

DIADIN 254-75
31 JANUARY 1975

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SECDEF

#4-19



DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE NOTICE



Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS

Date: 17 APR 2018 Authority: EO 13526

Declassify: X Deny in Full: 5052

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Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: APR 17 2018

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Argentina 0001

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

ARGENTINA

POLITICAL CRISIS MAY BE DEVELOPING.

~~(S/NPD)~~ President Peron has moved from the presidential beach retreat to the nearby naval base because of the discovery of a bomb allegedly planted by the Peoples Revolutionary Army (ERP) within the presidential compound. She will soon cut short her stay and return to Buenos Aires. However, rumors persist that the President's fear of Jose Lopez Rega prompted her to seek protection from Navy Commander Emilio Massera in whom she has great confidence. If this is true, a showdown between the powerful Lopez Rega and his numerous adversaries could be imminent. The military, labor, and the opposition Radical Civic Union are apparently approaching the point that they are willing to force the resignation of the President if she insists on keeping Lopez Rega in the government.

~~(S/NPD)~~ It is becoming increasingly clear that Lopez Rega has become an extreme liability to the President. Her ability to remain in office this long has been due not only to her surprising political prowess but also to the lack of a viable alternative among the various political contenders. The military have also been reluctant to become involved in the government after seven years of unpopular rule. However, growing resentment over Lopez Rega by the military as well as their improved public image following the ill-fated ERP assassination campaign is causing a reevaluation by the high command. Army leaders have privately stated they would favor Senate President Jose Allende, who is next in line of presidential succession. There is historical precedent for this as the military deposed President Frondizi in 1962 and replaced him with Senate President Guido.

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~~(S/NPD/WNSISMI)~~ In another development, the ERP has threatened indiscriminate killing of government officials unless proof is forthcoming that 19 of its recently captured members are alive. This ploy could signal a new wave of terrorism by this group, which needs some spectacular success to restore its image. Such activity would increase further political tensions and pressures on the President. ~~(XGDS-2)~~

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

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