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BUENOS AIRES 0807

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENCS AIRES 00807

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CINCSO AND CINCLANT ALSO FOR INTAFF

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, AR
SUBJECT: SUAREZ MASON ARRESTED

CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO
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OF THIS DOCUMENT DATE: 09-14-2018

1. (U) CASHIERED GENERAL CARLOS SUAREZ MASON WAS ARRESTED SOUTH OF SAN FRANCISCO JANUARY 24. HIS ARREST AND SUBSEQUENT COURT APPEARANCE HAVE BEEN WIDELY REPORTED IN ALL THE ARGENTINE PRESS. SUAREZ MASON, A FUGITIVE FROM JUSTICE FOR NEARLY THREE YEARS, IS WIDELY SEEN AS ONE OF THE MILITARY MOST INVOLVED IN RESPONSIBILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. PRESS REPORTS HERE TAKE HIS EXTRADITION AS A GIVEN.

2. (C) COMMENT: THE ARREST AND RAPID EXTRADITION OF SUAREZ MASON IS IN GOA'S INTEREST BECAUSE IT PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO KEEP PUBLIC ATTENTION FOCUSSED ON A MILITARY HUMAN RIGHTS PROCESS AT A TIME THE GOVERNMENT IS SEEKING TO LIMIT/PREVENT OTHER INDICTMENTS FROM BEING ISSUED. OUR INITIAL READING IS THAT SUAREZ MASON'S FATE, AS A CASHIERED OFFICER, IS OF LESS CONCERN TO MOST MILITARY THAN WERE EVEN THE JUNTAS OR GENERAL CAMPS. HIS FATE MAY, THEREFORE, BE IRRELEVANT TO THOSE INVOLVED IN THE CENTRAL ISSUE FOR CIVILIAN-MILITARY RELATIONSHIPS, THE HUMAN RIGHTS TRIALS OF ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY. SUAREZ MASON IS ALSO WANTED FOR EMBEZZLING YPF FUNDS UNDER THE JUNTA GOVERNMENT AND WAS ONE OF TWELVE NAMED IN THE GOA'S STATE OF SIEGE DECREE IN 1985. THE GOA SUSPECTS A SUAREZ MASON HAND IN EFFORTS TO DESTABILIZE DEMOCRACY.

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SUAREZ Mason, Carlos