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Argentina: Assailants Armed With Machine Guns Rob Clinic

by John Neagle

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On Feb. 6, two unidentified gunmen dressed in military uniforms and armed with machine guns stormed into the maternity ward of a clinic located in Mercedes, 600 km. north of Buenos Aires. Police said they seized a large quantity of blood and medical supplies, including tranquilizers, and first aid equipment. Police sources said they did not dismiss the possibility that the gunmen were seeking medical supplies to treat wounded leftists who escaped authorities after a foiled Jan. 23 assault on the La Tablada army base southwest of Buenos Aires. According to a statement by the armed forces, over the weekend soldiers repelled unidentified intruders at an air force base located in Mendoza province, 1000 km. west of Buenos Aires. Earlier news reports said witnesses near the 4th Air Brigade heard a gunbattle Sunday that lasted for about an hour. The armed forces' statement Monday mentioned no gunfire and said there were no casualties or arrests when security forces chased off the intruders. (Basic data from AFP, 02/06/89)

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