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Argentina: President Calls On All Presidential Candidates To Support "orderly Transition"

by John Neagle

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On April 21, President Raul Alfonsin called on all presidential candidates to join his government in promoting an "orderly transition." General elections are scheduled for May 14, and the new government will take power in December. The president also announced that during the interim period, his administration would share any decisions on the foreign debt with newly elected officials. Alfonsin asserted that an "explicit commitment" by all political groups is necessary toward reducing uncertainty and tension "from the economic point of view." Next, Alfonsin called on opposition legislators in the national congress to accelerate the adoption of measures related to public finance. He said, "I have no doubt the opposition shares our objectives" in reducing the fiscal deficit, coping with tax evasion, guaranteeing finances for essential public spending, and toward the elimination of unproductive expenditures. Alfonsin added that Argentina "is a country mortgaged by its foreign debt. Its exhausted administration cannot magically resolve the nation's economic problems." Justicialista (Peronist) party leader Antonio Cafiero said Alfonsin's speech was "an implicit acknowledgement of a Radical defeat" in the May 14 elections. He added, "The commitment to resolve the crisis involves all Argentines." (Basic data from Diarios y Noticias, 04/21/89; Notimex, 04/22/89)

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