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ACTION ARA-00

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L-03 PH-10 PA-01 NCT-03 ONB-01 A-02 USIE-00
SP-02 SNP-01 PRS-01 SLPD-01 SPD-02 /055 W

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR OCT 3 1988

R 262110Z DEC 84
FM AMEMBASSY LINA
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0708

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E.O. 12356: DECL: N/A
TAGS: PTER, AR, PE

SUBJECT: ALLEGED SENDERO LUMINOSO PRESENCE IN ARGENTINA

1. LINA NEWSPAPERS HAVE CARRIED MULTIPLE ARTICLES OVER PAST TWO WEEKS CONCERNING REPORTED PRESENCE OF SENDERO LUMINOSO (SL) TERRORISTS IN MOUNTAINOUS ZONES OF ARGENTINA'S TUCUMAN PROVINCE. AN "EFE" DISPATCH FROM BUENOS AIRES OF DEC. 7 (CARRIED IN CENTRIST LINA DAILY "EXPRESO") ASSERTED THAT BOTH PRESIDENT ALFONSIN AND INTERIOR MINISTER TROCCOLI "ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THEY WERE AWARE OF THE PRESENCE OF (SL) ACTIVISTS . . . IN THE PROVINCE OF TUCUMAN IN NORTHWEST ARGENTINA." "EFE" RETURNED TO THEM IN DEC. 20 DISPATCH QUOTING, THIS TIME, CHIEF OF FEDERAL POLICE ANTONIO DI VIETRI. AN "ANSA" REPORT OF DEC. 23 (CARRIED IN GOVERNMENT-OWNED "CRONICA"), HOWEVER, REFERRED TO REMARKS OF "POLITICAL LEADER OSCAR ALENDE (WHO) YESTERDAY SEVERELY CRITICIZED (TUCUMAN GOVERNOR FERNANDO NIERA) FOR 'INVENTING THE TERRORIST GROUP SENDERO LUMINOSO, IN ORDER TO OBTAIN FUNDS AND PROMOTE THAT WHICH HE WANTS, GOLPISMO, WHICH IS TO FOMENT NEWS OF GUERRILLAS OR SUBVERSION.'" MOST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF TOPIC APPEARED IN OPPOSITION

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LINA DAILY "REPUBLICA," IN ITS EDITION OF DEC. 23, IT REPRODUCED ACCOUNT FROM SWISS NEWS MAGAZINE "LIGRE" WHICH REPORTED DIFFERENT VERSIONS DESCRIBED ABOVE WITHOUT, HOWEVER, OPTING CLEARLY FOR ONE OVER ANOTHER.
2. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY'S EVALUATION OF THESE REPORTS. JORDAN

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