

DIADIN 2116-75  
27 AUGUST 1975

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#4-57



# DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE NOTICE



Office of the Secretary of Defense *5 U.S.C. § 552*  
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS  
Date: 17 JAN 2018 Authority: EO 13526  
Declassify: X Deny in Full: \_\_\_\_\_  
Declassify in Part: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reason: \_\_\_\_\_  
MDR: 17 -M- 2194

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL  
Authority: EO 13526  
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS  
Date: JAN 17 2018

~~Warning Notice~~

~~Sensitive Intelligence Sources and Methods Involved~~

~~NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION~~

~~Unauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sanctions~~

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*27 Aug 75*

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**Page determined to be Unclassified**  
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**IAW EO 13526, Section 3.5**  
**Date: JAN 17 2018**

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

ARGENTINA

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL  
Authority: EO 13526  
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS  
Date: JAN 17 2018

DAMASCO'S STATUS SPARKS CRISIS.

~~(S/NPD)~~ Tension has increased markedly within the army over the 11 August appointment of Col Damasco as Interior Minister.

~~(S/NPD/CD/INNSICMI)~~ Top military commanders are demanding Damasco's retirement from the army or resignation from the Cabinet. The generals have also asked his principal backer, Army Commander Gen Laplane, to step down. These disgruntled leaders resent the role that Laplane and Damasco played in selecting President Peron's new Cabinet without consulting them. They further maintain that the colonel's new position links the armed forces too closely with what they consider to be an inept government.

~~(S/NPD/CD/INNSICMI)~~ In an apparent attempt to settle the issue, Damasco reportedly retired from the army late on 26 August. Laplane also offered his resignation, but Mrs. Peron, in defiance of the military, apparently rejected it. The armed forces have been placed on full alert, and rumors of a possible coup are becoming prevalent. For their part, labor and Peronist party leaders have publicly lined up behind Mrs. Peron.

~~(S/NPD/CD/INNSICMI)~~ The President, meanwhile, has reportedly relieved the disgruntled commanders, further fueling the crisis. Such an action could conceivably force the military to oust her, thereby naming her constitutional successor as interim chief executive until a national election can be held. On the other hand, the generals, whose actions are crucial, may accept the resignation and retirement of Damasco and Laplane as a solution.

(Continued)

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In any event, the dissident officers' demands are likely to bring about leadership changes within the armed forces, Cabinet, or both. Should Mrs. Peron be forced to accept the military's demands, she would virtually lose her effective power, which has been diminishing steadily since the exile of her trusted adviser Jose Lopez Rega last month. (HODS-2)

~~Presumably, upon notification of originator.~~

SOURCES: [REDACTED] (S/WHB)

~~CD/INISIGMT~~; Emb Buenos Aires 5726 27 Aug 75 and 5716 26 Aug 75 (S)

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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