

*** Document 17 of 19 for FBS4 ***

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WARN WARNING: TOPIC: DOMESTIC ECONOMIC, DOMESTIC POLITICAL,
 INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL

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COUN COUNTRY: ARGENTINA, FALKLAND ISLANDS, UNITED KINGDOM

SUBJ SUBJ: TAKE 2 OF 3--Argentina Press Review 14 Nov 01

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TEXT TEXT:

9. Brazilian Ambassador Dismisses Effects of Depreciation of Real on Argentina -- Outgoing Brazilian Ambassador Sebastiao Do Rego Barros has ruled out a possible effect of the depreciation of the real on the Argentine economy. He affirmed, "It would be important for Argentina to recall that during the last five years it has had a trade surplus with Brazil, but has had a trade deficit with the rest of the world." Furthermore, Do Rego Barros said that Argentina speaks about her competitiveness problem with her main Mercosur, Common Market of the South, partner but her exports to Brazil continue to increase and Brazil has not increased her exports to Argentina. The Brazilian ambassador underscored that despite the criticism of a number of Argentine officials, Brazil has been willing to find solutions although "these efforts have been fruitless." Ambassador Do Rego Barros, who will take over as president of the Brazilian petroleum regulating organization, will be replaced by current Ambassador to Mercosur Jose Botafogo Goncalvez. 400 words. (Buenos Aires Economico, 14 November)

10. Unemployment Insurance Plan Stalled - The trade union offensive to persuade congressmen to consider holding a plebiscite to decide on the creation of unemployment insurance failed yesterday, as deputies failed to form a quorum to discuss this initiative at a special session yesterday. 150 words. (Buenos Aires Economico, 14 November)

International Economic

11. O'Neill, Taylor To Meet with Argentina's Cavallo, Marx in Ottawa on 16 Nov -- 496 words. (El Cronista, 14 November) filed as LAP20011114000023

12. Argentina's De la Rúa Makes Lightning Trip to Germany, Meets With Schroder -- 753 words. (La Nacion, 14 November) (translating)

Domestic Political

13. Former Social Security Minister Explains Reasons Behind Resignation -- 485 words. (El Cronista, 14 November) (translating)

14. Resignation of Social Security Minister Analyzed -- Gabriela Litre analyzes the scenario that resulted in the resignation of new Social Security Minister Patricia Bullrich, who did not mind being referred to as the "spoiled girl" of the Cabinet but who found out that President De la Rúa "can put up with many errors by his ministers (such as the false anthrax case linked to Hector Lombardo), but they cannot pressure him through the media." Sources close to De la Rúa told La Nacion that while Bullrich was probably right about eliminating the Social Welfare Ministry, her methods of getting it done were questionable: "This kind of dirty laundry is washed inside," one of them commented, according to Litre's report. The decision to let Bullrich go was supported by Cabinet Chief Chrystian Colombo and Presidency Secretary General Nicolas Gallo, and Colombo reportedly pointed out

that Bullrich was provoking ministerial crises "at the worst moment in the crisis." Nor could Bullrich count on the usual support she got from the "Sushi Group," as that bloc has been broken up and has lost influence in the administration. 665 words (La Nacion, 14 November)

15. Public Opinion Poll Finds Argentines Have Little Faith in Political Institutions -- 987 words. (La Nacion) (translating)

International Political

16. Incident Reported in Argentina's South Atlantic Airspace -- Clairin's Ushuaia correspondent Wilmar Caballero reports that in the South Atlantic an airplane of the Tierra del Fuego provincial government encountered some very unsettling intermittent flashes of light when it was flying over the Comodoro Rivadavia area, 75 miles off the coast of Argentina. The pilots and Lieutenant Governor of Tierra del Fuego Daniel Gallo ruled out the possibility of those lights coming from UFOs or being an atmospheric phenomenon. They believe that the intermittent flashes of light that followed them for approximately an hour came from a combat airplane, possibly a Phantom or a British Tornado, whose base is in Mount Pleasant, located on the Malvinas Islands, because of its flight performance. This is a very serious report since it would involve the violation of the Argentine airspace. The airplane took off from Jorge Newbery metropolitan airport, in Buenos Aires, at 2050 on Monday and was expected to arrive at its destination -- Rio Grande -- after midnight. "When flying over Comodoro Rivadavia 75 miles off the coast of Argentina, we saw for the first time the intermittent lights at our left. These were following us at a close distance, in the same direction, and at a higher altitude and speed," said Commander Zalotti. The lights followed them until they reached the Strait of Magellan. Yesterday the British Embassy in Buenos Aires strongly denied the possibility of a British airplane being involved in this incident and ruled out the presence of British airplanes in the vicinity. Furthermore, the British Embassy termed this incident "senseless speculations." Air Force Press Chief Commander Jorge Reta affirmed, "The pilot of the Lear jet only reported that he was seeing intermittent flashes of light, therefore it is a lack of responsibility to say that there was an alleged airplane, which he did not recognize, belonging to a foreign air force." He added that if a pilot witnesses an abnormal situation he must communicate this to the control tower. "The commander did not do so and instead he has made statements to the press," Reta said. Furthermore,

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