

Argentinean Opposition Divided on Secret Service Reform



Buenos Aires, February 3 (RHC-PL) -- The Argentinean opposition is showing different approaches to the reform proposed by President Cristina Fernandez to dissolve the country's secret services and create a Federal Intelligence Agency (AFI) in its place.

They will begin to analyze the initiative in Buenos Aires Tuesday in the Senate's Commissions for Constitutional and Justice Affairs and Criminal Affairs, in an extraordinary session requested by the president, who has asserted that the purpose of the Bill is to democratize and open the Argentinean intelligence services, "to pay off an old debt with democracy."

Although the main opposition blocs have expressed their opinion of not supporting the discussion, several legislators considered that it was better to take part. In any case, the representatives of the ruling party have the necessary votes to approve it, said the newspaper *Tiempo Argentino*.

The Bill presented by the Executive to democratize the intelligence services by means of the new AFI has divided the opposition. The different blocs -- Propuesta Republicana (Republican Proposal), Union Civica Radical (Radical Civic Union), Frente Renovador (Renovating Front) and the coalition FA-UNEN -- which are the opposition groups, have rejected to deal with the initiative.

However, they know that the governing party, the Frente Para la Victoria (Front for Victory), has the

necessary number of legislators, including those allied to it, to achieve the quorum and then approve the Bill.

The reform proposed by President Fernandez has great political importance and is significantly comprehensive, as it means a re-organization of some intelligence services accused through the years of being linked to acts similar to those which such entities as the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the Israeli Mossad are accused.

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