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From: American Embassy in Buenos Aires – Mr. Hugh McL. Woodward

To: Secretary of State

Subject/Title: Coup In Argentina: SITREP No. 4

Agency: Department of State

Source: U.S. Government Chile De-Classification Project On-line

Search Key(s):

Synopsis:

Comments:
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ACTION ARA-10
INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSQ-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSA-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 SCCT-01
ACDA-05 ACDE-00 AID-05 PC-01 IO-11 OC-05 CCQ-00 EB-07
COME-00 TRSE-00 OPIC-03 OMB-01 098 W

O R 241343Z MAR 76
FM AMBASSADORE BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4960
INFO AMBASSADORE ASUNCION
AMBASSADORE BRASILIA
AMBASSADORE LA PAZ
AMBASSADORE MONTEVIDEO
AMBASSADORE SANTIAGO

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, AR
SUBJECT: COUP IN ARGENTINA: SITREP NO. 4
1. MILITARY JUNTA WAS SWORN IN AS GOVERNING AUTHORITY AT APPROXIMATELY 1040 TODAY.

2. EXCEPT FOR SHOOTOUT AT METAL WORKERS UNION (UOM), WHICH REPORTEDLY RESULTED IN AT LEAST FOUR DEATHS, MILITARY TAKEOVER WAS APPARENTLY CARRIED OUT WITHOUT SERIOUS OPPOSITION. ACCORDING PRESS SOURCES, CORDOBA AND OTHER INTERIOR CITIES ARE QUIET.

3. INDIVIDUALS REPORTED DETAINED THUS FAR INCLUDE MIN LABOR UNAMUNO, UOM AND 62 ORGAN CHIEF LORENZO MIGUEL, CONSTRUCTION WORKERS HEAD PAPAGNO, PRESIDENTIAL TECHNICAL SEC JULIO GONZALEZ, PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SEC PAPALEO, AND PREVIOUS CGT PRESS SEC HUGO BARRIONUEVO.

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4. GOA OFFICES, SCHOOLS, BANKS AND EXCHANGE HOUSES OFFICIALLY CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, BUT NO RESTRICTIONS HAVE BEEN PLACED ON PRIVATE SECTOR. SOME BUSINESSES ARE OPEN AND PEOPLE FREELY CIRCULATING THROUGHOUT CITY.

5. NO INTERFERENCE THUS FAR WITH FOREIGN PRESS COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES. LOCAL PRESS CENSORSHIP, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED. NEWSPAPERS MUST PROVIDE GALLEY PROOFS TO MILITARY FOR APPROVAL PRIOR TO PUBLICATION. ALL RADIO AND TV STATIONS OCCUPIED AND TRANSMITTING ONLY OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUES AND MUSIC ON NATIONWIDE NETWORK.

6. ALL AIR AND SEA PORTS ARE CLOSED, BUT AIRPORTS REPORTEDLY WILL OPEN FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC THIS EVENING.

7. AS OF ABOUT 3 AM CITY COVERED WITH TROOPS. CONTINGENT OF ARGENTINE MARINES ARRIVED IN FRONT OF EMBASSY. LT. IN CHARGE ASKED TO SPEAK TO DEFAIT AND INFORMED HIM MARINES WERE THERE TO PROVIDE SECURITY AND PREVENT UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY. HE GAVE US ASSURANCES THAT MARINES WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH OPERATIONS OF EMBASSY, AND VISITORS INCLUDING VISA APPLICANTS ARE BEING PERMITTED TO ENTER. SIMILAR CONTINGENTS OF MARINES AND ARMY TROOPS ARE IN POSITION IN FRONT OF MOST—POSSIBLY ALL—EMBASSIES.

WOODWARD