

GRS 300
UNCLASSIFIED

(FM BERNE 140930Z)

FM BIS BUNOES AIRES
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELNO 63 OF 11 FEBRUARY

INFO PRIORITY MONTEVIDEO SANTIAGO BRASILIA CARACAS WASHINGTON
UKMIS NEW YORK CIVIL COMMISSIONER PORT STANLEY
PRESS SUMMARY

1. YESTERDAY'S EIGHT-HOUR JUNTA MEETING PRODUCED A STRONGLY-WORDED SIX-POINT COMMUNIQUE (COPY AND TRANSLATION TO FCO BY BAG). THIS ANNOUNCED THE INTENTION TO PROSECUTE FOR SLANDER CERTAIN POLITICIANS AND SECTORS OF THE PRESS FOR QUOTE CARRYING OUT A CAMPAIGN AIMED AT DISCREDITING THE ARMED FORCES UNQUOTE.
2. VICTOR MARTINEZ, VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE OF THE RADICAL PARTY'S MOVEMENT FOR RENOVATION AND CHANGE WAS YESTERDAY SENT A TELEGRAM BY THE JUNTA DEMANDING THAT HE QUOTE RATIFY OR RECTIFY UNQUOTE CRITICAL STATEMENTS OF THE MILITARY'S PERFORMANCE DURING THE FALKLANDS CONFLICT. ACCORDING TO RELIABLE SOURCES, MARTINEZ'S PRESIDENTIAL RUNNING MATE, RAUL ALFONSIN, AND PERONIST LEADER, DEOLINDO BITTEL, CAN EXPECT SIMILAR TELEGRAMS.
3. ALSO INDICATIVE OF THE SUDDEN HARDENING OF THE JUNTA'S ATTITUDE IS THE CONFISCATION OF THE LATEST EDITION OF THE MAGAZINE "QUORUM", WHICH IS PUBLISHING A SERIES OF LISTS OF "DISAPPEARED" PERSONS. THESE MOVES HAVE BROUGHT ONLY MORE CONDEMNATION FROM INDIGNANT POLITICIANS.
4. "CLARIN" REPORTS THAT PRESIDENT BIGNONE MIGHT HAVE OFFERED HIS RESIGNATION DUE TO HIS RELUCTANCE TO WORK TO THE STRICT JUNTA GUIDELINES IN FUTURE DISCUSSIONS WITH POLITICIANS. HOWEVER, RUMOURS OF A RIFT BETWEEN THE JUNTA AND THE PRESIDENCY WERE DENIED BY NAVY AND AIR FORCE SOURCES AND THE PRESIDENTIAL SPOKESMAN SAID THAT BIGNONE HAS BEEN GIVEN COMPLETE FREEDOM IN HIS TALKS WITH POLITICIANS WHICH ARE DUE TO BEGIN ON 17 FEBRUARY.
5. AN EARLIER COURT RULING CHARGING FORMER PRESIDENT MARIA ESTELA MARTINEZ DE PERON OF ABUSE OF AUTHORITY HAS BEEN OVERRULED. HOWEVER, THERE IS STILL A CASE PENDING AGAINST HER FOR MISHANDLING PUBLIC FUNDS. SHE IS BANNED FOR LIFE FROM OCCUPYING PUBLIC POSTS IN ARGENTINA BY INSTITUTIONAL ACTS, WHOSE POSSIBLE ANNULMENT IS BEING CONSIDERED BY THE ARMED FORCES.

JOY

POWELL-JONES

[THIS TELEGRAM WAS NOT ADVANCED]

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