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FROM

FM (b)(3):10 USC 424

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CONTROLS

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SERIAL: (U) IIR

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

BODY

COUNTRY: (U) ARGENTINA (AR)

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SUBJ: IIR RETIRED NAVY CAPTAIN ON THE RUN GIVES HIMSELF UP (U)

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

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 981230.

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

SOURCE: (U) DAILY NEWSPAPER, "BUENOS AIRES HERALD", BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA, 981230 (U), IN ENGLISH.

INDEPENDENT-LIBERAL NEWSPAPER WHICH HAS BEEN A FIRM DEFENDER OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND A FREQUENT CRITIC OF THE GOVERNMENT. CONSIDERED INFLUENTIAL WITH POLICY MAKERS, POLITICIANS, MILITARY OFFICERS AND BUSINESSMEN.

SUMMARY: (U) AFTER 14 DAYS ON THE RUN, RETIRED NAVY CAPTAIN JORGE ((ACOSTA)) (AKA "TIGRE") HANDED HIMSELF IN AND WAS TAKEN TO COURT TO TESTIFY ON THE THEFT OF BABIES DURING THE LAST MILITARY DICTATORSHIP.

TEXT: 1. (U) AFTER 14 DAYS ON THE RUN RETIRED NAVY CAPTAIN JORGE ((ACOSTA)), HANDED HIMSELF IN. ON 981215, JUDGE ADOLFO BAGNASCO ISSUED A NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ARREST WARRANT AGAINST ACOSTA, WHO FAILED TO TURN UP TO TESTIFY IN A PROBE INTO WHETHER THERE WAS

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"A SYSTEMATIC PLAN" TO KIDNAP CHILDREN BORN TO POLITICAL PRISONERS IN ILLEGAL DETENTION CENTERS DURING THE 1976-83 MILITARY DICTATORSHIP (CITE IIR (b)(3):10 USC 424)

(b)(3):10 U SUBJ: TWO MORE FORMER NAVY OFFICERS ACCUSED ON THE CHILD ABDUCTION CASE DURING THE DIRTY WAR; DTG 171938Z DEC 98).

2. (U) ON THE MORNING OF 981229, ACOSTA SHOWED UP AT THE ARGNAV HEADQUARTERS AND WAS IMMEDIATELY STRIPPED OF HIS RANK BY ARGNAV CHIEF CARLOS ((MARRON)). A LAW SAYS THAT ANY MEMBER OF THE MILITARY WHO IS DECLARED "IN REBELLION" BY A JUDGE SHOULD BE EXPELLED FROM THE ARMED FORCES.

3. (U) ACCORDING TO SOURCE, THE JUDGE, HOWEVER, IS EXPECTED TO OVERRULE HIS EARLIER DECISION THAT ACOSTA WAS "IN REBELLION", MEANING THE FORMER CAPTAIN COULD BE REINSTATED.

4. (U) RETIRED CAPTAIN JORGE ACOSTA, WHO WAS HEAD OF OPERATIONS AT THE MOST NOTORIOUS **TORTURE** CENTER LOCATED AT THE NAVY MECHANICS SCHOOL (ESMA), HAD MANAGED TO AVOID THE POLICE SEARCH UNTIL HE DECIDED TO "PRESENT HIMSELF VOLUNTARILY" AT THE NAVY HEADQUARTERS.

5. (U) AFTER ACOSTA WAS TOLD OF HIS DISCHARGE FROM THE ARGNAV, HE WAS TAKEN TO COURT, WHERE HE TESTIFIED IN FRONT OF FEDERAL JUDGE ADOLFO ((BAGNASCO)). AFTER THE FIRST ROUND OF TESTIMONY, BAGNASCO ORDERED HIS INCARCERATION AT THE **CAMPO DE MAYO** BARRACKS.

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COMMENTS: 1. (C) — COMMENTS. THE MILITARY CONTINUES TO COOPERATE WITH CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES WITHOUT HESITATION ON THE INVESTIGATION OF CHILD ABDUCTION CASES.

2. (U) THE INVESTIGATION ON CHILD ABDUCTION CASES IS EXPECTED TO LAST FOR A WHILE AND MORE INDICTMENTS OF FORMER HIGH RANKING MILITARY OFFICIALS IS EXPECTED. IN THE MEANTIME RETIRED CAPTAIN JORGE ((ACOSTA)) WILL REMAIN IN JAIL UNTIL THE TRIAL TAKES PLACE.

3. (U) SOURCE IS NOT AVAILABLE FOR FURTHER EXPLOITATION/CONTACT REGARDING THE CONTENTS OF THIS IIR,

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ADMIN

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

PREP: (U)

(b)(3) 10 USC 424

ACT: (U) BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA (981230).

DECEM: (U) — USEMB, BUENOS AIRES AR.

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DRV FROM: DHS SCG, OCTOBER 97.

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