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DINSUM 189A-83



DEFENSE
INTELLIGENCE
AGENCY

(b)(3); 10 USC 424

Defense Intelligence Summary

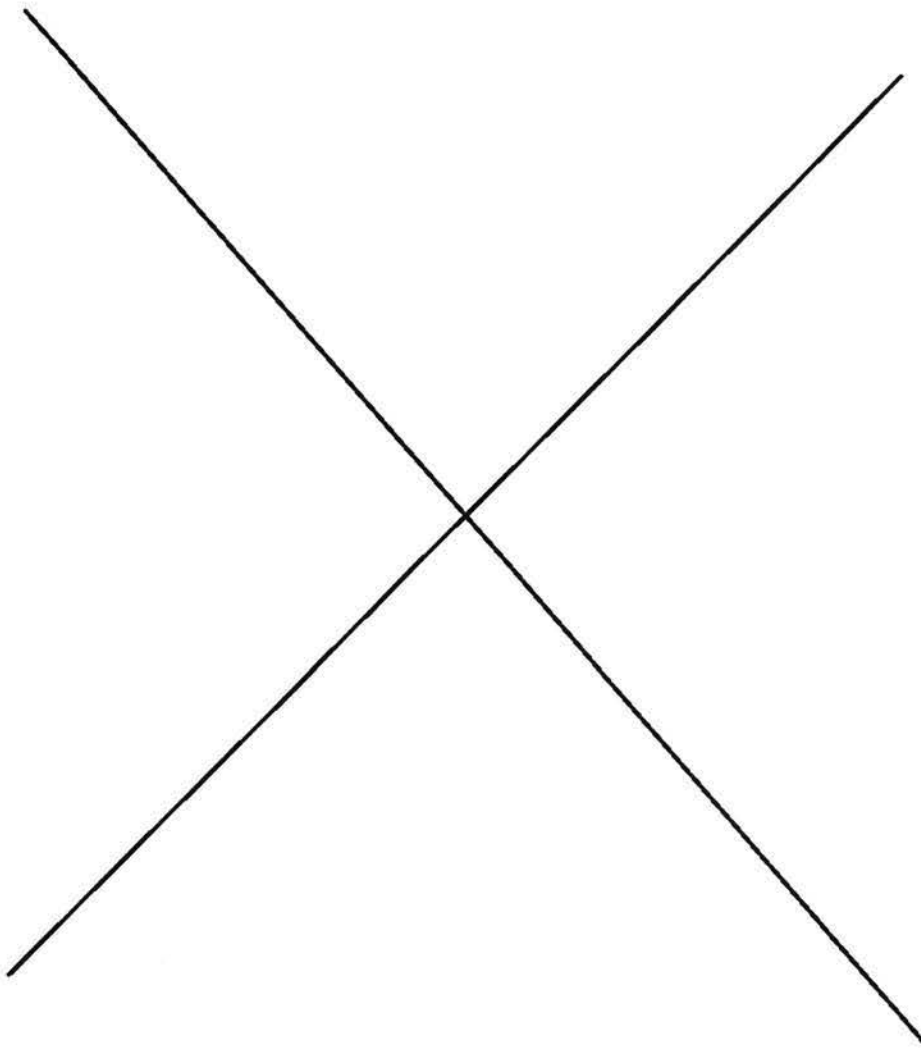
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ARGENTINA: Amnesty Law Decreed. (U)

(U) On 23 September, the military government decreed an amnesty law granting immunity to military members, security force personnel, and to suspected terrorists accused of human rights abuses during the military's antisubversive campaign who have not yet been charged or punished.

(U) The period covered dates from the assumption of power by the last constitutional government in May 1973 to the installation of President Bignone in June 1982. Article five of the decree states, in part, that none of the above-cited individuals can be interrogated, investigated, or summoned to testify in cases related to terrorism that occurred during the specified time frame. Individuals with subversive backgrounds or connections who reside abroad are excluded from amnesty.

COMMENT: ~~(S/NE)~~ Leading presidential candidates for the 30 October general elections as well as human rights activists and other political figures have expressed their opposition to the decree and vowed to take measures to nullify it when a new congress is formed. In the unlikely event this occurs and legal proceedings against military or security force personnel are initiated, the question of a civil court's jurisdiction over military personnel would be subject to a prolonged debate. An institutional act issued by the Junta last April was designed to preclude retribution by future civilian governments and could, if necessary, be used to give military courts exclusive jurisdiction over all military personnel accused of crimes during the antiterrorist campaign. Although opposition political sectors and presidential hopefuls may well continue their sharp criticism of the amnesty, virtually all sectors realize that an upheaval could ensue if large groups within the military are prosecuted. Hence, they are likely to move most carefully in that regard. ~~(DDCL-CAAR)~~

DIAIDN 269-13A as of 1805 EDT 26 Sep 83

Prepared by:

(b)(3):10 USC 424

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BOLIVIA: President Defines Political Position. (U)

~~(C/NF)~~ In a recent, widely publicized news interview in Venezuela, President Hernan Siles Zuazo characterized his political position as "moderate left" and termed his party (the National Revolutionary Movement of the Left/MNRI) "an alliance of classes" rather than a Marxist model of the "dictatorship of the proletariat."

~~(C/NF)~~ Siles accused the far left of artificially creating problems and trying to foment strife. However, he differentiated the objectives of the Bolivian Communist Party (PCB) by specifically noting that the PCB had accepted the MNRI program when it entered his Democratic and Popular Unity coalition. Later, during a 14 September speech in Cochabamba, Siles reiterated his attack on the destabilization efforts of ultraleftist groups that have allegedly infiltrated the labor unions and are capitalizing on the country's economic problems to win political support. He warned he would not allow these subversive elements to lead the country into anarchy, and while he could not promise economic miracles, the government was prepared to take strong measures to confront the crisis.

~~(C/NF)~~ Siles' statements elicited a variety of reactions, ranging from relief on the part of the private sector that an "Allendization" of the government would not occur, to accusations by some on the far left that Siles was fundamentally a rightist.

COMMENT: ~~(C/NF)~~ The interview was characterized by many as Siles' long-awaited political definition in which he took a firm position against the far left. This, in concert with the Cochabamba speech that assured strong economic measures, and the appointment last month of a cabinet more moderate than Siles' in the past have given the President a much-needed political shot in the arm among centrists and has lent credence to the belief that his government is not in imminent danger of falling to a right-wing coup. Nevertheless, there are some rightist charges that Siles' tone of moderation is merely a ploy to forestall a coup. The proof will be found in what steps he takes to resolve the economic crisis. ~~(DECL- OADR)~~

DIADIN 270-14A as of 1729 EDT 27 Sep 83

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(b)(3):10 USC 424

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