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SECT 01 OF 61856

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TRANSIT/0382050/0382309/002:19TOR0382129  
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FM (b)(3):10 USC 424

TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC/DN-2D2/DB-3E  
INFO RULPALJ/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ/SCJ2-AD  
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~/NOFORN SECTION 1 OF 2

(b)(3):10 USC 424

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

1. COUNTRY: ARGENTINA (AR)
2. REPORT NUMBER: (b)(3):10 USC 424
3. TITLE: POLITICAL, MILITARY-VIDELA GOVERNMENT STRENGTH-  
ENED
4. PROJECT NUMBER: N/A
5. DATE OF INFORMATION: 790202
6. DATE OF REPORT: 790202
7. DATE AND PLACE OF ACQUISITION: 790202, BUENOS AIRES
8. REFERENCE: (b)(3):10 USC 424
9. ASSESSMENT: (b)(3):10 USC 424
10. ORIGINATOR: (b)(3):10 USC 424
11. REQUEST EVALUATION: OMIT
12. PREPARING OFFICER: (b)(3):10 USC 424

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PAGE 1

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PAGE 2

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ANNOTES

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PAGE 2

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PAGE 3

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SUAREZ MASON IS EFFECTIVELY FOR NOW-PLACED OUT FROM A POSITION IN WHICH HE COULD ENDANGER VIOLA.

3. ~~(C/NORM)~~ ANOTHER MOVE WHICH STRENGTHENED VIOLA'S POSITION AND POINTS OUT TO HIS CLEVERNESS, SOURCE SAID, IS THAT OF NAMING MAJ. GEN SANTIAGO OMAR RIVERO AS PRESIDENT OF THE ARGENTINE DELEGATION TO THE INTER AMERICAN DEFENSE BOARD, A POSITION WHICH HAS REMOVED HIM FROM THE ARGENTINE SCENE. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, ONLY REAL PROBLEM REMAINING TO VIOLA IS GEN. LUCIANO MENENDEZ, COMMANDER OF ARMY'S III CORPS, LONG CONSIDERED A HARDLINER WHOSE POSITION FOR MILITARY ACTION AGAINST CHILE AS THE GOA'S SOLUTION TO THE GOA-GOC DISPUTE OVER THE BEAGLE CHANNEL WAS OF GREAT CONCERN TO THE VIDELA/VIOLA TEAM. BUT, SOURCE ADDED, MENENDEZ' POWER BASE IS BEING ERODED IN SHREWD POLITICAL PLAY BY VIOLA: THE RECENT RESIGNATION OF THE GOVERNOR OF CORDOBA, SUBMITTED TO PRES. VIDELA ON 790201, IN REALITY WAS BROUGHT ABOUT BY VIOLA'S CAREFUL ORCHESTRATION OF POLITICAL PRESSURES TO EASE HIM OUT. THE GOVERNOR, BRIG. GEN. (RE) CARLOS BERNARDO CHASSING, WAS A STRONG ALLY AND FIRM SUPPORTER OF GEN. MENENDEZ. HIS DEMISE FROM THE SCENE CREATES A VACUUM TO GEN. MENENDEZ'S POLITICAL POWER IN THE AREA WHERE HIS HEADQUARTERS ARE LOCATED.

Sec. 3.3(b) (1)

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PAGE 3

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SECT 02 OF 81856

ACTION

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TRANSIT/0382110/0390016/003106TOR0382049

DE RUESBAA #0032 0382110

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FM (b)(3):10 USC 424

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~/NOFORN SECTION 2 OF 2 (b)(3):10 USC 424

IN ARGAF INVENTORY AS THE WEAPONS SYSTEM TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED AIR DEFENSE COMMAND, SOME ROOM FOR CONJECTURE WAS GIVEN BY SOURCE INDICATING NEWLY ACQUIRED MIRAGE V AIRCRAFT MIGHT ALSO BE INCLUDED WITHIN THAT COMMAND FOR EMPLOYMENT AS A CLEAR AIR MASS INTERCEPTOR.

Sec. 3.3(b) (1)

B. (C/NOFORN)

Sec. 3.3(b) (1)

THIS MSG AMEMBASSY COORDINATED.

PAGE 1

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Date: Oct 19, 2018

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PAGE 2

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13. APPROVING AUTHORITY:

(b)(3):10 USC 424

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

15. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: ~~DIRC-NO NOFORN TO AVOID~~

~~EMBARRASSMENT TO HOST GOVERNMENT~~

16. (C/NOFORN) SUMMARY: THIS IR FORWARDS INFORMATION INDICATING ARMY COMMANDER AND MEMBER OF THE JUNTA, GEN. VIOLA, MIGHT BE IN THE PATH OF STRIVING FOR SOLIDARITY WITHIN GOA TOP RANK STRUCTURE THROUGH SHREWD MANIPULATION IN ASSIGNMENTS AND TRANSFERS OF KEY OFFICERS, AS WELL AS IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMAND TO DECENTRALIZE POWER.

(b)(3):10 USC 424, Sec. 3.3(b) (1)

PAGE 2

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