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ARGENTINA

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[Redacted] Hard-line Argentine military officers are trying to force President Videla to take a tougher stand on subversion and a variety of other issues. This could confront Videla with serious human rights problems and divisions within the military.

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[Redacted] Videla and advisers who share his moderate and methodical approach toward national reform are trying to curb the arbitrary arrests by police and armed forces security services, compile a list of those detained, and halt vigilante-style activities against suspected and known leftists by semiofficial death squads.

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[Redacted] //Some of Videla's subordinates also are attempting to work with Peronist labor and political leaders in the hope

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of eventually building a base of popular support for the military government. To accomplish this they reportedly believe that government economic policies will have to become more "populist" in orientation and provide for a more equitable distribution of wealth.//

3.5(c) [Redacted] Hard-liners opposed to these and other government proposals--ranging from ambassadorial appointments to revising foreign investment laws--include a number of high-ranking army officers who have a sympathetic junta member in Admiral Emilio Massera.

3.5(c) [Redacted] //Massera and his army colleagues do not appear bent on ousting Videla as President, but rather are determined to force moderates out of the President's circle of advisers.// Only then, they apparently reason, can the government impose discipline on the labor force, destroy the influence of corrupt and irresponsible politicians, and eliminate the well-entrenched leftists.

3.5(c) [Redacted] The junta's image is already suffering from its inability to control right-wing terrorism. Moreover, labor and political leaders are increasingly concerned about Videla's inability to enforce the moderate line he promised on taking office.

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