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ADMIRAL ANAYA MAY BE ON HIS WAY OUT FROM COMMAND

- NAVY CHIEF PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT OF ARGENTINE INVASION OF FALKLAND ISLANDS; COULD BE FIRST VICTIM OF HIS OWN POLICIES
- ARGENTINE MILITARY FORCES CASUALTY OF POOR STRATEGY, INADEQUATE TRAINING AND ARMED FORCES POLITICS

From a variety of sources, COHA has learned that the primary planner and executor of Argentina's invasion of the Falkland Islands, and subsequent challenge to the British fleet, was the commander of the Argentine navy, Admiral Jorge Isaac Anaya. Consequently, in the words of one observer, his will be "the first head to roll" when the crisis is resolved.

According to highly reliable sources, Anaya arranged for a group of scrap metal workers, who landed on South Georgia Island on March 20, to hoist an Argentine flag while dismantling an unused whaling station. The workers were aware that they had already violated customs procedures upon arriving on the island, and that the raising of the flag was certain to draw a sharp reaction from the British. The British did in fact expell the group, which provided the immediate pretext for Argentina's occupation of Port Stanley on April 2. The provocation, sources said, was intended by Anaya to serve just that purpose.

Furthermore, as British ships approached the Falklands for the announced purpose of blockading the islands, Anaya unilaterally ordered several Argentine warships, including its only aircraft carrier, the 25th of May, to set sail on April 15 from Puerto Belgrano, 300 miles south of Buenos Aires. Anaya is said to have taken the action without any prior consultation with other members of the armed forces joint chiefs of staff. Since then, Argentina has suffered the loss of one of its four submarines and, as announced yesterday by the defense ministry, the cruiser General Belgrano, possibly with upwards of 900 hands lost at sea. Other smaller craft are reported to have been destroyed by British helicopters.

Sources maintain that the Argentine army and air force have reluctantly been dragged by Anaya's actions into a conflict about which both of those branches had genuine misgivings. The chief of the air force, Brig. Gen. Basilio Lami Dozo, is said to be hesitant to commit his forces to battle with the British for fear of losing his best planes. The aircraft would be crucial elements of Argentina's fighting abilities in any armed conflict with Chile which might erupt over the Beagle Channel. The two countries almost went to war in 1979 over the small islands in the channel. As a result, the air force has spent tens of millions of dollars since then in new and refurbished equipment to prepare for the eventuality of a Chilean war.

The Argentine high command is in obvious and serious disarray because of Anaya's privateering. Anaya was already the least popular member of the military junta before the crisis began, despite his close lifetime friendship with junta leader Gen. Leopoldo Galtieri. His maverick actions, sources said, will be used by the high command to avoid taking direct responsibility for what is quickly developing into a major military and political disaster for Argentina.

Under Anaya's command, the politics of the navy have moved sharply rightward, having become in the past two years the most hawkish of the branches of the armed forces. Anaya was the main instigator of the flare-up in the Beagle Channel dispute. His charges set sail to confront the British flotilla essentially without a strategy, and without the country being on a wartime footing. The navy is largely dependent on young, inexperienced conscripts.

Divisiveness is said to be so pronounced at this point within the country's armed forces that Argentina has no hope of staging an effective counteroffensive to the British tactics, but must now rely on Britain's restraint and on international public opinion to avoid further destruction.
