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Argentine Government Called On To Freeze British Assets

by John Neagle

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On Nov. 1 the Argentine federal police were put in charge of guarding buildings which house British commercial and cultural activities, as well as those of northern Ireland. This measure followed an incident on the evening of Oct. 31 involving a group of young people who were demonstrating in downtown Buenos Aires against the British decision to claim an exclusive 150-mile fishing zone, and 200-mile zone for other economic activities surrounding the Malvinas (Falklands) islands. The demonstrators chanted, "We are not going to pay for NATO missiles with the people's hunger," and other slogans condemning Britain and the United States. The youths were apparently forced to disperse by police on direct orders from the Ministry of Interior. At least 30 persons were arrested. In comments to reporters, secretary general of the Young Communist Federation Eduardo Sigal called on the Argentine government to expropriate British assets, which he said serve only to maintain a NATO military base in the Malvinas. Leader of the Malvinas Veteran Soldiers Center, Alejandro Garompolo, called on the government to freeze British assets and to discontinue payments on the foreign debt to British banks.

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