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PD

SECRET Department of State

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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5. EMBASSY POLITICAL COMMENT: AS REPORTED IN BUENOS AIRES TELEGRAM 102, FRAGMENTS OF THE ABOVE REPORT CIRCULATED IN THE BUENOS AIRES PRESS IN THE LATTER HALF OF DECEMBER, APPARENTLY PRECIPITATED BY, OR AT LEAST STRENGTHENED AS A RESULT OF, THE PRESS RELEASE 13 DECEMBER OF A PRIVATE HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS OFFICES IN WASHINGTON. WHILE WE DO NOT HAVE THE TEXT OF THAT RELEASE, IT PURPORTEDLY PREDICTED, IN EFFECT, THAT HEADS WOULD ROLL IN THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT WHEN THE IACHR REPORT ON ARGENTINA WAS MADE PUBLIC. ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER CARLOS WASHINGTON PASTOR HAS TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE IACHR REPORT IS UNFAIRLY TOUGH ON ARGENTINA AND BIASED. IN REPORTING DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING ARGENTINA'S EXAMINATION OF THE (STILL CONFIDENTIAL) DRAFT REPORT, THE BUENOS AIRES MEDIA HAVE IMPLIED THAT THE TONE AND THRUST OF THAT REPORT WERE HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT--ALLUSIONS BEING MADE TO AN ALLEGEDLY CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ONE SPECIFICALLY NAMED MEMBER OF THE

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PAGE 2 [Redacted] SECRET [Redacted] WHINTEL

THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASS SECRET-WHINTEL [Redacted] COUNTRY: ARGENTINA SUBJECT: ALLEGED BELIEF OF THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT THAT THE CURRENT U.S. ADMINISTRATION IS TRYING TO "DESTABILIZE" IT BY USING THE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN [Redacted]

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PAGE 5 [Redacted] SECRET [Redacted] WHINTEL IACHR AND OFFICIALS OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT AS AN IMPLIED EXPLANATION FOR THE NEGATIVE OUTCOME OF THE REPORT. WE BELIEVE THAT THE PRESS PLAY FOLLOWS GUIDANCE PREPARED BY THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT.

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ALMOST EVERY CRISIS IN ARGENTINE-US RELATIONS INVOLVING HUMAN RIGHTS OVER THE PAST THREE AND A HALF YEARS HAS BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY AN EMOTIONAL KNEE-JERK RATIONALIZATION AMONG ELEMENTS WITHIN THE GOA, PURPORTING AN ALLEGED US ATTEMPT TO "DESTABILIZE" THE CURRENT MILITARY REGIME. GIVEN THIS NATURAL PREDILECTION, IT IS NO SURPRISE THAT THE GOA WOULD REACT TO THE IACHR REPORT IN THIS FASHION, ESPECIALLY SINCE IN THIS CASE THERE APPARENTLY IS A STATEMENT ON THE RECORD EXPLICITLY PREDICTING THAT SPECIFIC CHANGES IN THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT WILL RESULT FROM THE IACHR REPORT.)

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1. [Redacted]

2. [Redacted] PREPARE THE ARGENTINE RESPONSE TO THE

PAGE 3 [Redacted] SECRET [Redacted] WHINTEL REPORT ON ARGENTINA PREPARED BY THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (IACHR). [Redacted] THE REPORT IS VERY SERIOUS AND VERY NEGATIVE FOR THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT; [Redacted] A U.S. CITIZEN ON THE IACHR HAD "PARTICIPATED SIGNIFICANTLY" IN ITS PREPARATION. [Redacted] THE REPORT PROVIDES DETAILS OF SPECIFIC INCIDENTS OF ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN ARGENTINA, INCLUDING THE FULL NAMES OF MILITARY OFFICERS WHO TOOK PART, THE NAMES OF PERSONS THEY KIDNAPPED, ETC. [Redacted] THE REPORT CONCLUDES THAT TORTURE WAS USED SYSTEMATICALLY IN ARGENTINA.

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PAGE 6 [Redacted] SECRET [Redacted] WHINTEL REPORT CLASS SECRET-WARNING NOTICE-INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

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