

DEP SEC

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(B)

DIADIN 1020-75
24 APRIL 1975

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DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE NOTICE



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Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS +
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This Notice is designed to provide intelligence in support of future decisions with respect to security policy or posture.

ARGENTINA

ERP TO REEMPHASIZE URBAN TERRORISM.

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~~(S/NFD/NDI/DUC/CD/INISINT)~~ The People's Revolutionary Army (ERP) has reportedly decided to deemphasize its rural guerrilla operations and re-focus attention on the urban warfare that has been its most effective weapon. The early 1974 decision to launch an intensive rural effort in the small but sugar-rich northwestern province of Tucuman has had a deleterious impact on ERP capabilities in the principal population centers.

~~(S/NFD/NDI/DUC/CD/INISINT)~~ ERP leader Mario Santucho had hoped that a successful rural guerrilla campaign would, in Castro style, contribute to ultimate political success in the cities. In an effort to accomplish this objective, the ERP has been forced to commit six of its 12 70- to 120-man companies in Tucuman, with the remaining six being in Buenos Aires, Cordoba, and other cities. Santucho has now admitted that spreading his meager forces so thinly has contributed directly to recent reverses at the hands of the federal police, especially in Buenos Aires.

~~(S/NFD/NDI/DUC/CD/INISINT)~~ The relationship between the ERP and the larger, neo-Peronist Montoneros has worsened. While there has always existed ideological differences between the Trotskyite ERP and the more nationalistic Montoneros, the split has become more pronounced lately because of the differing perceptions of revolutionary tactics. The ERP leaders believe the Montoneros are playing into the government's hands by employing widespread, somewhat indiscriminate violence, which the Argentine masses find repugnant. In the same vein, the ERP believes that Montonero support of the radical parties in the recent Misiones Province election was counterproductive to the revolutionary cause, so poor was the performance of these parties.

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~~(C/NED/NDA/DUC/CD/WNSISMT)~~ While the large Argentine Army counterguerrilla operation in Tucuman has failed to achieve any government victories, it apparently has placed sufficient pressure on the ERP units to produce at least a stalemate and contribute to Santucho's change of heart. Although small in number, the ERP remains the most affluent of Latin American guerrilla organizations due to the lucrative kidnappings for ransom carried out during the fund-raising phase of 1972-1974. The ERP leaders obviously have been stung by the Montoneros seizure of the initiative in the antigovernment terrorism campaign and will probably seek to capture the lime-light once again. Should the ERP, as seems probable, reemphasize the urban terrorism they have never really abandoned, a dramatic increase in spectacular terrorism, to include selected assassinations and kidnappings, can be anticipated. ~~(NED-2)~~

SOURCE: ~~_____~~ ~~(C)~~

~~NED/NDA/RHQ/CD/WNSISMT)~~

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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