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DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE NOTICE

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL Authority: EO 13526

Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS

Date:

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ARGENTINA

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MILITARY DISSATISFACTION GROWS.

political and economic policies and dwindling support for the service chiefs as well as President Peron on the part of military officers have given rise to impending coup rumors.

Secretary Jose Lopez Rega is the primary cause of the discontent. Resentment of his hold over Mrs. Peron and his almost total control of the government has been growing for some time. He has been tolerated because of the belief that if he left the scene, so would she. Contempt for Lopez, however, has now reached the point where the officers are not greatly concerned about the President's stepping down. The consensus appears to be that the country would be better off under a provisional president, expecially if the miltary had a hand in the selection. Nevertheless, a large number of officers prefer to have Mrs. Peron serve her term that ends in 1977.

Senate President Allende first in line with Chamber of Deputies President Lastiri, who is also Lopez Rega's son-in-law, next. The military probably would prefer Allende should a change occur.

(C/NFD) Discontent is at its highest level since the military relinquished power in May 1973, but the disgruntled officers do not have a noteworthy leader to rally them. In addition, memories of past military failures in the political arena have led to a lingering reluctance to take complete control again. It appears, therefore, that there is little chance for a coup attempt at this time.

SOURCE:

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