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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 OES-09 INR-10 /035 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
NASA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5766

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPC/CDR *EJK* Date: *3/6/97*

- RELEASE DECLASSIFY
- EXCISE DECLASSIFY
- DENY IN PART
- DELETE Non-Responsive Info
- FOIA Exemptions _____
- PA Exemptions _____

MR Cases Only:
EO Citations _____

TS authority to:
 CLASSIFY as B or C
 DOWNGRADE TS to B or C

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 5003

USICA FOR AR, PGM/G, PGM/PPL, VOA/PL

SECSTATE FOR ARA/SC, ARA/PAF

E.O. 12065: N/A

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ARGENTINA MEDIA CARRYING STORIES SIMILAR TO ONE QUOTED BELOW, WHICH SAYS NASA ENGINEER OF ARGENTINE ORIGIN SENT TO HIS MOTHER A TAPE SAYING THAT A NASA EXPERIMENT WOULD CREATE FLYING SAUCER SHAPES IN THE ARGENTINE SKY. RECENTLY, THERE HAVE BEEN MANY REPORTS OF UFO SIGHTINGS HERE.

REQUEST THAT NASA RESPOND TO THIS STORY TO WASHINGTON MEDIA, SO THAT THE RESPONSE CAN BE TRANSMITTED BY NEWS AGENCIES TO SOUTHERN CONE AREA, WHERE THE STORY CITED BELOW WILL GENERATE MUCH INTEREST.

THE FOLLOWING STORY APPEARED IN THE BUENOS AIRES HERALD OF JUNE 19, FROM NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS, ON ARGENTINE VERSION OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS:
"CORDOBA: THE UFOS THAT WERE SEEN OVER THE COUNTRY LAST SATURDAY MAY HAVE BEEN THE RESULT OF AN EXPERIMENT BEING CARRIED AT BY THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA) OF THE US, CALLED "FIREWHEEL."

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"LOCAL TELEVISION CHANNEL 12 REVEALED YESTERDAY,

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THAT IN A TAPE SENT TO HIS MOTHER, MARIO HECTOR ACUNA, AN ARGENTINE ENGINEER WORKING FOR NASA, GAVE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION: "ON MAY 23 WE WILL LAUNCH A SATELLITE. LOOK UP AT THE SKY FROM THE CONE W TO 15. ABOUT MIDNIGHT. YOU WILL PROBABLY ONLY SEE A FLASHING SAUCER," SAYS ACUNA IN THE TAPE. "BUT IT WILL HAVE BEEN CREATED BY US. THE PROJECT IS CALLED 'FIREWHEEL', AND IT CONSISTS OF INJECTING AN ARTIFICIAL CLOUD WHICH WILL CREATE SOMETHING LIKE A COMET. AND THAT IS WHAT YOU ARE GOING TO SEE."
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