

TELEGRAM

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E.O. 11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:

GDS 12/23/87 (SHLAUDEMAN, HARRY W.) OR-M
PINT, AR
(U) GALTIERI SWORN IN

ACTION:

SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO:

USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN
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1. (U) On December 22 in a brief (9 minutes) and austere ceremony attended by members of the outgoing and incoming governments, military officers, the diplomatic corps, family and friends, Leopoldo Fortunato Galtieri took the oath of office as President of Argentina. Galtieri swore in his cabinet later in the morning. He is scheduled to deliver his first address to the nation the evening of December 23.

2. (C) The most notable aspect of the occasion was the obvious lack of public interest. The people of Buenos Aires went about their daily business in the area of

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the Congress building with no more than a handful stopping to take a look at what was going on.

3. (C) Ex-President Videla showed up for the ceremony, as did former Air Force commanders and Junta members Graffigna and Agosti. Their Navy counterparts, retired Admirals Massera and Lambruschini, were conspicuous by their absence. It is rumored that Lambruschini has joined Massera in the former's political venture. Some members of the outgoing cabinet were on hand, but the ex-ministers who made a political point of stepping down the minute Viola was dismissed-- Liendo, Camilion, Kuhl and Urricariet--stayed away.

4. (C) Contrary to expectations and to what would appear to be normal protocol, it was the junior member of the Junta, Brigadier Lami Dozo, rather than Admiral Anaya who slid Galtieri into the presidential sash. The story we hear is that Anaya wanted it that way, fearing that because of his diminutive stature he would look silly trying to get the sash over the head of the hulking Galtieri. Anaya handed him his presidential baton instead.

SHLAUDEMAN

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