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CONTROL: 8752

RELEASED IN PART

B1, 182155Z NOV 77

TELEGRAM

INDICATE
 COLLECT
 CHARGE TO

E2

FROM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES CLASSIFICATION [REDACTED]

E.O. 11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:
ACTION:

GDS
PINS, PINT, AR
A NEW POLITICAL GROUP FORMED: THE START
OF THE MASSERA CAMPAIGN?
SECSTATE WASHDC

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES: 8752

AMB
DCM
POL-3
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ECON
USIS
~~USIS~~
CHRON

1. RETIRED ARMY LT. COL. JORGE OBON, WHO WAS THE GOVERNMENT-APPOINTED HEAD OF THE STATE PETROLEUM ENTERPRISE (YPF) DURING THE GOVERNMENT OF MRS. PERON, HAS ANNOUNCED TO THE PRESS A PLAN TO ESTABLISH "CIVIC CENTERS FOR THE NATIONAL UNITY" THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AS A "CONTRIBUTION" TO THE REORGANIZATION PROCESS BEGUN ON MARCH 24, 1976. ACCORDING TO OBON'S ANNOUNCEMENT, AMONG THE SUPPORTERS OF THIS INITIATIVE ARE: EX-PRESIDENT JUAN CARLOS ONGANIA AND RETIRED ARMY GENERALS ACDEL EDGARDO VILAS, CARLOS MUJICA AND JUAN ANTONIO BUASSO.

2. [REDACTED] REPORTED A PLAN OF SUPPORTERS OF JUNTA MEMBER ADMIRAL MASSERA TO ESTABLISH AN ORGANIZATION OF THE SAME NAME TO SUPPORT MASSERA'S

84-81-0002
80F 178
Box 3 of 28
Folder: Tony Freeman Outgoing
A77 Cables

DRAFTED BY: A/POLCOUNS:AGFreeman:eg DRAFTING DATE: 11/18/77 TEL. EXT.: 276 CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: DCM:MChaplin

CLEARANCES:

DATT:COL.PCoughlin (draft) [Signature]

B1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: FRANK TUMMINIA
DATE/CASE ID: 27 MAR 2003 200101512
50153-101

CLASSIFICATION [REDACTED]

OPTIONAL FORM 153
(Formerly FS-413)
January 1975
Dept. of State

POLITICAL AMBITIONS. THE REPORT MENTIONED COL. OBON AS BEING PART OF THIS EFFORT.

3. LUIS SOBRINO ARANDA, AN EX-PERONIST AND LEADING CIVILIAN ADVISOR OF ADMIRAL MASSERA, IS A LEADING FIGURE IN THE NEW CENTER. WE HAVE BEEN HEARING FOR WEEKS THAT MASSERA WAS PREPARING TO ACT IN A MORE OPEN AND BLATANT MANNER IN PURSUING HIS AMBITION TO BE PRESIDENT (AFTER HE RETIRES FROM THE NAVY). OBON'S ANNOUNCEMENT SUGGESTING THAT ONGANIA AND OTHER ~~PERONIST~~ EX-ARMY GENERALS ARE JOINING THIS EFFORT ONGANIA, DURING HIS STRIKES A PARTICULARLY OMINOUS NOTE. ~~HE IS KNOWN FOR HIS NATIONALIST SENTIMENTS AND THE THREE GENERALS REPRESENT EVEN MORE EXTREME RIGHTWING VIEWS.~~ OTHER 3 GENERALS REPRESENT EVEN MORE EXTREME RIGHTWING VIEWS. ~~IN THE ARMY~~. GENERAL VILAS WAS RELIEVED FROM ACTIVE DUTY A YEAR AGO AFTER HE HAD GAINED MUCH NOTORIETY WHEN, AS AN EXTREME HARDLINE COMMANDER, HE CONDUCTED A WIDESCALE PURGE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH IN BAHIA BLANCA. GENERALS BUASSO AND MUJICA'S RETIREMENT FOLLOWED SUIT SHORTLY THEREAFTER.

4. THE OBON ANNOUNCEMENT, RAISING AS IT DOES THE SPECTRE OF A BLATANT MASSERA POLITICAL CAMPAIGN WITH THE POSSIBLE SUPPORT OF PERONISTS AND NATIONALIST RIGHTIST MILITARY ELEMENTS, IS CAUSE FOR CONSIDERABLE CONCERN FOR PRESIDENT VIDELA AND WILL UNDOUBTEDLY INCREASE THE ALREADY SERIOUS STRAINS EXISTING WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN, HOWEVER, WHETHER MASSERA WILL ACKNOWLEDGE RESPONSIBILITY

~~SECRET~~
Classification

FOR THE NEW POLITICAL VENTURE AND ALSO WHETHER ONGANIA HAS
 REALLY COMMITTED HIMSELF TO THE MASSERA BANDWAGON. ONGANIA
 STILL ENJOYS CONSIDERABLE PRESTIGE IN THE ARMY AND THERE IS A
 QUESTION WHETHER HE WOULD RISK LOSING THIS BY PUBLICLY LINKING
 HIS NAME TO EITHER MASSERA OR THE EXTREME RIGHTWING TRIO OF
 EX ARMY GENERALS.

N. A. Castro
 CASTRO


 Classification