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INQUIRE=DOC43D
ITEM NO=00596185
SCSANSNO

(b)(3):10 USC 424

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SERIAL: (U) IIR (b)(3):10 USC 424

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

BODY

COUNTRY: (U) ARGENTINA (AR).

//IPSP: (U) (b)(3):10 USC 424

SUBJ: IIR (b)(3):10 USC 424 /THIRTY-TWO EX-MILITARY CHIEFS
TO BE INVESTIGATED FOR DIRTY WAR ACTIVITIES;
SPECIFICALLY CHILD RELOCATION PROGRAMS OF THE "PROCESS"
(U)

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

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DECLASSIFIED IN FULL
Authority: EO 13526
DIA FOIA & Declassification Services Offices
Date: Oct 19, 2018

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 980728.

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

SOURCE: (U) DAILY NEWSPAPER, "LA NACION", BUENOS
AIRES, ARGENTINA, 980728 (U), IN SPANISH. INDEPENDENT-MODERATE NEWSPAP
ER

WHICH APPEALS TO UPPER CLASS AND
INTELLECTUALS. TENDS TO REPORT U.S. ISSUES
OBJECTIVELY. INFLUENTIAL WITH TOP POLICY MAKERS,
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, POLITICIANS, AND THE MILITARY.

SUMMARY: (U) FEDERAL JUDGE ADOLFO ((BAGNASCO)) WILL
BEGIN INVESTIGATIONS ON THIRTY-TWO FORMER MILITARY
SENIOR OFFICERS TO ASCERTAIN THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN THE
ALLEGED PLAN TO SEPARATE CHILDREN FROM DETAINED
INDIVIDUALS DURING THE DIRTY WAR, OR "PROCESS."

TEXT: 1. (U) SOURCE REPORTED FEDERAL JUDGE ADOLFO

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((BAGNASCO'S)) INTENT TO BEGIN INVESTIGATING THIRTY-TWO FORMER MILITARY SENIOR OFFICERS FOR THEIR ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN A PROGRAMMED PLAN TO SEPARATE NEWBORN CHILDREN OF DETAINEES AND RELOCATE THEM WITH OTHER FAMILIES DURING THE DIRTY WAR OR "PROCESS" YEARS. SEVERAL HIGH-RANKING GENERALS, TO INCLUDE RANKING JUNTA MEMBER LEOPOLDO FORTUNATO ((GALTIERI)) AND REYNALDO BENITO ((BIGNONE)), WILL BE INVESTIGATED BY BAGNASCO AND EVENTUALLY SUMMONED FOR QUESTIONING AROUND THE END OF OCTOBER.

2. (U) IN PREPARATION FOR OCTOBER'S QUESTIONING SESSIONS, BAGNASCO WILL QUESTION MEDICAL PERSONNEL WHO WERE ASSIGNED TO MILITARY HOSPITALS DURING THE "PROCESS." HE RECENTLY SUMMONED A FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE CAMPO DE MAYO HOSPITAL, DR. JORGE CURUCHET ((RESQUIN)), AND THIRTY OTHER DOCTORS AND NURSES WHO SERVED THERE DURING THE DIRTY WAR PERIOD. HEARINGS WILL BE HELD 980810. THIS PROCEDURE IS TO PROVIDE FURTHER INSIGHT INTO THE OPERATIONS OF THE HOSPITALS AND THEIR TIES TO A POSSIBLE PLAN ORDERED BY SENIOR OFFICERS TO SEPARATE NEWBORN CHILDREN OF DETAINEES FOR INTEGRATION INTO OTHER FAMILIES. BAGNASCO FEELS THIS WILL HELP PREPARE FOR THE OCTOBER SESSION WHEN HE PLANS TO QUESTION THE SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS.

3. (U) SOURCE STATED THAT SIMILAR OCCURRENCES AT THE ESCUELA MECANICA DE LA ARMADA (ESMA) (NAVAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL) ARE MORE CLEAR THAN IS THE CASE WITH THE CAMPO DE MAYO HOSPITAL. THE FACT REMAINS THAT IN BOTH CASES THERE ARE STILL UNANSWERED QUESTIONS, PARTICULARLY WHO ORDERED THE SEPARATION OF NEWBORNS FROM DETAINED MOTHERS DURING THAT PERIOD, AND IF THERE WAS IN FACT A BROAD PLAN TO EXECUTE.

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COMMENTS: 1. (e) [REDACTED] COMMENTS. THIS ACTION BY FEDERAL JUDGE ADOLFO ((BAGNASCO)) IS ONE IN A RECENT FLURRY OF ACTIVITY AIMED AT FORMER MILITARY LEADERSHIP FOR THEIR ALLEGED CRIMINAL INVOLVEMENT DURING THE "PROCESS." MOST RECENTLY, FORMER PRESIDENT AND MILITARY JUNTA LEADER, JORGE RAFAEL ((VIDELA)) WAS BROUGHT TO TRIAL FOR HIS ACTIVITIES DURING THE "PROCESS." THESE FACTS, COUPLED WITH THE MEDIA ATTENTION GIVEN TO THESE CASES AND THE PUBLIC'S GROWING AWARENESS, MUST UNNERVE MANY RETIRED AND ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY OFFICERS WHOM WERE INVOLVED IN SOME ASPECT OF THE DIRTY WAR.

2. (e) APPARENTLY, WHAT WAS ONCE PUSHED ASIDE FOR THE SAKE OF NATIONAL UNITY IS FAST BECOMING AN ISSUE, THAT OF WANTING TO FIND OUT THE FACTS AND HOLD THOSE

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RESPONSIBLE FOR ATROCITIES ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS. WHILE [Sec 3.3(b)(1)] HAVE NOT FOUND THIS TO BE TOO DISTURBING, THERE IS OBVIOUSLY A CONCERN OVER WHAT COULD SNOWBALL OUT OF THE INVESTIGATIONS AND POSSIBLE INCARCERATION OF OTHER MILITARY OFFICERS AS A RESULT OF THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN THE DIRTY WAR.

3. ~~(c)~~ THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE TIME IS RIGHT TO PROCEED WITH THESE INVESTIGATIONS. THE OPPOSITION PARTY BEGAN THE YEAR WITH A STRONG MESSAGE THAT THEY WANTED JUSTICE FOR THE ALLEGED CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES OF FORMER AND ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY MEMBERS INVOLVED IN THE DIRTY WAR. FIRST CAME FORMER NAVY COMMANDER ALFREDO ((ASTIZ)), THEN ELECTED GOVERNOR AND FORMER ARMY GENERAL ((BUSSI)), AND MOST RECENTLY FORMER PRESIDENT AND JUNTA LEADER JORGE RAFAEL ((VIDELA)). THEIR RESOLVE TO INVESTIGATE THE MOST SENIOR OFFICERS IS CLEAR AND DELIBERATE AND WILL LIKELY CONTINUE UNTIL SATISFACTORY ANSWERS AND/OR PUNISHMENT IS LEVIED ON THOSE FOUND RESPONSIBLE FOR CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES DURING THE "PROCESS."

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4. ~~(c)~~ REPORTING [Sec 3.3(b)(1)] RECENTLY INDICATED THAT PRESIDENT ((MENEM'S)) DECISION NOT TO RUN FOR RE-ELECTION WAS A SLIGHT CAUSE FOR CONCERN BY THE MILITARY LEADERSHIP, PARTICULARLY DUE TO THE FACT THAT HE HAS TREATED THEM REASONABLY WELL, [b)(3) 10 USC 424] ARGENTINE MILITARY HAS CAUSE FOR CONCERN WITH THE DECISION BY PRESIDENT CARLOS MENEM TO FOREGO CAMPAIGN FOR RE-ELECTION (U) AND [b)(3) 10 USC 424] MILITARY AND POLITICIANS CAUGHT BY SURPRISE, BUT SOME SAY ONLY THE TIMING WAS A SURPRISE IN PRESIDENT MENEM'S DECISION NOT TO RUN FOR RE-ELECTION). IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE MILITARY SHOULD BE VERY CONCERNED WITH THE FACT THAT WITH MENEM THEY ARE DEALING WITH VERY POINTED INVESTIGATIONS OVER DIRTY WAR ISSUES; WHAT WILL IT BE LIKE ONCE HE'S GONE FROM THE POWER BASE?

5. (U) [REDACTED]

[b)(3) 10 USC 424]

6. (U) QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS IIR SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO [b)(3) 10 USC 424]

ADMIN

INSTR: (U) [b)(3) 10 USC 424]
PREP: (U)

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ACQ: (U) BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA (980728).
DISSEM: (U) FIELD: USEMB, BUENOS AIRES AR..
WARNING: (U) REPORT CLASSIFIED ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~.
DRV FROM: DHS SCG, OCTOBER 97.

~~DECL: (U) X1~~

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