1. THE STRIKE IN THE BUENOS AIRES ELECTRIC UTILITY INDUSTRY CONTINUED OCTOBER 14 WITH REPORTS OF FURTHER ACTS OF SABOTAGE, INCREASING INCIDENTS OF POWER FAILURE AND/OR REDUCTION IN ELECTRIC CURRENT AS FURTHER STRAINS WERE PLACED ON THE SYSTEM IN CONSEQUENCE OF THE MALFUNCTIONING OF MORE GENERATING FACILITIES. UNION SOURCES CLAIMED OCT 14 THAT THERE WAS A 50 PERCENT REDUCTION IN TALO'S GENERATING CAPACITY AND A 64 PERCENT REDUCTION IN SEGBA'S CAPACITY. REPORTEDLY, POWER CUTS WERE EFFECTED IN SEVERAL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY TO RELIEVE THE LOAD ON OVERWORKED EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING IN SUCH FAR AWAY PROVINCES AS CORRIENTES, TUCUMAN, JUJUY, SALTA, CATAMARCA AND SANTIAGO DEL ESTERO. UNION REPRESENTATIVES Sought TO DISSOCIATE THEMSELVES FROM THE ACTS OF SABOTAGE AND ALLEGED SEVERAL ATTEMPTS ON THE LIVES OR PROPERTY OF UNION LEADERS BY UNKNOWN ASSAILANTS. THE PRESS ALSO REPORTED BOMBING ATTACKS AGAINST ELECTRIC COMPANY INSTALLATIONS AND UNION HALLS. ARMY AND NAVY DETACHMENTS HAVE NOW BEEN REINFORCED AT ALL KEY POWER FACILITIES TO GUARD AGAINST FURTHER ACTS OF SABOTAGE.
2. DISSEMINATION OF THE NEWS THAT THE THREE SGBA WORKERS KIDNAPPED OCT 8 HAD BEEN RETURNED TO THEIR HOMES APPEARED NOT TO HAVE ANY EFFECT IN TERMS OF A REDUCTION IN STRIKE ACTIVITY. THE THREE REPORTEDLY HAD BEEN BEATEN DURING THEIR CAPTIVITY BY INDIVIDUALS WHOSE IDENTITY HAS NOT BEEN CLARIFIED PUBLICLY BUT WHO WERE ALMOST CERTAINLY MEMBERS OF OFFICIAL SECURITY FORCES. AT THE SAME TIME, THE POLICE PLACED IN LIBERTY ABOUT 40 MEMBERS OF THE LUZ Y FURBZA UNION WHO HAD BEEN DETAINED IN THE BUENOS AIRES SUBURB OF SAN MARTIN.

3. UNION SOURCES THOUGHT THEY WERE BEGINNING TO SEE SOME SIGNS OF WILLINGNESS ON THE PART OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO NEGOTIATE THE ISSUES IN DISPUTE DURING THE MORNING OF OCTOBER 14. HOWEVER, THE MILITARY JUNTA REPORTEDLY MET FOR THREE HOURS IN THE AFTERNOON AND DECIDED TO "ASSUME DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY" FOR ENDING WHAT HAS NOW BECOME GENERALLY REGARDED AS THE MOST DIFFICULT LABOR CONFLICT WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS HAD TO FACE SINCE TAKING POWER LAST MARCH. FOLLOWING THE MEETING, TWO COMMUNIQUES WERE ISSUED AFFIRMING THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ADOPT ALL THE MEASURES NECESSARY TO GUARANTEE THE SUPPLY OF LIGHT AND POWER SERVICES; ORDERING THE WORKERS TO CEASE THEIR STRIKE ACTION AT ONCE; AND REMINDING THE PUBLIC THAT LAW 21,400 SPECIFICALLY PENALIZED STRIKE ACTION, SUBJECTING THOSE RESPONSIBLE TO PRISON TERMS OF UP TO 10 YEARS. A THIRD COMMUNIQUE ASSERTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTION WAS "NOT DIRECTED AGAINST ANY SOCIAL SECTOR, POLITICAL PARTY OR ECONOMIC SYSTEM," BUT warning THAT THERE WOULD BE "NO IMMUNITY FOR THOSE GUILTY OF CORRUPTION OR SUBVERSION. . .(WHO WOULD) BE JUDGED WITH A STRICT SENSE OF JUSTICE."

4. BUENOS AIRES' "LA OPINION" RAN TWO RATHER OUTSPOKEN COMMENTARIES OCT 15 SIGNED BY STAFF COLUMNISTS SUGGESTING TO THE GOVERNMENT THAT IT WAS NOT TOO LATE TO ADOPT A MORE FLEXIBLE APPROACH TO THE LIGHT AND POWER WORKERS' CONFLICT. ONE OF THE ARTICLES SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT BE OPPORTUNE FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO CONSULT THE LABOR MINISTERS OF PREVIOUS GOVERNMENTS AS TO HOW TO ACHIEVE A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF THE CURRENT CRISIS. THE OTHER COLUMN ALLEGED THAT "MIDDLE LEVEL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS" WERE LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR PRECIPITATING THE CONFLICT, HAVING COMMITTED
THE ERROR OF "CONFUSING AUTHORITY WITH BLIND OBEDIENCE" AND
OF "CONFUSING A NECESSARY, REDUCTION IN PERSONNEL LEVELS WITH
THE DESIRE OF BRINGING THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT TO ITS KNEES."

5. FURTHER DETAILS OF STRIKE TO FOLLOW.
HILL

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*** Current Classification ***

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Page - 3