

# **DEFENSE** INTELLIGENCE NOTICE



Office of the Secretary of Defense

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** 

MONTONEROS' POLITICAL FUTURE.

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(8/NFD/NDA/BUO/CD/WNSTSMT) The political future of the Montoneros probably has improved with the payment of the alleged \$60 million ransom for the Born brothers and by adverse reaction from labor and lower middle-class segments to the country's deteriorating economy. The ransom represents a tremendous psychological victory that is expected to enhance the organization's prestige among the populace. More importantly, however, the leftist terrorist group now has adequate funds for its antigovernment operations.

(C/NFP/NDA/BUC/CD/WNSISMI) These events have created a more favorable recruiting environment for the Montoneros. However, the organization probably will not provoke an open confrontation with the government until it can do so effectively. Present indications are that the group will continue to organize its cadre covertly and work behind the political scene at all levels of government to achieve the desired goals.

(S/NTD/NDA/BOO/CD/WNSISMI) The Montoneros reportedly believe that by the end of the year they will have gained strategic parity with the government in terms of grass-roots support among the populace. When this is achieved, they plan to conduct antigovernment demonstrations and gain more active support from the people, some of whom are already showing signs of disaffection toward the present government.

(C/NFD/NDA/DUC/CD/WNSISMI) Terrorist leaders are also beginning to discuss strategy for the 1977 presidential elections. They envision using the Autentico Party, which is being organized nationally, as their political vehicle. The group's eventual

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goal is to achieve a leftist coalition government. However, chances for such an arrangement are not good because coalitions and consensus politics are not consistent with the Argentine character. None-theless, the Montoneros, with their new wealth and prestige, will continue to plague the Peron government. (YCDS 2 Declassify upon notification of originator)

SOURCE: NDA/BUO/CD/WNSIGMI)

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