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(b)(3):10 USC 424

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

1. COUNTRY: ARGENTINA (AR)/CHILE (CI)

2. REPORT NUMBER: (b)(3):10 USC 424

3. TITLE: HOSTILITIES-ARGENTINE INTENTION CONCERNING TROOP
PULLBACK AS BEAGLE CHANNEL DISPUTE MOVES TOWARD MEDIATION.

4. PROJECT NUMBER: N/A

5. DATE OF INFORMATION: 790115

6. DATE OF REPORT: 790116

7. DATE AND PLACE OF ACQUISITION: 790115, BUENOS AIRES

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

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9. ASSESSMENT: (b)(3):10 USC 424

10. ORIGINATOR

11. REQUEST EVALUATION: OMIT

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

13. APPROVING AUTHORITY

(b)(3):10 USC 424

14. SOURCE: (b)(3):10 USC 424

15. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: DIRC-NO. NOFORN. (b)(3):10 USC 424

(b)(3):10 USC 424

16. (C/NOFORN) SUMMARY: THIS REPORT FORWARDS INFORMATION WHICH INDICATED THAT ANY MOVEMENT OF ARGENTINE ARMY UNITS BACK TO HOME STATIONS FROM POSITIONS THEY ARE PRESENTLY OCCUPYING IN THE SOUTH AND ON THE BORDER WITH CHILEA WILL PROBABLY BE DONE AT A SLOW AND DELIBERATE PACE. ALSO INDICATED IS THE FACT THAT MILITARY SCHOOLS WHICH WERE CLOSED EARLIER THAN USUAL IN OCTOBER BECAUSE OF THE BEAGLE CHANNEL DISPUTE AND THE MOBILIZATION EXERCISE WILL NOT BE REOPENED UNTIL THE FIRST (1) OF MAY. THE SPEED WITH WHICH THE ARGENTINE ARMY RETURNS TO ITS NORMAL POSTURE PRIOR TO THE MOBILIZATION EXERCISE WILL DEPEND ON WHAT ACTIONS CHILE TAKES CONCERNING ITS TROOP DEPLOYMENT AND WHAT CONCRETE RESULTS CAN BE REACHED BETWEEN CHILE AND ARGENTINA, WITH THE POPE ACTING AS MEDIATOR.

22. (C/NOFORN) DETAILS: 1.

(b)(1);1.4 (c)

WHEN THE WAR SCHOOL WAS CLOSED EARLY BECAUSE OF THE BEAGLE DISPUTE,

(b)(1);1.4 (c)

BRING THE ARGENTINE ARMY UNITS FROM THEIR MOBILIZATION POSITIONS BACK TO THEIR HOME STATIONS. (b)(1);1.4 (c) THIS WOULD BE DONE SLOWLY SO AS NOT TO BE PUT AT A DISADVANTAGE IF THE MEDIATIONS FELL APART. THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY AND PART OF MARCH, ACCORDING (b)(1);1.4 (c) WOULD BE USED FOR LEAVES AND PASSES. MARCH AND APRIL WOULD BE NEEDED FOR PLANNING. BY PLANNING, (b)(1);1.4 (c) WAS REFERRING TO PLANNING FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR, AS A RESULT OF THE MOBILIZATION EXERCISE, NOTHING HAD BEEN DONE TO PREPARE FOR THE NEW MILITARY SCHOOL YEAR WHICH NORMALLY STARTS IN MARCH. (b)(1);1.4 (c) HE DID NOT THINK — WOULD BE (b)(1);1.4 (c) UNTIL THE END OF APRIL OR THE FIRST

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WEEK IN MAY.

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2. (C/NOFORN)

(b)(1);1.4 (c)

DEMOBILIZE AND GET THINGS BACK ON A NORMAL FOOTING. (b)(1);1.4 (c) DID NOT SEE ANY RAPID MOVE TO GET ALL THE TROOPS HOME. (b)(1);1.4 (c) THAT MUCH DEPENDED UPON THE POPE ACTING AS MEDIATOR BETWEEN CHILE AND ARGENTINA AND WHAT ACTION THE CHILEANS TAKE CONCERNING THEIR TROOP DISPOSITION. (b)(1);1.4 (c) THAT IF ARGENTINA WAS TO MOVE BACK TO THEIR TROOP DISPOSITION PRIOR TO JANUARY, 1977 THEY WOULD BE AT A DISTINCT DISADVANTAGE FROM A MILITARY POINT OF VIEW. A RETURN TO TROOPS DISPOSITION AS OF 770101 HAS BEEN PUBLICIZED AS ONE OF THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE POPE WOULD ACCEPT THE ROLE OF MEDIATOR. (b)(1);1.4 (c) THAT THE CHILEANS KNEW BETTER THAN THE ARGENTINES WHAT THE RESULTS OF THE ARBITRATION DECISION OVER THE BEAGLE CHANNEL ISLANDS WOULD BE. PRIOR TO 7701, CHILE HAD, (b)(1);1.4 (c) MADE PREPARATIONS FOR CALLING UP ITS RESERVES. IN THE SOUTH IN 7701, THE CHILEAN FORCES WERE MORE FAVORABLY DEPLOYED THAN THE ARGENTINES. (b)(1);1.4 (c) THAT ARGENTINA WOULD NOT INTRODUCE NEW COMBAT UNITS IN THE SOUTH BUT THEY WOULD ALSO NOT BE OVERLY ANXIOUS TO MOVE TROOPS OUT OF THE AREA. (b)(1);1.4 (c) WAS OF THE OPINION THAT THE RESERVES RECENTLY CALLED UP WOULD BE SENT HOME AND SLOW MOVEMENT OF UNITS BACK TO THEIR HOME STATION WOULD TAKE PLACE DEPENDING UPON WHAT ACTION THE POPE TOOK AS MEDIATOR. (b)(1);1.4 (c) TIME WOULD BE NEEDED, PROBABLY IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH, FOR THE ARMY TO TAKE LEAVES AND PASSES. (b)(1);1.4 (c) THAT CHANGES IN ASSIGNMENTS WOULD ALSO BE TAKING PLACE DURING THIS TIME PERIOD AND HE DID NOT THINK THAT THE NORMAL MILITARY SCHOOL YEAR WOULD BEGIN BEFORE THE LAST PART OF APRIL OR THE FIRST WEEK OF MAY. COMMENT: (C) (b)(1);1.4 (c) HAVE STATED THAT THEY BELIEVE THAT THE DISPUTE WITH CHILE OVER THE BEAGLE CHANNEL CAN BE SETTLED PEACEFULLY WITH THE POPE ACTING AS A MEDIATOR. (b)(1);Sec. 1.4(c) HAVE STATED THAT THE POPE HAS NOT ENTERED INTO OTHER DISPUTES AROUND THE WORLD, AND IT WOULD BE DISGRACEFUL FOR EITHER COUNTRY TO TAKE MILITARY ACTION WHILE THE POPE IS MEDIATING. HOWEVER, THE SAME

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(b)(1);1.4(c)

THAT TO PULL BACK ARGENTINE TROOPS PREMATURELY
COULD ALSO BE DISASTROUS, AND COULD PUT ARGENTINA IN A WEAK
NEGOTIATING POSITION.

THIS MSG AMEMBASSY COORDINATED.

DECL 16 JAN 1999

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