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TEXT
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PHUM, SOCI, AR
SUBJECT: ARGENTINA TO CREATE OFFICE TO SEARCH
FOR NAZIS AND OTHER WAR CRIMINALS

REF: A) BUENOS AIRES 3183, B) BUENOS AIRES 3156

1. INTERIOR MINISTER CARLOS RUCKAUF ANNOUNCED JUNE 19 THAT THE GOA PLANS TO CREATE AN INSTITUTE CHARGED WITH LOCATING POSSIBLE NAZI WAR CRIMINALS STILL RESIDENT IN ARGENTINA. THE ANNOUNCEMENT IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT'S EXTRADITION REQUEST IN THE CASE OF EX-NAZI ERICK PRIEBKE (REFTELS), WHO REMAINS UNDER HOUSE ARREST IN BARILOCHE. THE PROPOSED INSTITUTE WILL ALSO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR INVESTIGATING AND DENOUNCING "DISCRIMINATORY, RACIST AND XENOPHOBIC ATTITUDES," ACCORDING TO RUCKAUF.

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2. RUCKAUF'S ANNOUNCEMENT COMES CLOSE ON THE HEELS OF THE MINISTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE GOA WILL EXTRADITE PRIEBKE. THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS HAVE NOW BEEN RECEIVED FROM ROME. AT THE SAME TIME, THE GOA HAS DENIED THAT PRIEBKE HAS ALREADY BEEN TRIED FOR HIS ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN THE ARDEATINE CAVES MASSACRE, AS HIS ARGENTINE LAWYER ASSERTED EARLIER.

3. COMMENT: THE EXTRADITION PROCESS SEEMS TO BE ON TRACK, BUT MAY BE DELAYED BY BUREAUCRATIC PROCEDURE. LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN BARILOCHE ARE KEEPING A CLOSE WATCH ON PRIEBKE. RUCKAUF'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CREATION OF A NAZI-TRACKING INSTITUTE IS A DIRECT RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST BY THE JEWISH UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION DAIA FOR GREATER GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT IN INVESTIGATING THE POSSIBLE PRESENCE -- STILL -- OF EX-NAZIS IN ARGENTINA.
GODARD

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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