FROM MONTEVIDEO 22154¢Z JUN 82
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 5¢9 OF 22 JUNE 1982.

AND TO IMMEDIATE TRAFFIC RELAY.

ARGENTINA: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS.

22 JUN 1982





- 1. THIS SUMMARY IS TAKEN FROM THE ARGENTINE PRESS OF 22 JUNE.
- 2. THE JUNTA HAS REACHED NO AGREEMENT ON THE FUTURE PRESIDENT OR ON HOW TO RESTRUCTURE THE GOVERNMENT.
- 3. THE ARMY STILL INSISTS THAT THE PRESIDENT MUST BE A RETIRED GENERAL. ITS CHOSEN CANDIDATE IS REYNALDO BIGNONE, BUT IT WOULD ACCEPT CRESPI. IT WILL NOT CONSIDER LAMI DOZO OR A CIVILIAN PRESIDENT THE ONLY OPTIONS THE AIR FORCE HAS DECLARED IT WILL ACCEPT.
- 4. THE AIR FORCE HAS DECLARED THAT-IT WILL NOT SUPPORT THE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IF A GENERAL IS NAMED AS PRESIDENT. IT HAS THREATENED TO PULL OUT OF THE JUNTA UNLESS A CIVILIAN PRESIDENT IS NAMED.

(ACCORDING TO THE URUGUAYAN PRESS THERE IS AN AIR FORCE DOCUMENT ON FUTURE ECONOMIC POLICY ADVOCATING A U TURN FROM CURRENT POLICIES. FURTHERMORE THE AIR FORCE HAS THREATENED TO WITHDRAW ITS OFFICERS FROM ALL GOVERNMENTAL POSTS HELD BY THE AIR FORCE).

THE AIR FORCE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT BIGNONE WAS UNACCEPTABLE BECAUSE OF HIS 'SUPPORT' FOR THE LIBERAL ECONOMIC POLICIES OF THE FORMER MINISTER OF THE ECONOMY, JOSE MARTINEZ. THE ARMY DENIES THIS CHARGE, AND CLAIMS THAT HE (AND THE ARMY ITSELF) DOES NOT SUPPORT ANY ONE ECONOMIC POLICY.

5. THE NAVY REPORTEDLY STILL PREFERS A CIVILIAN CANDIDATE. IT HAS NOMINATED A LIST OF 12 MEN, HEADED BY COSTA MENDEZ. THE ARMY HAS REJECTED THEM ALL FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS, RANGING FROM RELIGIOUS BELIEFS TO INVOLVEMENT IN THE FALKLANDS.

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THE NAVY WOULD CONSIDER SAINT JEAN OR A RETIRED OFFICER ON A OP DAY TRIAL BASIS. SHOULD THIS FAIL, THE NAVY WOULD REPORTEDLY OPT OUT OF THE JUNTA. 6. REPORTS SAY THAT THE ONLY CIVILIAN CANDIDATE WITH ANY CHANCE OF SUPPORT SEEMS TO BE JUAN RAMON AGUIRRE LANARA, AMBASSADOR TO VENEZUELA. 7. THE ARMY FORESEES MILITARY GOVERNMENT UNTIL 1984. BOTH THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE SAY THERE SHOULD BE DEMOCRATIC RULE BY 1983. 8. THE LEADERS OF THE MULTIPARTIDARIA ARE DEMANDING THAT COLONIAL INTERESTS SHOULD BE FORGOTTEN FOR THE PRESENT AND URCENT ATTENTION SHOULD BE PAID TO THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION. 9. THIS SUMMARY REFLECTS THE OPINION EXPRESSED IN THE PRESS ACROSS THE BOARD. HUTCHINSON NNNN

SENT AT 22/1561 ZTWW