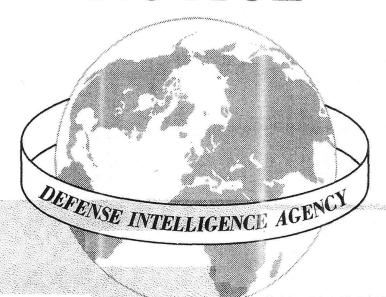






DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE NOTICE



Office of the Secretary of Defense	5 U.S.C. § 552
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS	+
Date: 17JAN 2018 Authority: EO	13526
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This Notice is designed to provide intelligence in support of future decisions with respect to security policy or posture.

ARGENTINA

MILITARY OPPOSITION TO DAMASCO MOUNTS.

(C)TITE/THICICME) Mrs. Peron's appointment of Col Vicente Damasco as Minister of Interior while retaining his active military status has engendered criticism from military leaders and a reported ultimatum that he be removed from that active status or resign by 25 August. Damasco's participation in the Peron administration while still in active status is seen by many military leaders as demeaning since they consider the Peron government incapable of leading Argentina effectively.

legedly suggested that Army Commander-in-Chief (CINC) Gen Numa Laplane resign to ease the crisis, since Laplane approved the Damasco appointment without the prior consent of the other CINCs. Having the backing of the President, Laplane and Damasco could take action to force the ouster of their detractors, especially Navy Commander Adm Massera and Air Force Commander Gen Fautario. However, such a move would likely result in reaction from the remainder of the military opposed to Damasco.

Damasco controversy, the already weakened President Peron seems destined to be the loser. Amid a simmering scandal over transfer of funds by Mrs. Peron, economic uncertainty and renewed terrorist violence, the embattled president will face mounting pressure to get Argentina on the road to recovery.

SOURCES: Emb Buenos Aires 5679, 23 Aug 75 (**);

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