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(FM BERNE 191307ZL

FROM BISBA TELNO 171 OF 18 JUNE  
 TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
 ALSO IMMEDIATE MONTEVIDEO, SANTIAGO, BRASILIA, WASHINGTON,  
 UKMIS NEW YORK.  
 MIPT: GENERAL NICOLAIDES

1. MAJOR-GENERAL CRISTINO NICOLAIDES WAS BORN IN CORDOBA ON  
 2 JANUARY 1925. HE JOINED THE ARMY IN 1944, GRADUATED FROM THE  
 WAR COLLEGE IN 1957, WAS PROMOTED TO LIEUTNANT-COLONEL IN 1966,  
 TO COLONEL IN 1970, LATER APPOINTED MILITARY ATTACHE TO PARAGUAY  
 IN 1972-73, PROMOTED TO MAJOR GENERAL ON 31 DECEMBER 1979  
 AND APPOINTED COMMANDER OF THE CORDOBA 3RD ARMY CORPS IN DECEMBER  
 1980. IN DECEMBER 1981 HE BECAME COMMANDER OF THE BUENOS AIRES  
 1ST ARMY CORPS.

2. NICOLAIDES LED THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT'S TOUGH ANTI-GUERRILLA  
 CAMPAIGN IN THE INDUSTRIAL AREA OF CORDOBA IN THE MID-70S. HE  
 WAS CONSIDERED A CLOSE FRIEND OF GALTIERI'S WHO APPOINTED HIM  
 TO THE 1ST ARMY CORPS IN BUENOS AIRES. HE HAS OFTEN BEEN PORTRAYED  
 AS A HARD-LINE ANTI-COMMUNIST AND BECAME NOTORIOUS NEARLY TWO  
 YEARS AGO WHEN, AS COMMANDER IN CORDOBA, HE ANNOUNCED HE WOULD  
 OPEN LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST LOCAL LEADERS OF THE RADICAL PARTY  
 WHO HAD ISSUED A STRONGLY-WORDED CONDEMNATION OF GOVERNMENT  
 POLICIES.

3. INITIAL REACTIONS TO HIS APPOINTMENT AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF  
 PREDICT A TOUGHER ATTITUDE TOWARDS POLITICAL EMANCIPATION AND  
 A SLOWING UP OR EVEN HALTING OF THE NATIONAL RE-ORGANISATION  
 PROCESS. HE HAS MAINTAINED A TOTALLY INVISIBLE PROFILE DURING  
 THE FALKLAND CRISIS WHICH HAS NOW EARNED HIM PROMOTION TO THE  
 TOP ARMY JOB.

JOY 18.6.  
 UNQUOTE

POWELL-JONES

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