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DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE NOTICE

Argentina 00001



Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
Date: 02 JAN 2018 Authority: EO 13526
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SECRETARIAT OF DEFENSE
DANIEL H. HANCOCK

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

ARGENTINA

ANTI-US TERRORISM MAY BE ON UP-SWING.

~~(S/NID/INFORMATION)~~ The killing of John P. Egan, the honorary US Consul in Cordoba, by the nominally-Peronist Montoneros, may signal the beginning of a new chapter of violence in Argentina with the US official community as a principal target. There have been periodic threats to US military and diplomatic personnel in the past; however, embassy personnel have until now been relatively secure due to their lack of a "ransom value." The terrorists have concentrated on foreign and Argentine businessmen whose firms paid for their safe return. Egan's death possibly augurs a change in terrorist tactics.

~~(S/NID/INFORMATION)~~ The Montoneros have been relatively inactive since they broke with the government last September, although they claimed responsibility for the killing of the Federal police chief and the kidnapping of two Buenos Aires businessmen. They pose a potentially greater threat than that of the People's Revolutionary Army (ERP) due to their size and strong following within the Peronist movement. Although differing ideologically, the ERP and the Montoneros could certainly cooperate at the operational level, thus compounding the terrorist threat.

~~(S/NID/INFORMATION)~~ Ironically, the killing of Egan may serve to keep the hard-line federally appointed governor of Cordoba, Raul Lacabanne, in office. Interior Minister Rocamora has been urging President Peron to replace Lacabanne, whose forceful anti-terrorist measures have been extended to legitimate critics of the government as well. The government may decide to intensify its crackdown on leftist terrorists thereby delaying any immediate decision to replace Lacabanne, who directed an effective anti-terrorist campaign in Cordoba toward the end of last year. ~~(S/NID/INFORMATION)~~

SOURCES: Emb Buenos Aires 142255Z Feb 75 ~~(S/NID/INFORMATION)~~

Various Press (U)

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CIA E.O. 13526 Section 3.5(c)
DIA FOIA 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(3); 10 U.S.C. § 424

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