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RELEASED IN PART
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ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-05	SS-00	CIAE-00	EB-00
H-01	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	COME-00	HA-09	L-03	TRSE-00
PM-10	EA-01	OME-01	INRE-00	FRB-03	USIE-00	SP-02
SNP-01	C-01	PRS-01	E-01	P-02	T-01	DPR-01

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P 111709Z JAN 90
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8571
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN
USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA
USAFSO HOWARD AFB PN//DOI/LAI//

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BUENOS AIRES 00348

CINCSO AND CINCLANT ALSO FOR INTAFF

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, MARR, PINR, AR
SUBJECT: SEINELDIN'S CORDOBA VISIT: NEW ACCUSATIONS
AND CONCERNS

REFS: (A) BUENOS AIRES 319
(B) BUENOS AIRES 199
(C) BUENOS AIRES 68

1. (C) SUMMARY: COS CACERES HAS ORDERED SEINELDIN TO EXPLAIN STATEMENTS ALLEGEDLY MADE BY THE CARAPINTADA LEADER IN CORDOBA ABOUT COUP PLOTTING BY ARMY LEADERS. CACERES ALSO CALLED FOR LEGAL SANCTIONS TO PREVENT FURTHER "IRRESPONSIBLE" STATEMENTS. SEINELDIN HAS DENIED THE STATEMENTS WHILE HIS SELF-PROCLAIMED SPOKESMAN CLAIMS A WIDE RANGE OF CONTACTS AND DISCUSSIONS BY THE CARAPINTADA LEADER WITH ALL SECTORS OF SOCIETY.
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SEINELDIN'S LATEST ESCAPE SEEMS TO HAVE ANGERED MENEM, BUT THE PRESIDENT TOLD AMBASSADOR TODMAN THAT SEINELDIN IS PLEDGED TO SUPPORT UNITY IN THE ARMY. THE EPISODE HAS HEIGHTENED CONCERN AMONG RADICAL PARTY LEADERS ABOUT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 25X6
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 11 JAN 2017
DATE/CASE ID: 30 MAY 2007 200601448

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POSSIBLE FUTURE CARAPINTADA ACTIONS. SO FAR SEINELDIN AND HIS FOLLOWERS HAVE CONCENTRATED ON A PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGN DESIGNED TO UNDERMINE CONFIDENCE IN THE ARMED FORCES LEADERSHIP AND PRESENT THEMSELVES AS LOYAL SUPPORTERS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER. SOME POLITICIANS HAVE TOLD US THEY FEAR THE CARAPINTADAS MAY GO FURTHER AND PROVOKE SOCIAL UNREST. THE BOMBING OF A RADICAL PARTY OFFICE IN MORENO HAS UNDOUBTEDLY HEIGHTENED THESE CONCERNS. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) RETIRED COL. MOHAMED ALI SEINELDIN HAS BEEN ORDERED BY ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF CACERES TO PRESENT HIMSELF TO MILITARY AUTHORITIES TO CONFIRM OR DENY STATEMENTS MADE BY HIS SELF-PROCLAIMED SPOKESMAN, NICANOR VILLAFANE MOLINA, IN CORDOBA. VILLAFANE MOLINA TOLD THE PRESS JANUARY 8 THAT SEINELDIN HAD MET WITH SOME 250 PERSONS IN CORDOBA TO DISCUSS THE "GRAVE SITUATION" EXISTING IN THE COUNTRY.

3. (U) APPARENTLY SEINELDIN HAS BEEN TRAVELLING TO VARIOUS CITIES AFTER COMPLETING A PERIOD OF TEN DAYS HOUSE ARREST FOR HIS PUBLIC COMMENTS ABOUT U.S. INTERVENTION IN PANAMA. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS INTERVIEWS GIVEN BY VILLAFANE MOLINA, SEINELDIN HAD TOLD INTERLOCUTORS IN CORDOBA THAT: THE GOVERNMENT WAS OUT OF TOUCH; THE MILITARY SITUATION WAS HEADING FOR A CONFRONTATION; AND THE POLITICAL SITUATION WAS DETERIORATING AND VIOLENCE COULD BREAK OUT. THE SPOKESMAN ALSO SAID THAT SEINELDIN HAD ACCUSED CACERES

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AND THE HIGH COMMAND OF COUP PLOTTING, BUT HAD AFFIRMED HIS OWN AND THE NATIONAL ARMY'S LOYALTY TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER AND THE PRESIDENT, EVEN THOUGH MENEM HAD RETIRED HIM.

4. (U) VILLAFANE MOLINA ALSO SAID THAT SEINELDIN HAD SPOKEN WITH BUSINESSMEN, UNION LEADERS, POLITICIANS AND CHURCHMEN, AND HE CLAIMED SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL ARMY FROM IMPORTANT CIVILIAN SECTORS.

5. (U) CACERES' ORDER REQUIRED SEINELDIN TO REPORT IN BETWEEN 0800 HRS JANUARY 9 AND 1900 HRS JANUARY 10. HOWEVER, SEINELDIN HAS REPLIED IN WRITING TO THE COS DENYING THE STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO HIM AND SAYING HE COULD NOT RATIFY OR RETRACT PERSONAL COMMENTS MADE BY A

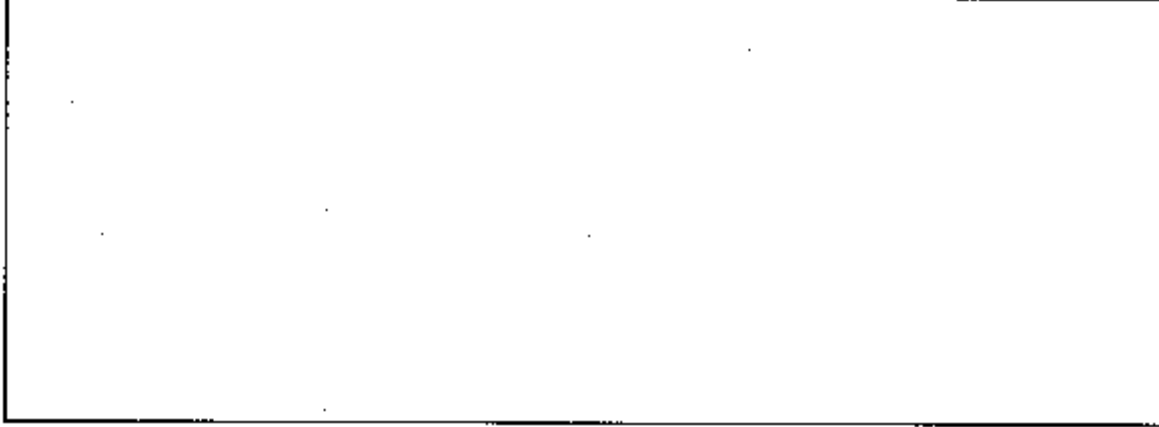
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THIRD PARTY. CACERES IS REPORTEDLY SATISFIED WITH SEINELDIN'S EXPLANATION. CACERES ALSO REAFFIRMED HIS AND THE ARMY'S SUPPORT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER AND CALLED FOR LEGAL SANCTIONS AGAINST IRRESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUALS MAKING ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE ARMED FORCES LEADERSHIP.

6. (C) WE UNDERSTAND THAT EARLY REPORTS OF SEINELDIN'S LATEST FORAY INTO POLITICS ANGERED PRESIDENT MENEM.

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7. (C) RADICAL PARTY LEADERS HAVE ALSO EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN. CESAR JAROSLAVSKY, UCR LEADER IN THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES, SAID HIS PARTY HAS INVESTIGATING POSSIBLE FINANCING FOR THE CARAPINTADAS THROUGH THE STATE PETROLEUM FIRM YPF. JAROSLAVSKY ALSO SAID UCR LAWYERS WERE LOOKING AT STATEMENTS BY SEINELDIN AND VILLAFANE MOLINA TO SEE IF THEY CONSTITUTED THE CRIME OF "PUBLIC THREAT TO DEMOCRACY". FORMER MOD UNDERSECRETARY FOR POLICY AND STRATEGY ANGEL TELLO TOLD POLMILOFF THAT THE UCR LEADERSHIP WAS CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE CARAPINTADA

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LINKS TO LABOR LEADERS OPPOSED TO THE GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC PLAN. MARIO SCHOLZ, AN ADVISOR TO THE UCR BLOC IN THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES, TOLD POLMIL OFFICER THAT SOME RADICAL LEADERS FEARED THAT IN THE PRESENT UNSETTLED ECONOMIC CLIMATE SOME CARAPINTADAS, OR THEIR CIVILIAN SYMPATHIZERS, MIGHT ADOPT MONTONERO TACTICS BY SEIZING WEALTHY INDIVIDUALS ACCUSED OF POLITICAL CORRUPTION OR ILLEGAL FINANCIAL SPECULATION. SCHOLZ SAID SUCH A MOVE WOULD EMBARRASS THE GOVERNMENT AND GARNER WIDE POPULAR SUPPORT.

8. (C) THESE CONCERNS WERE UNDOUBTEDLY HEIGHTENED BY THE BOMBING OF A RADICAL PARTY COMMITTEE HEADQUARTERS IN MORENO IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF JANUARY 10. THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES. POLICE ARE STILL INVESTIGATING, BUT UCR OFFICIALS FOCUS THEIR SUSPICIONS ON THE CARAPINTADAS.

9. (C) COMMENT:

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