

RC 7A1

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message below reports on security conditions in Buenos Aires.

1. TERRORIST FORCES CURRENTLY PRESENT NO THREAT WHATEVER TO GOVERNMENT STABILITY. FOR SEVERAL YEARS, UNTIL THE OUSTER OF THE PERONIST GOVERNMENT BY MILITARY FORCES IN MARCH 76, LEFTIST TERRORISM WAS A SERIOUS AND GROWING PROBLEM IN ARGENTINA. AS THE RESULT OF A TOUGH ANTI-SUBVERSIVE CAMPAIGN WAGED BY GOVERNMENT SECURITY FORCES SINCE MID 1976, MAJOR TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS (MONTONEROS, ERP) HAVE BEEN DECIMATED. LEADERS OF THESE GROUPS WHO MANAGED TO EVADE CAPTURE HAVE BEEN FORCED INTO EXILE ABROAD, MOSTLY IN EUROPE. CURRENT ESTIMATES BY SECURITY SERVICES INDICATE THAT THE MONTONEROS HAVE ABOUT 245 MEMBERS IN THE COUNTRY AND ANOTHER 200 IN EXILE ABROAD. THE ERP (PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY ARMY) IS ESTIMATED TO HAVE 138 MEMBERS IN ARGENTINA AND 90 ABROAD.

2. WHILE THE MONTONEROS AND ERP STILL MAINTAIN A LIMITED CAPABILITY TO UNDERTAKE ISOLATED TERRORIST ACTS, THE LAST KNOWN ACTION OCCURRED IN AUGUST 1978 WHEN THE MONTONEROS BOMBED THE HOME OF THE NAVY COMMANDER IN CHIEF, KILLING HIS DAUGHTER.

3. THERE IS NO SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL/SOCIAL UNREST IN ARGENTINA AT CURRENT TIME. SECURITY FORCES ARE CAPABLE OF HANDLING ANY DEMONSTRATIONS THAT MIGHT BE MOUNTED IN

NEAR FUTURE.

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