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SPECIAL DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE NOTICE



Warning Notice

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DIA-DI
GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
CATEGORY 1, 2
DATE OF NOTIFICATION BY TTE

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This Notice serves an alerting function and is designed to support current decisions on security policy or posture.

ARGENTINA

MILITARY AGREE COUP IS NECESSARY.

(S/NOFORN/WNINTEL) The military high command has reportedly decided to carry out a coup against Mrs. Peron before 5 March. Should congressional leaders now meeting be unable to reach a decision to declare the President unfit to continue in office -- the only constitutional alternative remaining other than resignation -- Mrs. Peron could be out of office as early as this weekend.

(S/NOFORN/WNINTEL) The navy and air force commanders meeting on 18 February apparently convinced reluctant Army Commander Videla that the situation in the country had deteriorated to the point where the armed forces should takeover the government. Military planning for a coup is well along and individual units have their instructions. Planning now envisions Videla heading the new government, at least for a while, aided by a predominantly military Cabinet.

(C/NOFORN) Following renewed presentation of armed forces' recommendations on government changes to an unyielding President, the Minister of Defense has resigned. He reportedly left the country without awaiting Presidential reaction. This removes him from the uncomfortable position of having to decide between supporting the government or the military commanders.

(C/NOFORN) Mrs. Peron's political position has deteriorated steadily over the past several weeks, with labor, politicians and, most recently, members of her own party turning against her. Nonetheless, the military under Videla's leadership, had been reported as still leaning toward a constitutional solution. Congress, however, has been unable to

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move against Mrs. Peron. Action to initiate impeachment proceedings against Mrs. Peron failed on the 25th. The remaining alternative is convocation of a special assembly which would declare her unfit to remain in office, presumably for health reasons. Such an alternative reportedly is now being discussed. Should the move fail, a coup against Mrs. Peron as early as this weekend is almost certain. (XGDS-1 & 2 Declassify upon notification of originator)

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