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FM (b)(3):10 USC 424

TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC/DS-6A

INFO RULPALJ/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

RULPAKA/COR 193RD INF BDE FT AMADOR CZ

RULPAFA/24COMPW/IN HOWARD AFB CZ

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SUBJECT: THIS IS (b)(3):10 USC 424

1. COUNTRY: ARGENTINA (AK)
2. REPORT NUMBER: (b)(3):10 USC 424
3. TITLE: (U) POLITICAL, TERRORISM-PRESS REPORTS CONCERNING COURT DECISIONS AFFECTING TERRORISTS, AND POLICEMEN CHARGED WITH ABUSE OF AUTHORITY
4. PROJECT NUMBER: N/A
5. DATE OF INFORMATION: 780608-780712
6. DATE OF REPORT: 780718
7. DATE AND PLACE OF ACQUISITION: 780608-780712, BUENOS AIRES

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9. ASSESSMENT: SOURCE [REDACTED] INFO [REDACTED]

10. ORIGINATOR: (b)(3):10 USC 424 [REDACTED]

11. REQUEST EVALUATION: OMIT [REDACTED]

12. PREPARING OFFICER: [REDACTED]

(b)(3):10 USC 42 [REDACTED]

13. APPROVING AUTHORITY: [REDACTED]

(b)(3):10 USC 42 [REDACTED]

14. SOURCE: MEDIA: A. CLARIN 780630, LA PRENSA 780712, CLARIN 780712 B. LA OPINION 780608 C. LA OPINION 780711, CLARIN 780711 D. CLARIN 780705

15. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: DIRC-NO

16. SUMMARY: (U) SIX POLICEMEN RECEIVED STIFF SENTENCES FOR THE ABUSE OF AUTHORITY AND FIREARMS, IN COURTS IN CORDOBA AND BUENOS AIRES. A FEDERAL JUDGE IN SANTA FE SENTENCED TWO MONTONERO LEADERS TO A TOTAL OF 11 YEARS IN PRISON, BUT STAYED CHARGES AGAINST EIGHT OTHER INDIVIDUALS, ALLEGEDLY MEMBERS OF THE SAME TERRORIST GROUP. AND TWO EXTREMISTS (MONTONERO AND ERP) TURNED THEMSELVES IN TO BUENOS AIRES AUTHORITIES, WHEREUPON THEIR PRISON SENTENCES WERE REDUCED SUBSTANTIALLY.

2. DETAILS: 1. (U) THE SIXTH CRIMINAL COURT OF CORDOBA SENTENCED FIVE POLICEMEN TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR THE SHOOTING OF A YOUNG CORDOBA COUPLE, WHO HAD IMPLICATED THE POLICEMEN IN CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING CAR THEFTS. ACCORDING TO THE TEXTS (SOURCE A) DRUG DEALINGS MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED

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2. (U) A BUENOS AIRES POLICEMAN WAS SENTENCED TO FOUR YEARS IN PRISON FOR THE ABUSE OF A FIREARM, EMANATING FROM A 1976 INCIDENT IN WHICH THE OFFICER FOUND HIS AUTO BLOCKED BY ANOTHER VEHICLE. BELIEVING IT TO BE A TERRORIST ATTEMPT, THE OFFICER DREW HIS WEAPON THE BLOCKING VEHICLE AND ORDERED ITS PASSENGERS OUT OF THE VEHICLE. A DOOR OPENED ABRUPTLY, AND HIS FIREARM ACCIDENTALLY DISCHARGED, WOUNDING AN OCCUPANT. ACCORDING TO THE TEXT (SOURCE B), THE JUDGE DESCRIBED THE INDIVIDUAL AS ONE WHO "BEHAVED NOT AS A RESPONSIBLE OFFICER, BUT AS AN IRASCIBLE INDIVIDUAL, AND A MENACE TO PUBLIC ROADS".

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3. (U) A FEDERAL JUDGE IN SANTA FE SENTENCED TWO MONTONERO TERRORISTS TO A TOTAL OF 11 YEARS IN PRISON FOR TERRORIST ACTIVITIES, BUT STAYED CHARGES AGAINST EIGHT OTHER INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE ALSO ALLEGEDLY MEMBERS OF THE TERRORIST GROUP. THE TWO SUBVERSIVES WERE IN POSSESSION OF 9MM CARTRIDGES AND BULLETS MANUFACTURED BY THE FABRICACIONES MILITARES, ACCORDING TO THE TEXT (SOURCE C), THE TWO WERE MANAGERS OF IDEOLOGICAL AND FINANCIAL MATTERS OF THE MONTONERO GROUP OPERATING IN THE CITY OF RAFAELA.

4 (U) TWO EXTREMISTS OF MONTONERO AND ERP TERRORIST GROUPS TURNED THEMSELVES IN TO BUENOS AIRES AUTHORITIES AND WERE CHARGED WITH "ILLEGAL ASSOCIATION". THE SENTENCES OF FIFTEEN AND TWELVE YEARS WERE REDUCED TO FIVE AND FOUR YEARS, RESPECTIVELY, STATES THE TEXT (SOURCE D).

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COMMENT: ~~(C)~~ IN AN APPARENT TREND OF RETURNING TO LEGAL PROCESS, PRESS REPORTS HAVE PROVIDED A SIGNAL TO BOTH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND TERRORISTS. THE POLICY STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR, GENERAL HARGUINDEGUY, EARLIER THIS YEAR, IS BEING REFLECTED WITH INCREASING FREQUENCY (b)(3):10

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USC 424

COMMENT: ~~(C)~~ THE PRESS REPORTS CONCERNING THE TRIAL OF THE FIVE POLICEMEN DESCRIBED THE OFTEN MURKY DETAILS SURROUNDING THE SHOOTING OF THE COUPLE: THE COUPLE WAS TAKEN TO A SECLUDED AREA, SHOT SEVERAL TIMES, ABANDONED, AND THE OFFICERS DID NOT REPORT THE INCIDENT TO POLICE OFFICIALS. ILLEGAL DEALINGS IN CARS, JEWELRY, AND DRUGS WERE REPORTEDLY INVOLVED.

THE TRAFFIC INCIDENT WHICH TOOK PLACE IN BUENOS AIRES CALLS TO MIND PUBLISHED REPORTS IN THE PAST (BUENOS AIRES HERALD) OF POLICEMEN TRAVELING THROUGH THE CITY AT HIGH SPEEDS, AND DEMANDING RIGHT OF WAY BY WIELDING GUNS, AS OPPOSED TO THE MORE CONVENTIONAL USE OF SIRENS AND FLASHERS. THE STIFF SENTENCES AWARDED TO THE TWO MONTONERO TERRORISTS, AND THE DISMISSAL OF

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CHARGES AGAINST EIGHT GROUP MEMBERS, REFLECTS
CURRENT GOA POLICY TO PURSUE AND PUNISH
TERRORIST ORGANIZATION LEADERS, WHILE TRATING
LESSER GROUP MEMBERS WITH GREATER LENIENCY.
THIS MSG COORD W AMEMBASSY, ~~003 04~~

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