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ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 AID-07 INR-10 SS-10 CIAE-00 EB-08
DODE-00 H-01 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 COME-00 SSO-00 SY-05
HA-06 L-03 LAB-04 DOE-10 TRSE-00 PM-09 PA-01
MCT-02 OMB-01 STR-13 SIL-01 INRE-00 SAL-01 AGRE-00
ANAE-00 ICAE-00 SYE-00 SP-02 DOEE-00 SPRS-02 /112 W
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RELEASE IN FULL

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2950
INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN
USCINCLANT NORVA

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CINCSO FOR INTAFF, CINCLANT FOR POLAD

EO 12065: GDS 3/30/88 (KEANE, J.F.) OR-P
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, ASEC, AR
SUBJECT: CGT RALLY

REF: BUENOS AIRES 1785

1. (U) THE GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF LABOR WILL TRY TO HOLD ITS RALLY TO PROTEST GOA ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICIES TODAY (MARCH 30) AT 5 PM IN BUENOS AIRES' MAIN SQUARE, PLAZA DE MAYO, WHILE THE GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED SECURITY MEASURES TO TRY TO FRUSTRATE IT. RALLIES WILL ALSO BE HELD IN INTERIOR CITIES, I.E. MENDOZA, SANTA FE, JUJUY, ROSARIO AND MAR DEL PLATA. THE PROTEST HAS BEEN LABELED "PAN, PAZ Y TRABAJO" ("BREAD, PEACE AND JOBS") TO SYMBOLIZE LABOR'S DEMANDS FOR A NEW ECONOMIC POLICY TO PULL THE COUNTRY OUT OF ITS SEVERE RECESSION. PREVIOUS STATEMENTS FROM CGT LEADER UBALDINI HAD HINTED AT THE POSSIBILITY OF POSTPONING THE RALLY IN VIEW OF THE TENSE CONFRONTATION WITH GREAT BRITAIN OVER

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THE SOUTH ATLANTIC ISLANDS (BA 1770 AND PREVIOUS). THE POSTPONE-MENT DID NOT MATERIALIZE, ALTHOUGH A WELL-KNOWN SLOGAN "LAS MALVINAS SON ARGENTINAS" ("THE MALVINAS ISLANDS ARE ARGENTINE") HAS BEEN MINGLED WITH OTHERS OF STRICTLY LABOR TONE IN CGT STATEMENTS REGARDING THE DEMONSTRATION. WE UNDERSTAND THE DEMONSTRATORS WILL CARRY PLACARDS WITH THIS INSCRIPTION TO THE RALLY, IN HOPES THAT IT WILL PERSUADE SECURITY FORCES TO ALLOW THEM TO REACH THE DEMONSTRATION SITE.

2. (U) THE CGT MOVE HAS THE BACKING OF HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS,

REVIEW AUTHORITY:
Marvin Russell, Senior
Reviewer

MAJOR TRADE UNIONS AND VARIOUS POLITICAL PARTIES BUT NOT OF FRONDIZI'S MID AND THE RADICAL CIVIC UNION. THE RIVAL CNT-20 LABOR BODY MAINTAINS IT WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH THE RALLY. THE CGT LEADERS INTEND TO DELIVER A 7-PAGE MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENT DESCRIBING THEIR COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE SOCIAL SITUATION AND THEIR OPPOSITION TO PRIVATIZATION OF BANKS, STATE ENTERPRISES, AND SUB-SOIL RIGHTS. (COMMENT: GOA HAS NOT INDICATED ANY PLAN TO DENATIONALIZE SUBSOIL RIGHTS. END COMMENT). THEY HAVE ALSO REQUESTED THE RESIGNATION OF ECONOMY MINISTER ROBERTO ALEMANN AS WELL AS THE GRANTING OF A GENEROUS ACROSS-THE-BOARD SALARY INCREASE.

3. (U) MEANWHILE THE GOVERNMENT HAS MOUNTED A MAJOR EFFORT TO FRUSTRATE THE RALLY. THE GOA HAS STRESSED ON TELEVISION, RADIO AND TO THE PRESS THAT STATE OF SIEGE REGULATIONS ARE IN FORCE AND RALLIES CANNOT BE CARRIED OUT WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE AUTHORITIES. IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE NO AUTHORIZATION WAS REQUESTED BY THE CGT, WHICH ARGUES THAT THE CONSTITUTION GUARANTEES THE RIGHTS OF FREE SPEECH AND ASSEMBLY. THE FEDERAL POLICE HAS INSTRUCTIONS TO BLOCK ROAD AND RAIL TRAFFIC, AND CUT SUBWAY SERVICES LEADING TO THE PLAZA DE MAYO. BARRICADES WERE ALSO SET IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE, PASSERS-BY WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO CONGREGATE IN THE AREA, AND GROUND AND

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AIR PATROLS WILL BE OPERATING.

4. (C) ARMY SOURCES REPORT THAT THE ARMED FORCES HAVE BEEN PUT ON ALERT AND POLICE PRECINCTS ARE UNDER THE OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF MILITARY SUB-ZONE COMMANDERS. NEVERTHELESS, ARMY UNITS HAVE ORDERS NOT TO INTERVENE UNLESS THE POLICE ARE UNABLE TO RESTRICT ACCESS TO THE RALLY SITE.

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