

DIADIN 2465-75
29 SEPTEMBER 1975

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DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE NOTICE



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

Date: 29 Mar 2018 Authority: EO 13526 ^{+ 50.S.C.} ₈₅₅₂

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Argentina 000.1

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

ARGENTINA

FORMER PRESIDENT RETURNS FROM EXILE.

~~(S/NFD)~~ Hector Campora's recent return to Argentina may serve to rally disenchanted leftists and culminate in a bid for power in the 1977 general elections.

~~(S/NFD)~~ Campora was elected as a stand-in President for Juan Peron in March 1973 and resigned a month and a half later, bringing Peron to power. He has been in self-imposed exile in Mexico since December 1974 because of threats on his life by right-wing terrorist elements. Campora's brief administration tended to favor the left-wing of Peronism, and the Authentic Peronist Party -- the alleged legal party front for the leftist Montoneros -- has reportedly been trying for some time to persuade him to be its leader. Upon his arrival in Buenos Aires, Campora stated that he had returned to be "a factor of unity -- I am a man of involvement."

~~(S/NFD)~~ The government and military have not looked too favorably on Campora, but they apparently did not object strongly to his return. They may see him as a unifying force that could bring dissident leftists back into the government -- thus possibly ending terrorism, which has affected almost every sector of Argentine society. On the other hand, the government and military may have decided that they can better monitor and control his political activities in Argentina than in Mexico.

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(C/NED) Campora's return adds a new and somewhat unpredictable element to Argentine politics. Although his presence could further divide the already fractured ranks of the Peronist Movement, he should not be ruled out as a broad, leftist coalition candidate in the 1977 presidential election. (S) (S)

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

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