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DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE NOTICE



Office of the Secretary of Defense 5 U.S.C. § 552
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
Date: 16 JAN 2018 Authority: EO 13526
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Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: JAN 16 2018

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5

This Notice is designed to provide intelligence in support of future decisions with respect to security policy or posture.

ARGENTINA

MRS. PERON TEMPORIZES WHILE MILITARY
CONTINUES TO PLAN.

~~(S, NOFORN)~~ In a further effort to appease labor and attempt to rally support, the government has reportedly awarded all workers a 20 percent wage boost.

~~(S, NOFORN)~~ The move follows several days of wildcat strikes by labor protesting the 12 percent increase announced earlier as part of the government's new economic austerity plan. Union workers in the capital and the nation's key industrial city of Cordoba had claimed the raise was insufficient in light of a cost of living increase of almost 30 percent in the first two months of 1976, devaluation of the peso by over 40 percent, and government-authorized price increases in the cost of fuel and basic utilities.

~~(S, NOFORN)~~ Mrs. Peron also addressed the nation from the headquarters of the principal labor organization, stressing that its leaders had approved the government's austerity program and calling for sacrifice and unity in support of the government. Despite the headquarters' support, however, subordinate unions will almost certainly consider the 20 percent unacceptable and further strikes are likely. The labor movement's chronic factionalism will further dilute the leadership's backing for Mrs. Peron.

~~(S, NOFORN)~~ Meanwhile, Mrs. Peron's political position does not appear to have improved as a result of her reelection as chief of the Peronist Party earlier this week. Her reelection is considered a pyrrhic victory at best since the opposition delegates either boycotted the proceedings or were not permitted to attend.

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(S, NOFORN, UNCLASS) The military reaction to the government's latest move remains unclear. The armed forces leadership apparently remains firm in the resolve to act against the President, but Army Commander Videla and other moderates wish to delay moving until Mrs. Peron's government is completely discredited. Her failure to successfully implement the economic austerity program, continuing terrorist violence, and further strikes by labor will, however, strengthen the position of hard-line military commanders who are pressing for a coup and threatening to depose Videla if he refuses to act. Gen Videla may thus be forced to move within the next few days. Key army corps commanders apparently met with Videla in the capital on the 10th.

(S, NOFORN) If Videla can hold off, the armed forces will stand to benefit. Those army and air force elements which reportedly are not ready to assume the responsibility for the ministries they have been designated will be able to complete their preparations. The further deterioration of the political situation will also tend to discredit Mrs. Peron and Peronism and increase popular support for the armed forces. (UCS 2-2 Declassify upon notification of originator)

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