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Argentine President On Pardons

by John Neagle

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In an interview published Sept. 24 by the La Prensa newspaper (Argentina), President Carlos Menem said his government will pardon all military officers who were involved in human rights abuses in the 1970s and a former guerrilla leader in two phases. Excluded from the pardon are cashiered Gen. Carlos Suarez Mason and troops who attacked a Tablada neighborhood of Buenos Aires in January. Menem is expected to announce the presidential pardon for military personnel involved in abuses during the 1976-83 period after his return from a visit to the US. Following a legal procedure, officers who participated in three military uprisings during former president Raul Alfonsin's administration (1983-89) would be pardoned later. Before year-end, Menem will pardon officers indicted for the 1982 war with Britain, as well as Mario Firmenich, former leader of the Montonero guerillas. (Basic data from AFP, 09/24/89)

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