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# *Central Intelligence Bulletin*

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12 March 1973



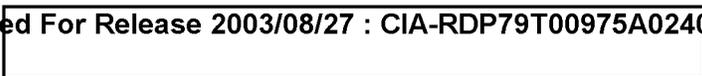
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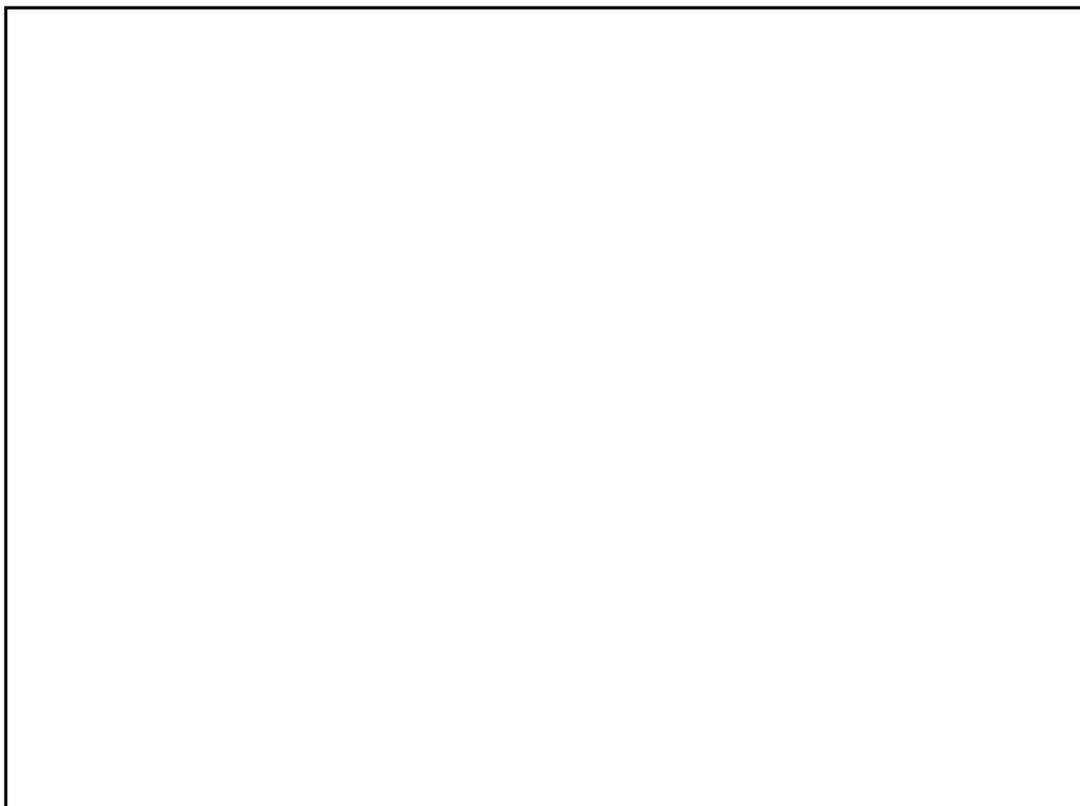


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ARGENTINA: Peronists and Radicals prepare for presidential runoff. (Page 8)



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**ARGENTINA:** Political maneuvering will enter a new phase as the Peronists and Radicals prepare for a presidential runoff following the indecisive results of the elections yesterday.

Incomplete and unofficial returns show the Peronist candidate, Hector Campora, leading the nine-man field with about 40 percent of the vote. Ricardo Balbin of the Radical Civic Union seems assured of second place with about 23 percent, although official returns will not be released until Wednesday.

Late returns from conservative provincial areas may reduce the Peronist lead. Returns from the provinces may also improve the position of Francisco Manrique who is running a poor third. Both he and Oscar Alende seem likely to fall short of the 15 percent of the vote that would enable them to join in coalitions with either the Peronists or the Radicals for the runoff.

Before the polls closed yesterday, the Peronists were already claiming that voting irregularities would rob them of a first round victory. Among other charges, they claimed that long-deceased voters were still carried on the rolls enabling the government to stuff the ballot box.

Despite these alleged irregularities, Campora's showing appears to put him in a good position for the runoff next month. The Radicals will rally the anti-Peronists, but will be hard pressed to overcome the large Peronist lead. With Balbin's poor showing yesterday, there is likely to be increasing pressure on the military to step in to prevent the Peronists from reaching power. [REDACTED]

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