

DIADIN 1069-75
30 APRIL 1975

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DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE NOTICE



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ARGENTINA

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ISSUE OF PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION CAUSES DISSENSION.

~~(S/NPD)~~ President Peron's recent rapprochement with opposition parties may be short-lived as a result of her power play in the senatorial election of 25 April. In a move that many opposition as well as Peronist senators believe was unconstitutional, Mrs Peron and her adviser, Social Welfare Minister Jose Lopez Rega, blocked the elections for a new Senate President -- the individual next in line for presidential succession. The incumbent, Jose Allende, was forced to resign by the Peronists. As a Christian Democrat, Allende was unacceptable to the Peronists' leadership as a potential president, although he was looked upon with favor by the military and other sectors.

~~(S/NPD)~~ By forcing their measure through, President Peron and Lopez Rega have removed a viable presidential alternative and succeeded in elevating Peronist Chamber of Deputies President Raul Lastiri, who happens to be Lopez Rega's son-in-law, as constitutional successor. For the time being, President Peron remains the lesser of evils to those individuals upset with the political situation. Lastiri is presently unacceptable to labor leaders as a presidential possibility and is perceived as being as amenable to his father-in-law's control as is the President. Thus, Lopez Rega has solidified his position, once again demonstrating an uncanny ability to remain in power despite being almost universally detested.

~~(S/NPD/NOFORN)~~ The unity that had been developing between labor and the military to demand Lopez Rega's ouster appears to be faltering. Neither the generals nor the labor leaders wish to take the first step. This reluctance is reinforced by their realization that the Peronist government, despite severe economic and political difficulties, retains considerable popular

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support. What may eventually cause a shift in this support is the increasing terrorism, especially that being carried out by the Argentine Anticommunist Alliance (AAA), the right-wing vigilante group that operates with covert government support.

(S, AFD) Even for the Argentines, who have a tradition of apathy toward the political machinations of opposing factions, the leftist-rightist terrorism may eventually reach an intolerable level. Until the military perceive that this point has been reached, however, a move against the government is not very likely. (ACPS 1, 2, and 4 Declassify upon notification of originator)

SOURCES: Emb Buenos Aires 2947 29 Apr 75 (S); [REDACTED]

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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