

DIADIN 1093-75
4 MAY 1975

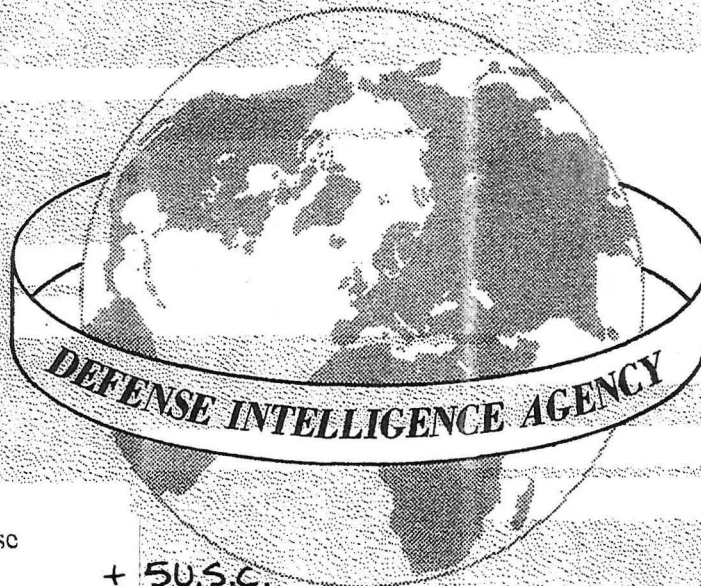
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Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS

Date: 10 APR 2018 Authority: EO 13526 + 50 U.S.C. § 552

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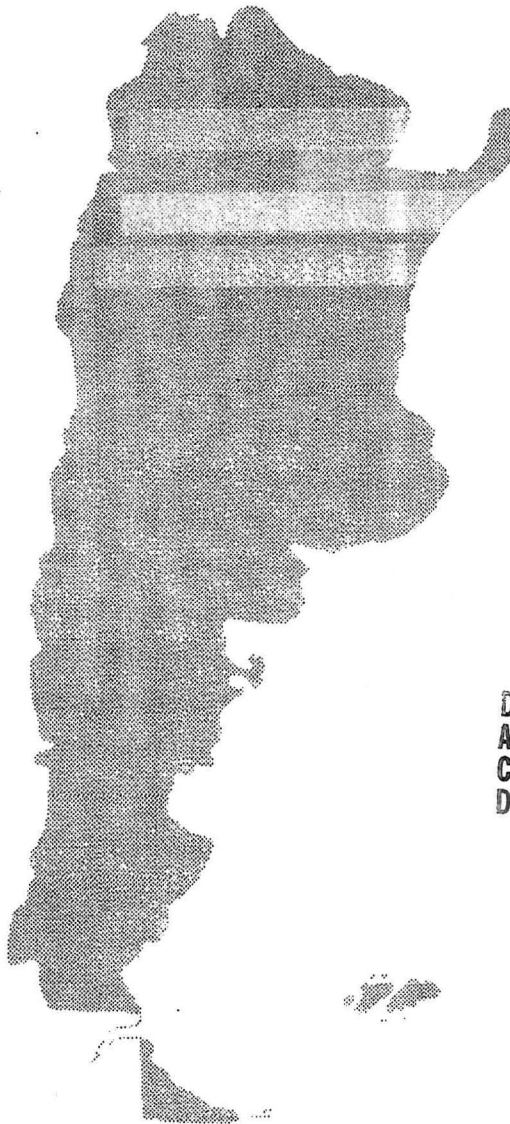
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ARGENTINA

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ARMY REMAINS SPLIT ON POLITICAL ROLE.

~~(C/NPD)~~ The Argentine army, which has a history of internal disagreements, presently finds itself divided into three schools of thought on the future political role of the Armed Forces. Each of these camps finds its ideological model in the three predominant military governments in Latin America.

~~(C/NPD)~~ The largest group is composed of unabashed admirers of the hardline approach the Chilean military chose in meeting a subversive threat. While members of this group believe the army will eventually have to stage a coup, they likewise believe it necessary to wait until the situation has deteriorated to the point that military intervention will be welcomed by the majority of Argentines. This hesitancy is also due to a lack of consensus within the army and the failure of any single figure to emerge as a leader.

~~(C/NPD)~~ The second largest group adheres to the Brazilian middle approach. This group believes in tough measures against subversives and limited political party activity, but wishes to have a high degree of civilian participation in government.

~~(C/NPD)~~ The smallest faction, but the one most popular among the junior officers, sees the Peruvian type of leftist military government as the panacea for Argentina's endemic political and economic problems. This Argentine variant of military populism was on the rise during the early part of the administration of the late Juan Peron, but declined in importance after Peron perceived it as a potential danger. This "Peruanista" faction is gaining in sympathy among junior officers, and could represent a significant threat to army unity.

(Continued)

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~~(S/NPD)~~ The army is clearly girding itself for a political role, but will want the support of Labor and the opposition political leaders. Jose Lopez Rega's continued heavy-handed dominance, and President Peron's apparent indifference to political consensus, seems all but certain to cause labor and political leaders to look, albeit reluctantly, to the army to assert itself politically.

~~(S)~~ However, the lack of accord within the Army, and the awareness that the military is still unpopular after seven years of military rule, will probably continue, for the short run at least, to inhibit any political intervention. ~~(CDS 31 Dec 83)~~

SOURCES: [REDACTED] 031810Z May

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PREPARED BY:
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DIA FOIA 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(3); 10 U.S.C. § 424

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