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

1. COUNTRY: ARGENTINA (AR)

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

3. TITLE: (U) POLITICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL - CHANGE OF ARGENTINE NAVY CINC

4. PROJECT NUMBER: N/A

5. DATE OF INFORMATION: 780830

6. DATE OF REPORT: 780901

7. DATE AND PLACE OF ACQUISITION: 780839, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

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

9. ASSESSMENT: A. SOURCE INFO (b)(3):10 USC 424

B. SOURCE INFO (b)(3):10 USC 424

10. ORIGINATOR: (b)(3):10 USC 424

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11. REQUEST EVALUATION: OMIT

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

13. APPROVING AUTHORITY

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

8. FBIS 780826, DTG 261850Z AUG 78

15. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: DIRC-NO

16. SUMMARY: ~~(C)~~ THIS REPORT DESCRIBES DIFFERENCES IN LEADERSHIP STYLE LIKELY TO BE NOTED AFTER 780815, WHEN VADM LAMBRUSCHINE RELIEVES RETIRING ADM MASSERA AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARGENTINE NAVY. ALSO NOTED IS THE PROSPECT FOR REDUCED NAVY INFLUENCE IN THE JUNTA DECISION PROCESS.

22. DETAILS: ~~(C)~~

Sec. 3.3(b) (1)

ASSESSMENT OF THE

DEPARTING AND RELIEVING ARGENTINE NAVY COMMANDERS. HE STATED THAT ADMIRAL MASSERA WAS POLITICALLY ACTIVE FROM THE TIME HE WAS A MIDSHIPMAN. SINCE HIS EARLIEST DAYS IN THE ARGENTINE NAVY, WHILE HIS CONTEMPORARIES WERE TALKING AMONG THEMSELVES, MASSERA TOOK EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO INTERACT WITH INFLUENTIAL MEMBERS OF THE ARGENTINE SOCIETY. AS LIEUTENANT HE WAS DETAILED AS MILITARY AIDE TO A GOVERNMENT MINISTER. SOURCE REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED THAT THE CURRENT COMMANDER TO THE ARGENTINE NAVY WAS A NATURAL POLITICIAN. SOURCE POINTED OUT THAT WHEN FACED WITH OPPOSITION, ADMIRAL MASSERA COULD FIND A WAY TO GET HIS POINT OF VIEW OUT IN THE OPEN EVEN THOUGH THE OTHER JUNTA MEMBERS WERE UNITED AGAINST HIM. SOURCE WAS VERY EMPHATIC IN POINTING OUT THE ACTIONS TAKEN BY ADMIRAL MASSERA WERE ACCOMPLISHED WITH BROAD-BASED SUPPORT FROM THE ACTIVE DUTY ADMIRALS AND REAR-ADMIRALS. HE IMPLIED THAT THIS WAS AN UNVARYING PRACTICE OF ADMIRAL MASSERA, THAT IS, THE ADMIRAL ALWAYS DISCUSSED POLICY WITH AND ACHIEVED CONSENSUS AMONG HIS OWN SERVICE'S FLAG OFFICERS.

2. ~~(C)~~ FORECASTING WHAT CHANGES WERE LIKELY AS VICE-ADMIRAL LAMBRUSCHINI TOOK COMMAND TO THE ARGENTINE NAVY, SOURCE NOTED THAT THE NEW CINC WOULD BE ABLE TO CHOOSE HIS OWN SENIOR STAFF WITHOUT REFERENCE TO OTHER AUTHORITY. Sec. 3.3(b) (1)

Sec. 3.3(b) (1)

NO INFORMATION WAS YET AVAILABLE TO THE ARGENTINE NAVY FLAG OFFICERS ABOUT WHO WOULD BE ASKED TO RETIRE. Sec. 3.3(b) (1)

Sec. 3.3(b) (1)

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THE RECENT DEATH (BY TERRORIST BOMBING) OF VADM LABRUSCHINI'S DAUGHTER WAS POSSIBLY A FACTOR THAT HAD DELAYED SOME OF THE YET TO BE ANNOUNCED NEW FLAG OFFICERS ASSIGNMENTS.

3. (C) SOURCE ALSO COMMENTED THAT WHILE VADM LABRUSCHINI UNDOUBEDLY HAD A VERY WELL REGARDED APTITUDE FOR HIS FORTHCOMING RESPONSIBILITIES AS NAVY CINC, THERE WRE SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES LIKELY IN JUNTA INTERACTION. WITH THE CHANGE IN JUNTA MEMBERSHIP, SOURCE BELIEVED THAT LESS PARTICIPATION IN THE GIVE AND TAKE PATTERN WOULD BE CHARACTERISTIC OF VADM LABRUSCHINI AS A JUNTA MEMBER. NOTING THAT THE PRESENT NAVY CINC, ADM MASSERA, HAS PROPOSED CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT POLICY WHICH REFLECT HIS SENSITIVITY IN RESPONDING TO A VARIETY OF POLITICAL STIMULI, SOURCE FORECAST A LESS ACTIVE ROLE IN THIS ARENA FOR VADM LABRUSCHINI SINCE HE DOES NOT HAVE SO EXTENSIVE A FIELD OF CONTACTS OUTSIDE THE ARGENTINE NAVY.

COMMENT: (C)

Sec. 3.3(b) (1)

THE

POLITICAL FACTORS IN PROVIDING A GOVERNMENT RESPONSIVE TO ARGENTINE NEEDS HAVE OCCUPIED MUCH OF THE NATIONS ARMED FORCES ATTENTION; ADM MASSERA HAS DEVELOPED POLISHED SKILL IN PUBLICALLY RESPONDING TO POPULAR CONCERNS. HIS SPEECHES, USE OF "LEAKED INFORMATION," TRAVEL TO EUROPE/MIDEAST AND INTERACTION WITH RESIDUAL POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS HERE IN ARGENTINA HAVE ALL CONTRIBUTED TO HIS RELATIVE POSITION OF HIGH VISIBILITY ON THE THREE-MEMBER JUNTA.

2. (C) ALTHOUGH VICE-ADMIRAL LABRUSCHINI HAS SAID HE WILL FOLLOW "THE LINE WHICH THE INSTITUTION HAS IMPOSED AND WHICH HAS BEEN REPEATEDLY DISSEMINATED WHEN HE TAKES OVER AS NAVY CHIEF", (b)(3):10 USC 424 BELIEVES SOURCE HAS CORRECTLY NOTED PERSONALITY AND "OPERATIONAL CODE" DIFFERENCES IN THE STYLE OF THE RELIEVING CINC. IT IS ANTICIPATED HE WILL BE LESS ACTIVE AND PERHAPS LESS FLEXIBLE IN JUNTA POLICY FORMULATION AND A SWING TOWARD MORE ARMY INFLUENCE IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS IS LIKELY. THIS MSG COORD W/AMEMBASSY.

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