

RESTRICTED
 FM BUENOS AIRES
 TO DESKBY 151800Z FCO
 TELNO 181
 OF 151300Z MAY 89
 AND TO IMMEDIATE ACTOR ADDRESSEES
 INFO IMMEDIATE MOD (SIC EYG), WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK
 INFO IMMEDIATE MONTEVIDEO, SANTIAGO, BRASILIA, ASUNCION
 INFO IMMEDIATE PORT STANLEY

ARGENTINE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS OF 14 MAY

SUMMARY

1. MENEM WINS BY A LANDSLIDE AND IS NOW PRESIDENT-ELECT. NO MAJOR INCIDENTS.

DETAIL

2. WITH 89.5 PERCENT OF THE VOTES COUNTED THE PARTIES RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULAR VOTE IN THE ELECTIONS OF 14 MAY:-

	PRESIDENT-VICE PRESIDENT	NATIONAL DEPUTY
FREJUPO	47.2	44.4
UCR	32.5	29.0
ALIANZA DEL CENTRL	7.0	10.0
CFI (VOTE WITH UCR)	4.5	3.7
IZQUIERDA UNIDA	2.5	3.5
UNIDAD SOCIALISTA	1.4	2.5
BLANCO DE LOS JUBILADOS (VOTE WITH FREJUPO)	1.9	1.8
(95#34'	3.0	5.1

CURRENT PREDICTIONS GIVE MENEM A COMFORTABLE OVERALL MAJORITY IN THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE, THE LATEST ESTIMATE GIVING HIM AS MANY AS 320 ELECTORS.

3. ANGELOZ CONCEDED THE RACE WELL BEFORE MIDNIGHT. MENEM IS NOW PRESIDENT-ELECT AND HAS MADE A CONCILIATORY ACCEPTANCE SPEECH. ALFONSIN HAS SENT HIM A TELEGRAM OF CONGRATULATION.

4. THE ELECTION TOOK PLACE IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF GOOD-HUMOURED CALM. MEMBERS OF BISBA WITNESSED THE VOTING IN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL, GREATER BUENOS AIRES, LA PLATA, MAR DEL PLATA, PARANA, SANTA FE, ROSARIO, CORDOBA, MENDOZA, SALTA AND JUJUY. ALL REPORTED THAT

THE VOTING WAS WITHOUT INCIDENT AND WAS EFFICIENTLY AND FAIRLY MANAGED. POLICE AND ARMED FORCES SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS WERE DISCREET AND UNOBSTRUSIVE. PEOPLE WERE IN A GOOD MOOD. IT WAS ALMOST LIKE ANY OTHER SUNDAY. THE PERONIST VICTORY CELEBRATIONS WERE ALSO LARGELY (BUT NOT ENTIRELY) INCIDENT-FREE. IN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL THE VICTORY RALLY WAS DAMPENED BY HEAVY RAIN.

5. MENEM SWEEPED THE BOARD, WITH ANGELOZ ON PRESENT ESTIMATES WINNING CONVINCINGLY ONLY IN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL AND SALTA AND BY A WHISKER IN CORDOBA AND CHUBUT. MENEM THUS FULFILLED HIS PREDICTION OF ACHIEVING HIS OWN ELECTORAL COLLEGE, ALTHOUGH HE HAS FALLEN SHORT OF HIS FORECAST OF 55 PERCENT OF THE POPULAR VOTE. THE PERONISTS WILL ALSO NOW DOMINATE THE LOWER HOUSE AS WELL AS HAVING A DE FACTO OVERALL MAJORITY IN THE SENATE.

6. PROVISIONAL OVERALL RESULTS ARE EXPECTED AT 1600 LOCAL TIME ON 15 MAY.

COMMENT

7. IN THE EVENT, THE RADICAL GOVERNMENT'S DISMAL ECONOMIC FAILURE PROVED THE DECIDING FACTOR FOR INDEPENDENT VOTERS AND EVIDENTLY OUTWEIGHED ANY LINGERING DOUBTS THEY MIGHT HAVE HAD ABOUT THE UNCERTAINTIES OF A MENEM PRESIDENCY. THE CENTRE ALLIANCE ATTRACTED VIRTUALLY NONE OF THE UNDECIDED AND THE EXTREME LEFT ONCE MORE CAME NO-WHERE..

8. THERE IS INEVITABLY ALREADY TALK OF A TRANSFER OF POWER IN ADVANCE OF 10 DECEMBER. BUT MENEM (WHO IS STUDIOUSLY AVOIDING COMING TO BUENOS AIRES UNTIL THE DUST HAS SETTLED) HAS SAID HE WILL REMAIN GOVERNOR OF RIOJA UNTIL DECEMBER. HIS TEAM WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH THE GOVERNMENT TO SEEK AGREEMENT ON BASIC ISSUES.

9. THE IMMEDIATE UNCERTAINTY IS RESOLVED. WHAT HAPPENS HEREAFTER REMAINS AS UNPREDICTABLE AS EVER.

HUNT *MJS*

BRIGHT

YYYY

DISTRIBUTION

430

MAIN

430

PAGE 2
RESTRICTED

FCO WHITEHALL

FD []
NNNN