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(S) **SUBJ: NAVY SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED AMNESTY LAW;
POSITIONS OF THE ARMED FORCES IN REGARD TO THE PROPOSED LAW**

3.3(b)(1)
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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REPORT CLASS ~~S E C R E T~~ -WNINTEL-

DIST: 3 SEP 83

COUNTRY: ARGENTINA

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PROPOSED LAW

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THE TEXT OF

3.3(b)(1)

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THE PROPOSED AMNESTY LAW, OFFICIALLY KNOWN AS THE
PACIFICATION LAW, WAS ALMOST READY FOR PROMULGATION AND
THAT THE AMNESTY WOULD COVER THE PERIOD FROM 25 MAY 1973
TO 16 JULY 1982. ARMY OFFICERS CONTINUE TO
PRESS THE AIR FORCE TO SUPPORT THE PROMULGATION OF THE
LAW BEFORE NATIONAL ELECTIONS TAKE PLACE ON 30 OCTOBER.

3.3(b)(1)

3.3(b)(1) NAVY OFFICERS HAD BEGUN TO
LOBBY FOR THE IMMEDIATE PASSAGE OF THE AMNESTY LAW.

THIS ATTITUDE AMONG NAVY OFFICERS TO CIVIL
COURT PROCEEDINGS AGAINST RETIRED ADMIRAL EMILIO ((MASSERA))
AND TO THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE NAVY MECHANICS SCHOOL IN
THE ANTI-SUBVERSIVE CAMPAIGN OF THE 1970'S.

3.3(b)(1)

ARMY AND NAVY OFFICERS ARE BECOMING VERY UPSET AS THE
RESULT OF SEVERAL SCANDALS AND COURT CASES INVOLVING HIGH-
RANKING MEMBERS OF THEIR SERVICES. (COMMENT: AS
DESCRIBED ABOVE, THE AMNESTY WOULD COVER THE PERIOD FROM
THE INSTALLATION OF HECTOR ((CAMPORA)) AS PRESIDENT TO THE
INSTALLATION OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL (LTG) CRISTINO
((NICOLAIDES)) AS COMMANDER OF THE ARMY AND A MEMBER OF
THE RULING JUNTA.)

3.3(b)(1)

2. 3.3(b)(1)

[REDACTED] NICOLAIDES WAS

3.3(b)(1)

CONSTANTLY PRESSURING THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE JUNTA -- ADMIRAL RUBEN OSCAR ((FRANCO)), COMMANDER OF THE NAVY; AND LTG AUGUSTO JORGE ((HUGHES)), COMMANDER OF THE AIR FORCE -- TO SUPPORT THE IMMEDIATE PASSAGE OF THE PROPOSED AMNESTY LAW.

[REDACTED] AS OF THAT TIME, AIR FORCE AND NAVY OFFICERS WANTED TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER THE OCTOBER ELECTIONS TO PROMULGATE THE LAW, FEELING THAT THEY COULD THEN FORCE THE PRESIDENT-ELECT TO COMMIT HIMSELF TO THE DEFENSE OF THE LAW.

3.3(b)(1)

[REDACTED] AS A MINIMUM, AIR FORCE OFFICERS WANTED TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED LAW WITH THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES OF THE PERONIST MOVEMENT AND OF THE RADICAL CIVIC UNION (UCR) BEFORE TAKING ANY ACTION IN REGARD TO IT.

3.3(b)(1)

3. [REDACTED] LTG

3.3(b)(1)

NICOLAIDES WAS ADVOCATING THE IMMEDIATE PROMULGATION OF THE AMNESTY LAW FOR THESE TWO REASONS:

A. THE TWO HUNDRED ARMED FORCES OFFICERS AND NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS CURRENTLY FACING CHARGES BECAUSE OF EXCESSES COMMITTED DURING THE ANTI-SUBVERSIVE CAMPAIGN HAVE THREATENED TO CONTACT REPORTERS AND IMPLICATE OTHER ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL IN THESE INCIDENTS.

3.3(b)(1)

[REDACTED] COMMENT: THE MAJORITY OF ARMED FORCES OFFICERS NOW UNDER ARREST HAVE BEEN CHARGED WITH SUCH COMMON CRIMES AS RAPE AND ROBBERY. IF THEY WERE TO IMPLICATE OTHER OFFICERS IN SIMILAR CRIMES, A PUBLIC SCANDAL WHICH WOULD DISCREDIT THE ARMED FORCES WOULD FOLLOW.)

B. FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL POLICEMEN CALLED TO TESTIFY IN COURT ACTIONS BROUGHT BY RELATIVES OF PERSONS WHO DISAPPEARED DURING THE ANTI-SUBVERSIVE CAMPAIGN ARE PRESSURING THE ARMY TO PROTECT THEM SINCE THEY SERVED UNDER THE ARMY'S OPERATIONAL CONTROL DURING THE CAMPAIGN.

3.3(b)(1)

[REDACTED] COMMENT: FREQUENTLY, POLICEMEN HAVE BEEN AMONG THE FIRST CALLED TO TESTIFY IN CASES CONCERNING INDIVIDUALS WHO DISAPPEARED.)

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 3.5(c)