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Warning Notice

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

ARGENTINA

MILITARY PRESSURE.

(C)/NOTEDNM) Mrs. Peron continues to resist military pressure to vacate the Presidency, thereby increasing prospects for the armed forces to soon force her ouster.

The three service commanders report-(C/HOPORIN) edly met with the President on 5 January and told her that she must step aside. This represents the first time that they have confronted her personally. Mrs. Peron rebuffed their demand, saying that they had neither the right nor power to remove her. Later, the President held a lengthy Cabinet meeting during which bitter divisions surfaced among her advisers. Following these sessions, the President was reportedly again emotionally depressed, but she addressed a military graduation ceremony on the 9th where she scored those within the armed forces who are demanding her removal.

(Sympose) The Argentine leader's refusal to accept the military's demand has decidedly increased political tensions within the armed forces. Last month's air force revolt was reportedly ended only on the promise of the service chiefs that the President would be out by the end of January. If Mrs. Peron continues to resist, the commanders may force her into exile by the agreed-to deadline. The armed forces are still believed to favor a constitutional solution to the executive power-vacuum problem but are apparently committed to her removal one way or another by month's end. (SPS-21-Decembra)

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