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Trends in Communist Media

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Argentine Coup Attempt

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NOTES

ARGENTINE COUP ATTEMPT: Moscow, which has been taking a cautious, wait-and-see attitude toward Argentina's deteriorating political situation, has condemned the action of Argentine air force officers in attempting the 18 December abortive coup, calling it a "mutiny" by "fascist desperadoes." Participants in Moscow radio's 28 December roundtable program implicitly warned against a return to the military governments that ruled Argentina before Peronism's return to power in 1973. But the roundtable observers acknowledged that "there is quite a lot of discontent with the situation" in the country. Moscow earlier had followed the Argentine Communist Party (PCA) in backing the government of President Isabel Peron. In the past few months, however, Soviet media have held back in publicizing the PCA's shift to open criticism of the government and repeated calls for a coalition of military men and representatives from a broad spectrum of political parties. Following the coup attempt, however, TASS on 20 December highlighted a PCA statement calling for a "democratic coalition government made up of civilians and military men" as the "only guarantee of the continuity of a constitutional regime." Havana media, which in the past have replayed PCA criticisms of the government, have reported the abortive coup but are not known to have commented.

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