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THE COUP D'ETAT IN ARGENTINA

1. Chronology of events

On June 4, 7,000 troops under General Arturo Rawson, an officer of Rightist opinions, and General Pedro Ramirez - who had just resigned as Minister of War in President Castillo's government in order to take part in the uprising - marched into Buenos Aires and seized control of government buildings almost unopposed. Three noted civilian leaders - Dr. Saavedra Lamas (former Foreign Minister, President of the League Assembly in 1936 and of the Buenos Aires conference in the same year), Senator Alfredo Palacios (a Socialist opposition party leader) and Sr. Leopoldo Melo (of the so-called Radical Antipersonalist party which has actually been an active supporter of the conservative government coalition), called upon President Castillo to recognize the strength of the revolt and to transfer his powers to the Supreme Court so as to avoid further trouble.

President Castillo refused. He transferred the seat of his government to the mine sweeper Drummond and sailed with members of his Cabinet across the estuary of the Rio de la Plata, first to the Uruguayan port of Colonia and on the following day back to the Argentine naval base at La Plata. From the Drummond he issued a series of statements insisting that he and his ministers still constituted the legal government of Argentina.

Meanwhile, on June 4, General Rawson placed the whole country under martial law and appointed a provisional military council with himself at its head and General Ramirez and Rear Admiral Benito Sueyro (Chief of Naval Operations) as his immediate colleagues. In close association with them were other military and naval leaders of conservative tendencies.

General Rawson issued on the same day a proclamation that the revolution had been necessitated by (a) political cor-