

RELEASE IN FULL

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CINCSO FOR INTAFF

EO 12065: GDS 11/10/87 (FRIEDMAN, T.B.) OR-P
TAGS: PEPR AR US
SUBJECT: GALTIERI TRIP TO U.S. GETS MAJOR ATTENTION

REF: (A) BUENOS AIRES 7955, (B) BUENOS AIRES 7572

1. (U) ARGENTINE ARMY CINC AND JUNTA MEMBER LEOPOLDO GALTIERI'S PARTICIPATION IN THE WASHINGTON MEETING OF CHIEFS OF AMERICAN ARMIES AND HIS OTHER ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED STATES NOVEMBER 1-9 HAVE BEEN GIVEN MAJOR ATTENTION BY ARGENTINE PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION. THE CINCS GATHERING RECEIVED MORE THAN USUAL COVERAGE ORWING TO REPORTS THAT IS FOCUSED ON CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN AND COINCIDED WITH REPORTS THAT THE US IS STUDYING NEW ACTIONS. GALTIERI'S ACTIVITIES AND STATEMENTS OVERSHADOWED ALLEGED LEAKS ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ARMY MEETING. FOR EXAMPLE, THE LUNCHEON AT THE ARGENTINE EMBASSY IN GALTIERI'S HONOR AND THE LIST OF AMERICAN GUESTS WERE PROMINENTLY COVERED AS WERE REPORTED FAVORABLE
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POST-LUNCHEON COMMENTS ON GALTIERI BY DEFENSE SECRETARY WEINBERGER AND NSC DIRECTOR ALLEN.

2. (U) SEVERAL PROMINENT COLUMNISTS ALSO ALLEGED THAT IN HIS BILATERAL DEALINGS WITH THE USG, GALTIERI WAS INFORMED OF THE USG'S DESIRE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINA AND WAS GIVEN A LIST OF CONDITIONS FOR THAT IMPROVEMENT. THESE HYPOTHETICAL CONDITIONS RECALL THOSE THE PRESS HAS STATED THE U.S. ESTABLISHED (REF A) AND INCLUDE, IN ONE OF THESE LATEST VERSIONS, (1) NO RESUMPTION OF DISAPPEARANCES, (2) NO RECOGNITION OF THE PLO BY THE GOA, (3) CONTINUED STEP BY STEP PROGRESS TOWARDS DEMOCRATIZATION, AND

REVIEW AUTHORITY:
Marvin Russell, Senior
Reviewer

(4) ARGENTINE SUPPORT FOR OAS-SPONSORED POLITICAL AND IF NECESSARY MILITARY INTERVENTION IN CENTRAL AMERICA, "INCLUDING CUBA" IF THE SITUATION IN EL SALVADOR WORSENS.

3. (C) COMMENT: THE INORDINATE AMOUNT OF ATTENTION DEVOTED TO GALTIERI'S DOINGS IN THE UNITED STATES IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE WORKINGS OF THE BUENOS AIRES RUMOR MILL. CURRENT LOCAL SPECULATION FOCUSES ON THE PURPORTED SHAKINESS OF THE VIOLA GOVERNMENT AND THE PROXIMITY OF A CHANGE. IN MOST OF THESE RUMORS THE ARMY COMMANDER PLAYS A PROMINENT ROLE AS THE PRESUMED SUCCESSOR TO THE PRESIDENT. IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, FOR NEWS EDITORS AND POLITICIANS GALTIERI'S U.S. ACTIVITIES WERE NOT THOSE OF AN ARMY CINC, OR EVEN OF A JUNTA MEMBER BUT OF A POTENTIAL PRESIDENT IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE. THESE SAME MEN SAW IN GALTIERI'S RECEPTION IN THE U.S. EVIDENCE OF USG ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE MAN -- AND FROM THAT THEY REASON HERE, OF FAVORABLE USG ATTITUDES TOWARDS HIS CONFIDENTIAL

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PURPORTED PRESIDENTIAL AMBITIONS.

4. (C) THOUGH UNDOUBTEDLY AWARE OF THE SPECULATION IN ARGENTINA ABOUT HIS PLANS, GALTIERI REMAINED STUBBORNLY DELPHIC IN PUBLIC ON THE MATTER. GALTIERI IN THE U.S. HAS BLANDLY REPEATED TO THE ARGENTINE PRESS HIS COMMENT THAT, "I HAVE ALREADY SAID THAT I WILL RETIRE NEXT YEAR AND THAT AFTER 40 YEARS MILITARY SERVICE I WANT TO GO HOME TO BE WITH MY FAMILY." AND WHEN PRESSED BY THE REPORTER TO CONFIRM OR DENY THAT HE INTENDS TO FOLLOW VIOLA, GALTIERI REFUSED TO RESPOND, VERY CLEARLY LEAVING ALL DOORS OPEN. SHLAUDEMANN

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