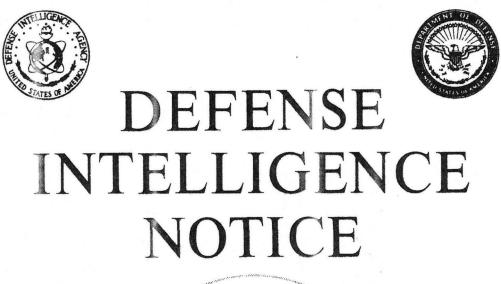
DIADIN 1255-75 23 MAY 1975





Office of the Secretary of Defense 5 V.S.(. \$552 Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS Date: 17JAN2018 Authority: EO 13526 Declassify: X Deny in Full: _____ Declassify in Part: _____ Reason: ______ MDR: 17 _-M- 2170

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

ARGENTINA

CRISIS ENDS

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL Authority: EO 13526 Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS Date: JAN 1 7 2013

(C/NED) The crisis between the army and the government caused by Social Welfare Minister Jose Lopez Rega's attempt to extend his control to the military has passed, with Lopez Rega apparently suffering a setback. Faced with the resignation of newly-appointed Army Commander, Maj Gen Alberto Numa Laplane, the government backed off and a compromise was reached on the naming of new senior commanders. The two brigadier generals Lopez Rega wished to have retired remain on active duty.

(C/NPD) Gen Laplane's stature will increase with the officer corps as a result of his defense of the army's perceived autonomy in personnel matters. Lopez Rega may have overplayed his hand and miscalculated the leverage he had over Laplane. Despite backing down on this issue, he remains the pivotal figure in Argentine politics. For now, Lopez Rega will probably move cautiously in his relations with the military, as he doubtless realizes the army is the only institution capable of containing him in his quest for political power. Any future move to neutralize the military will likely be more subtle than his latest faux pas, but the army will probably perceive any Lopez Rega maneuver as threatening.

(C/MTD) The irony of the events of the last three days is that Lopez Rega's attempt to control the army may have provided it with what it lacked -unity and a decisive leader. Laplane has now become a leading political actor, and his relations with the government and his officers will be of

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SOURCES: May 75 (C/HED) and EMB Buenos Aires 3531 22 May 75 (C)

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PREPARED BY:

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