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INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-07	SS-00	CIAE-00	H-01
	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	SSO-00	HA-09	L-03	TRSE-00	PM-10
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	C-01	PRS-01	DS-01	SCT-02	P-02	T-01	/055 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0076
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
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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 03 BUENOS AIRES 13118

CINCSO AND CINCLANT ALSO FOR INTAFF

E.O. 12356 DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, MARR, PINT, AR
SUBJ: ARGENTINE MILITARY REBELLION:
- "IT'S NOT OVER 'TIL IT'S OVER"

REF: (A) BUENOS AIRES 13063 (B) BUENOS AIRES 13059
- (C) BUENOS AIRES 12997
1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT).

2. SUMMARY. COMMUNIQES ISSUED LATE DECEMBER 5 BY
THE DEFENSE MINISTRY AND ARMY PLUS DECEMBER 6 MORNING
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PRESS REPORTS OF SEINELDIN'S ACTIVITIES SHOW THAT
THE MILITARY SITUATION IS NOT YET FULLY RESOLVED.
ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT STILL FIRMLY MAINTAINS THAT
IT MADE NO DEAL, THE FACTS NOW EMERGING SUPPORT

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SEINELDIN'S CHARACTERIZATION OF SETTLEMENT AS AN ACCORD RATHER THAN A SURRENDER. THERE ARE REPORTS THAT SEINELDIN HAS FINALLY BEEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY AND AT LEAST SOME REBELLIOUS TROOPS ARE AT LAST BEING PLACED UNDER REGULAR ARMY DISCIPLINE, BUT THESE HAVE NOT BEEN VERIFIED. THE DISPOSITION OF UNITS IN MERCEDES AND CORDOBA REMAINS UNCERTAIN. THE POLITICAL DEBATE OVER THE REBELLION CONTINUES WITH VICE PRESIDENT MARTINEZ GIVING HIS VERSION OF THE FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT OF SEINELDIN'S SURRENDER ON FRIDAY NIGHT. THERE ARE ALSO FORCEFUL STATEMENTS FROM UCR LEADERS RESPECTING AMNESTY, CRITICISM FROM MENEM ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S LACK OF A DEFENSE POLICY, AND PERONIST ACCUSATIONS ABOUT ALFONSIN WITHHOLDING INFORMATION FROM THE PUBLIC. END SUMMARY.

3. MINISTER OF DEFENSE JAUNARENA ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE AT 2100 HOURS DECEMBER 5 FOLLOWING A MEETING WITH GENERAL CARIDI. ELEMENTS ARE:

(1) COL. MOHAMED ALI SEINELDIN, HAVING COMPLETED THE ORDERED DEACTIVATION OF THE PRESENT OPERATIONAL MATERIAL AT THE VILLA MARTELLI BATTALION, WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO A MILITARY UNIT AND PLACED UNDER ARREST.

(2) THE COMMANDER OF THE 1ST ARMORED CAVALRY BRIGADE, GENERAL ISIDORO CACERES HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO RELIEVE MAJOR AVETE AND CONTINUE NORMALIZATION OF THE 6TH
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INFANTRY REGIMENT OF MERCEDES IN THE PROVINCE OF BUENOS AIRES.

(3) THE ARMY GENERAL STAFF IS PROCEEDING WITH THE REORGANIZATION OF COMMANDS AS A CONSEQUENCE OF RECENT EVENTS IN THE SERVICE TO OBTAIN ITS PROMPT NORMALIZATION
ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF LT. GENERAL CARIDI BELIEVES IT IS NECESSARY TO CONCLUDE THESE TASKS WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.

4. AN ARMY COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWING THE MOD ANNOUNCEMENT SAYS THAT SITUATION IS BEING NORMALIZED, TROOPS ARE BEING RETURNED TO THEIR UNITS, AND MOVEMENT OF CIVILIANS IN THE AREA OF THE BASES WILL BE RESTRICTED TO PREVENT

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ACCIDENTS DURING REDEPLOYMENT.

5. THE DEFENSE MINISTRY LATER ISSUED A SHORTER COMMUNIQUE ASKING THE POPULATION NOT TO BE CONFUSED BY STATEMENTS ISSUED FROM OTHER SOURCES. THIS SEEMS A DIRECT RESPONSE TO STATEMENT MADE BY SEINELDIN TO A REUTERS CORRESPONDENT DECEMBER 5. CONTRARY TO INFORMATION PROVIDED EMBASSY BY MOD SOURCES DECEMBER 5 (REF A), SEINELDIN WAS NOT IN ARMY HQS BUILDING, BUT PRESENT AT VILLA MARTELLI. IN HIS PRESS INTERVIEW, SEINELDIN SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO SURRENDER, BUT AN AGREEMENT TO PREVENT BLOODSHED. THE COLONEL ALSO TOLD REUTERS THAT HIS AGREEMENT WITH THE ARMY INCLUDES A PROVISION THAT CARIDI WILL RESIGN WITHIN TEN DAYS. SEINELDIN'S CHARACTERIZATION OF THE ACCORD ALSO SEEMS TO BE BORNE OUT BY THE CORRESPONDENT'S REPORT THAT THE REBEL TROOPS WERE STILL ARMED AND HAD TEN TANKS UNDER

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THEIR COMMAND. ADDITIONALLY, FRONT PAGE PHOTOS IN MORNING DAILIES SHOW SEINELDIN DRESSED IN FATIGUES AND WEARING A PISTOL, BIDDING FAREWELL TO HIS TROOPS DECEMBER 5.

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6. EXECUTION OF THE MOD COMMUNIQUE IS NOT CONFIRMED
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BUT THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT MOVEMENTS ARE UNDERWAY A PRESS REPORT SAYS SEINELDIN WAS ARRESTED AND TAKEN FROM VILLA MARTELLI TO A UNIT IN THE SOUTHERN REGION, POSSIBLY TANDIL. THE 1ST ARMORED CAVALRY BRIGADE, HEADED BY GENERAL CACERES IS BASED AT TANDIL. EMBASSY OFFICER REPORTS SEEING THREE TRUCKS CARRYING COAST GUARD PERSONNEL MOVING FROM DIRECTION OF VILLA MARTELLI TOWARD COAST GUARD BASE.

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7. GENERAL ADOLFO ETCHEUN, COMMANDER OF THE 4TH AIRBORNE BRIGADE IN CORDOBA IS REPORTED TO HAVE MET WITH BOTH HIS CORPS COMMANDER, GENERAL DOMINGUEZ, AND GENERAL CARIDI ABOUT HIS STANCE NEITHER TO SUPPORT THE REBELLION NOR REPRESS IT. ETCHEUN TOLD DOMINGUEZ THAT HE REMAINS "SUBORDINATE TO YOUR COMMAND". CLARIN SAYS ETCHEUN WILL REMAIN IN COMMAND OF THE 4TH BRIGADE, AN ASSERTION THAT DOES NOT SEEM TO SQUARE WITH POINT 3 OF THE MOD COMMUNIQUE.

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8. POLITICAL DEBATE OVER THE REBELLION AND ITS CONSEQUENCES HAS BEGUN IN EARNEST. VICE PRESIDENT MARTINEZ MAINTAINS IN A RECENT INTERVIEW THAT HE RECEIVED DEFINITE WORD FROM CARIDI THAT SEINELDIN HAD SURRENDERED BEFORE HE MADE HIS DECEMBER 2 ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE REBELLION WAS OVER. MARTINEZ ALSO REITERATES THAT HE FIRMLY REJECTED ANY NOTION OF AMNESTY FOR THE REBELS AND KEPT ALFONSIN FULLY INFORMED WHILE THE PRESIDENT WAS IN THE U.S. HE DENIED STORIES THAT HE AND ALFONSIN HAD EXCHANGED HARSH WORDS OR INSULTS OVER MARTINEZ CONDUCT OF THE GOVERNMENT DURING THE EARLY STAGES OF THE REVOLT. (REF C).

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9. THE QUESTION OF AN AMNESTY OR SOME SORT OF RELIEF FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL AWAITING TRIAL -- A KEY POINT IN THE ACCORD WHICH THE ARMY REPORTEDLY REACHED WITH SEINELDIN -- HAS AGAIN BEEN PUBLICLY REJECTED BY A LEADING UCR POLITICIAN. CESAR JAROSLAVSKY, RADICAL LEADER IN THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES, SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT PROPOSE ANY TYPE OF AMNESTY OR ALTERNATIVE LEGISLATION TO STOP PENDING JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST MILITARY PERSONNEL AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE REBELLION. HE ALSO REITERATED THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO DEALS; THE REBELS SURRENDERED IN THE FACE OF OVERWHELMING FORCE.

10. THE PERONISTS HAVE BEGUN TO ATTACK THE GOVERNMENT ON THE MILITARY ISSUE. CARLOS MENEM HAS ACCUSED THE RADICAL GOVERNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SITUATION WHICH HE CLAIMED RESULTED FROM A LACK OF MILITARY POLICY, NO NATIONAL DEFENSE POLICY, AND A CONFRONTATIONAL APPROACH TO THE ARMED FORCES. MENEM ALSO ACCUSED THE GOVERNMENT OF HAVING WITHHELD INFORMATION FROM THE PUBLIC WHEN ANNOUNCING AN END TO THE CRISIS. PERONIST DEPUTY ALBERTO PIERRI WENT FURTHER SAYING ALFONSIN HAD LIED ABOUT TERMS OF THE SETTLEMENT.

11. COMMENT. THE WORST OF THE CRISIS HAS PASSED BUT

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THE DIFFICULT AND CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES THAT PROVOKED IT ALMOST ENSURE A COMPLEX, AT TIMES CONFUSING, SITUATION IN THE WEEKS AND MONTHS AHEAD. THE ARMED FORCES WILL

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TAGS: PGOV, MARR, PINT, AR
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PRESS HARD FOR WHAT WAS AGREED BETWEEN SEINELDIN, CARIDI
AND CACERES. ADDITIONALLY, THE REBELLION WILL NOW IT
SEEMS BECOME A POLITICAL ISSUE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL CAM-
PAIGN, PROBABLY TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE UCR.

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