRITY.
INFLUENTIAL WITH POLITICIANS AND THE MILITARY.

SUMMARY: (U) ARGENTINE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, GENERAL
MARTIN ANTONIO ((BALZA)), DESCRIBES THE PRIMARY ROLE OF
THE ARMY AS AN INSTRUMENT OF DISSUASION OF AGGRESSION
AND EXPRESSES SATISFACTION WITH ITS RECENT UTILIZATION
IN INTERNATIONAL PEACE KEEPING.

TEXT: 1. (U) IN A NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW, ARGENTINE
ARMY (ARGARM) CHIEF OF STAFF, GENERAL **MARTIN ANTONIO
((BALZA))**, DESCRIBED THE PRIMARY ROLE OF THE ARMY AS
THAT OF AN INSTRUMENT OF THE NATIONAL AUTHORITY TO
DISSUADE AGGRESSION AND ENFORCE ITS FOREIGN POLICIES.
GENERAL BALZA SEES THE ARGARM'S RECENT EMPLOYMENT IN

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PEACE KEEPING MISSIONS ABROAD AS FULLY CONSISTENT WITH THE LATTER ROLE, AND HE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH HIS FORCE'S CONSIDERABLE INVOLVEMENT WITH SUCH MISSIONS SINCE 1992.

2. (U) **GENERAL BALZA** RELATED THAT THE ARGARM CURRENTLY HAS 1300 PERSONNEL DEPLOYED IN PEACE KEEPING MISSIONS OVERSEAS, INCLUDING 900 IN CROATIA, 270 IN CYPRUS, 55 IN KUWAIT, AND UNSPECIFIED NUMBERS IN OTHER LOCATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, MOZAMBIQUE, ANGOLA, AND WESTERN SAHARA. HE ADDED THAT THE ARGENTINE NAVY HAS 103 PERSONNEL AND THE AIR FORCE HAS TWO IN CYPRUS, AS WELL. WHILE HE DOES NOT FEEL THAT THIS EMPLOYMENT OF THE ARGARM WAS EVER IMAGINED A FEW YEARS AGO, THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE ARGENTINE ARMED FORCES IN RECENT YEARS HAS COMPLEMENTED AND FACILITATED ITS REORIENTATION AS A MAJOR PLAYER IN INTERNATIONAL PEACE KEEPING.

3. (U) WITH REGARD TO THE CONCERNS RAISED BY THE CHIEFS OF STAFF OF THE ARGENTINE ARMED FORCES SEVERAL WEEKS AGO ABOUT THE WELFARE OF MILITARY PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES IN THE WAKE OF SEVERE BUDGETARY AUSTERITY, **GENERAL BALZA** EXPRESSED OPTIMISM THAT THE COMMISSION WORKING THE BUDGETARY ISSUE IN THE JOINT STAFF WOULD ARRIVE AT A VIABLE SOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH THE MILITARY AND GOVERNMENT (NFI). HE ADDED THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A VOLUNTEER MILITARY NEXT YEAR IS ADEQUATELY FUNDED AND THAT IT IS A POSITIVE STEP OF WHICH HE HAS BEEN AN ADVOCATE SINCE RETURNING FROM THE FALKLANDS/MALVINAS WAR IN 1982.

4. (U) **GENERAL BALZA** DISMISSES THE SUGGESTION THAT HE BE NICKNAMED THE "DEMOCRACY GENERAL," STATING THAT (NOT WITHSTANDING SOME LAMENTABLE ERRORS OF THE PAST) THE ARGARM HAS ALWAYS BEEN INVESTED WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY. CONCERNING THOSE UNSPECIFIED ERRORS, **BALZA**

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INDICATED THAT ONE CANNOT CHANGE THE PAST; HOWEVER, THE LESSONS OF THE PAST SHOULD BE STUDIED OBJECTIVELY WITH HUMILITY AND SELF-CRITICISM. THE GENERAL CITED THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE ARMY AS A POSITIVE RESULT OF SUCH DELIBERATION.

5. (U) WHEN ASKED IF ARGENTINE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE, LIMITED AS IT IS TO OPERATIONS AGAINST FOREIGN THREATS, IS CAPABLE OF DEALING WITH INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, **BALZA** REPLIED THAT MILITARY INTELLIGENCE IS PREPARED TO CARRY OUT ITS MISSION WITHIN THE LIMITS IMPOSED ON IT BY THE LAW. HE ADDED THAT THIS REQUIRES DISCRETION, AND HE COMMENTED THAT ONLY IN ARGENTINA IS SO MUCH MENTION MADE OF SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS IN THE PUBLIC MEDIA.

6. (U) **GENERAL BALZA** DECLINED COMMENT ON THE RECENT CONTROVERSY IN THE ARGENTINE NAVY REGARDING THE ADMISSION BY MIDDLE-LEVEL OFFICERS OF PARTICIPATION IN ACTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE DURING THE SO CALLED "DIRTY WAR" (CITE: IIR 6 804 0012 95). HE INDICATED THAT IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR HIM TO COMMENT ON SUCH MATTERS INTERNAL TO A SISTER SERVICE. WHEN ASKED HOW HE WOULD HANDLE A SIMILAR SITUATION IF IT WERE TO OCCUR IN THE ARMY, **BALZA** REMARKED THAT HE WOULD "CROSS THAT BRIDGE WHEN HE CAME TO IT." SIMILARLY, WHEN ASKED HIS OPINION OF A REQUEST BY MODIN POLITICIAN ARTURO ((FRONDIZI)) FOR AMNESTY FOR JAILED "CARAPINTADA" COLONEL MOHAMED ALI ((SEINELDIN)) AND HIS FOLLOWERS, **GENERAL BALZA** INDICATED THE MATTER IS A POLITICAL ONE IN WHICH THE MILITARY HAS NO ROLE.

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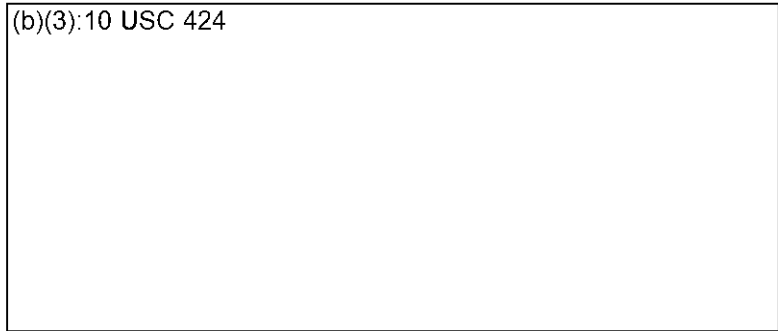
GENERAL BALZA CONTINUES TO REPRESENT THE IMAGE OF A MATURED, PROFESSIONAL ARGARM, DEDICATED TO ITS ROLE AS A SUBORDINATE ARM OF THE DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES.

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HIS PREEMINENT ROLE AS SENIOR OFFICER OF THE ARGENTINE ARMED FORCES HAS PROVIDED A STRONG INFLUENCE OF REASON AND PROFESSIONALISM WITHIN THE OFFICER CORPS DURING THE DIFFICULT, SOMETIMES PAINFUL, PROCESS OF RESTRICTING THE ARMED FORCES. IT IS NOT HARD TO IMAGINE A MUCH MORE TURBULENT ARGENTINA DURING THIS PROCESS WERE IT NOT FOR HIS INFLUENCE.

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