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TALKING POINTS FOR THE DDI

Current Intelligence Briefing of HPSCI

ArgentinaCurrent Situation

President Alfonsin's handling of recent mutinies has at least temporarily strengthened his administration, but tensions with the military will undoubtedly persist.

- Alfonsin promised [redacted] the rebels to limit the prosecutions of most officers through the rank of lieutenant colonel charged with human rights violations on the grounds that they were merely following orders. Convictions for such abuses will be limited to retired colonels and general officers. 25X1
- In return, mutinous officers in both Cordoba and Buenos Aires surrendered. They are now in custody and may soon face sedition charges.
- Members of all major political parties signed a declaration supporting democracy and rejecting trials for officers who merely followed orders during the "dirty war" against subversion in the 1970s.
- The public reaction to the declaration and to the resolution of the crisis has been overwhelmingly positive.
- Commanding officers who could not control their troops have resigned and the Ministry of Defense is now seeking replacements loyal to the government.

Alfonsin, however, negotiated unilaterally with the military and may not be able to fulfill his end of the agreement.

- The civilian courts, tasked with deciding the human rights cases, must quickly support the decision to implement the principle of "due obedience" for officers who were just following orders. Although they will be

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heavily pressured by the overwhelming mulitparty support in favor of limiting the trials, many judges have been reluctant to use these guidelines in the past.

- The President refused at the onset of the mutinies to negotiate with the rebels and public approval of his actions could sour

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Civil-military relations will remain tense for the next several months despite Alfonsin's defusing of the crisis.

- The administration has failed to implement past promises to limit prosecution of junior amd mid-level officers and military personnel remain skeptical that the trials will end soon.
- Units ordered to put down the rebellion refused to fire on fellow officers. The government's lack of loyal troops could tempt other officers to mount uprisings.
- The Ministry of Defense will probably choose new Army commanders who have close ties to the administration rather than the respect of the officer corps. The new military hierarchy would be hard pressed to maintain discipline if other mutinies were to erupt.
- Some supporters of the rebels--reputed to be at large--may resort to terrorist actions.