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ACTION ARA-16

RELEASE IN FULL

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Marvin Russell,
Senior Reviewer

R 201615Z JAN 82
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2213
INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN
USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA
DIA HQS WASHDC

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 0360

CINCSO FOR INTAFF, CINCLANT FOR POLAD, DIA FOR IR BRANCH

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PINT,AR
SUBJECT: MASSERA ARRESTED AGAIN FOR OUTSPOKENESS

1. THE BA PRESS OF JAN 20 REPORTS THAT FORMER NAVY CINC MASSERA JAN 19 WAS PUT UNDER 10-DAY ARREST FOR HAVING VIOLATED ARGENTINE MILITARY OFFICER CODES IN SPEAKING OUT ON SENSITIVE POLITICAL SUBJECTS. THE RETIRED ADMIRAL, GIVEN 10-DAYS HOUSE ARREST LAST YEAR FOR CRITICIZING THE PRESENT MILITARY PROCESS, THIS TIME APPARENTLY TRANSGRESSED THE RULES, BINDING ON BOTH ACTIVE DUTY AND RETIRED OFFICERS, WHEN HE TOLD A LA PLATA NEWSPAPER OVER THE PAST WEEKEND THAT WHILE HE SERVED AS THE NAVY'S JUNTA REPRESENTATIVE, HE HAD PROPOSED TO HIS ARMY AND AIR FORCE COLLEAGUES THAT THE REGIME MAKE PUBLIC A LIST OF THE DISAPPEARED DURING THE ANTI-TERRORIST STRUGGLE UNLEASHED HERE AFTER THE ARMED FORCES OUSTED THE PERON GOVERNMENT IN 1976.

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2. MASSERA CLARIFIED THIS JAN 19 WITH ANOTHER PUBLIC STATEMENT, ISSUED AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME AS THE ORDER FOR HIS ARREST, THAT HE BELIEVED AT THE TIME, "AND STILL BELIEVE, THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD HAVE MADE CLEAR TO THE PUBLIC AT AN OPPORTUNE MOMENT" WHAT THE LOSSES WERE ON BOTH SIDES IN THE SO-CALLED DIRTY WAR. IN HIS CLARIFICATION STATEMENT, MASSERA, IN ACCEPTING NAVY DISCIPLINE, STILL INSISTED, AS NAVY LEADER AT THE TIME, THAT HE WAS NOT OUT OF LINE IN CALLING FOR A LIST OF

THE DEAD IN THE WAR. HAD THAT BEEN DONE, HE SAID, "ALL THE CONSEQUENCES WE KNOW ABOUT WOULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED AND WE WOULD HAVE LEFT THE 'PARAMARXIST'... GROUPS WHO LATER ACCUSED OF OTHER ACTS WITHOUT A CASE."

3. THE PRESS REPORTED HIS LATEST ARREST WAS ORDERED BY CURRENT NAVY CINC AND JUNTA MEMBER ADM. JORGE ANAYA. AS IS USUAL IN THESE CASES, NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ACTION WAS FORTHCOMING, BUT THE PRESS ACCOUNTS WERE NOT DENIED EITHER, AND WE HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT MASSERA IS BEING SANCTIONED AS REPORTED.

4. MASSERA, WHO HAS OVERTLY TURNED TO POLITICS AS HEAD OF THE MOVEMENT FOR SOCIAL DEMOCRACY, THUS JOINS IN DEPRIVED-LIBERTY STATUS FORMER PRESIDENT JUAN CARLOS ONGANIA, A RETIRED ARMY GENERAL. THE LATTER, UNLIKE MASSERA, HAS NOT FORMED AN IDENTIFIABLE POLITICAL MOVEMENT BUT IS NONETHELESS BELIEVED TO BE PROMOTING HIMSELF IN THE POLITICAL FIELD. HE WAS GIVEN 30 DAYS 'DETAINION BY ARMY CINC GALITERI LAST WEEK FOR CALLING THE MILITARY 'PROCESS' BURNED OUT. THE TWO WILL SERVE THEIR TIME IN SEPARATE FACILITIES, ONGANIA AT THE ARMY'S IN BAHIA BLANCA AND MASSERA UNCLASSIFIED

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AT THE NAVY'S AZUL INSTALLATION IN BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE. SHLAUDEMAM

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