

Current Class: [REDACTED]
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Document Number: 1993LIMA04603

Page: 1
RELEASED IN FULL
Channel: n/a

PAGE 01 LIMA 04603 01 OF 03 222152Z
ACTION: ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00	EAP-01
	EB-01	EUR-01	HA-09	H-01	INM-02	TEDE-00	INR-00
	IO-19	L-03	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01
	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SIL-00	SNP-00	SP-00
	SR-00	SS-00	STR-17	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	RPE-01

/083W

-----B6A6AC 222153Z /38

O 222202Z APR 93
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7715
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
USEC BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM

[REDACTED] SECTION 01 OF 03 LIMA 04603

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LIMA 04603 01 OF 03 222152Z
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PHUM, PE
SUBJECT: EARLY REACTION TO THE MILITARY
CHALLENGE TO CONGRESS

REF: (A) LIMA 4558, (B) LIMA 4561

1. (C) SUMMARY: PRESIDENT FUJIMORI EXPRESSED SYMPATHY FOR THE MILITARY IN ITS CHALLENGE TO CONGRESS, BUT REFRAINED FROM A WHOLEHEARTED ENDORSEMENT OF THE ARMY COMMUNIQUE, AND SAID LA CANTUTA INVESTIGATION SHOULD CONTINUE. MOST OF THE OPPOSITION IS STILL CONSIDERING HOW TO

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Current Class: [REDACTED]
 Current Handling: n/a
 Document Number: 1993LIMA04603

Page: 2
 Channel: n/a

REACT; ONE REPORT INDICATES OPPOSITION WILL WITHDRAW FROM THE CCD PERMANENTLY IF THE ARMY DOES NOT RETRACT ITS STATEMENT. PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR SANTIAGO FUJIMORI ASKED CHARGE TO URGE OPPOSITION TO JOIN PRESIDENT IN LOWERING THE TONE IN ORDER TO KEEP DEMOCRATIC PROCESS ON TRACK. CHARGE SAID HE WOULD SEEK TO DO THIS, BUT POLITICAL SYSTEM MUST FOCUS ON REAL ISSUES OF HUMAN RIGHTS. MILITARY VEHICLES WERE AGAIN DISPLAYED EARLY APRIL 22. HENRY PEASE ASSERTED THE INCIDENT SHOWS THE CCD WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO FUNCTION AS AN INDEPENDENT AND AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTION. RETIRED GENERAL JARANA TOLD US THE PRESIDENT'S WAY OUT IS TO UNDERSCORE THE NEED FOR THE MILITARY JUSTICE SYSTEM'S OWN -- BUT GENUINE -- INVESTIGATION OF LA CANTUTA.
 END SUMMARY.

FUJIMORI BACKS MILITARY, CALLS FOR REVIEW

PAGE 03 LIMA 04603 01 OF 03 222152Z

2. (U) IN HIS FIRST COMMENTS, PRESIDENT FUJIMORI BACKED THE MILITARY'S WARNING TO THE CONSTITUENT CONGRESS (CCD) WHEN HE SPOKE WITH THE PRESS WHILE ON A TRIP TO CUZCO APRIL 21. FUJIMORI, HOWEVER, REFRAINED FROM ALL-OUT ENDORSEMENT. INDICATING THAT HE WAS AWARE OF GENERAL HERMOZA'S STATEMENTS, FUJIMORI SAID THAT:

-- "NOBODY HAS THE RIGHT TO TARNISH THE IMAGE OF AN INSTITUTION THAT IS WORKING IN FAVOR OF THE COUNTRY'S PACIFICATION....I BELIEVE INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS THE NATIONAL POLICE AND THE ARMED FORCES DESERVE THE SUPPORT OF THE CITIZENS AND GOVERNMENT BRANCHES."

-- THE ARMY IS COOPERATING IN THE LA CANTUTA INVESTIGATION. AS A RESULT, HE SAID HE AGREES WITH GENERAL HERMOZA THAT "THERE IS NO REASON TO DISCREDIT THE ARMY. THE ARMED FORCES IS DOING AN EXTRAORDINARY JOB TO PACIFY THE COUNTRY."

3. (U) FUJIMORI INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT THE MILITARY ACTIONS AND THE ARMY STATEMENT HAD BEEN

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 2

Current Class: [REDACTED]
 Current Handling: n/a
 Document Number: 1993LIMA04603

Page: 3
 Channel: n/a

EXCESSIVE. HE SAID THAT THEY REQUIRED REVIEW.
 AT THE CLOSE OF HIS BRIEF INTERVIEW, FUJIMORI
 SAID, "I REPEAT, ATTEMPTS TO DETRACT FROM THE
 WORK AND INTEGRITY OF THE ARMY, THE ONE
 INSTITUTION THAT WORKS TO FURTHER THE COUNTRY'S
 PACIFICATION, ARE UNACCEPTABLE."
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PAGE 04 LIMA 04603 01 OF 03 222152Z

4. (C) CHARGE SPOKE WITH PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR
 AND BROTHER SANTIAGO FUJIMORI AT MID-DAY APRIL
 22 TO REVIEW CURRENT STATE OF PLAY. THIS CALL
 OCCURRED AFTER A/S ARONSON CALL TO FUJIMORI.
 CHARGE AND SANTIAGO RECAPPED EVENTS AND CHARGE
 BRIEFED SANTIAGO ON STATEMENTS HE HAD MADE TO
 LIMA PRESS AT AID/ICITAP CONFERENCE ON JUDICIAL
 REFORM, EMPHASIZING IMPORATANCE FOR ALL PARTIES
 TO LOWER THE TONE OF THIS DEBATE. SANTIAGO
 ASKED CHARGE TO SPEAK WITH OPPOSITION ELEMENTS
 DIRECTLY TO THIS END. CHARGE SAID HE HAD
 ALREADY BEGUN THIS EFFORT DURING BRITISH EMBASSY
 RECEPTION PREVIOUS EVENING AND WOULD CONTINUE

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PAGE 01 LIMA 04603 02 OF 03 222154Z
 ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00	EAP-01
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/083W

-----B6A6CE 222154Z /38

O 222202Z APR 93
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 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7716
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 USEC BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
 SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 3

Current Class: [REDACTED]
 Current Handling: n/a
 Document Number: 1993LIMA04603

Page: 4
 Channel: n/a

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
 AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
 AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
 AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
 AMEMBASSY QUITO
 USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM

[REDACTED] SECTION 02 OF 03 LIMA 04603

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

PAGE 02 LIMA 04603 02 OF 03 222154Z
 TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PHUM, PE
 SUBJECT: EARLY REACTION TO THE MILITARY
 IT. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT COMMITMENT TO HUMAN
 RIGHTS CASES INVESTIGATIONS COULD NOT BE PUT
 ASIDE.

5. (U) CARLOS TORRES Y TORRES-LARA, FORMER
 FOREIGN MINISTER AND CURRENTLY CHAIRMAN OF THE
 CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE OF THE CCD, ALSO MOVED
 QUICKLY TO DEFEND THE MILITARY COMMUNIQUE.
 GENERAL HERMOZA "NOT ONLY HAS THE RIGHT, BUT THE
 OBLIGATION TO DEFEND THE ARMED FORCES," TORRES
 TOLD THE PRESS.

6. (U) THE NATIONAL POLICE ISSUED A PRESS
 RELEASE SHORTLY AFTER PERU'S SENIOR MILITARY
 LEADERS READ THEIR COMMUNIQUE CONCLUDING THAT
 THE DOCUMENT INTRODUCED BY CONGRESSMAN HENRY
 PEASE ALLEGING MILITARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE
 CANTUTA KIDNAPPINGS WAS "APOCRYPHAL" BECAUSE
 NEITHER THE TYPEFACE ON THE DOCUMENT NOR THE
 SEALS MATCHED THOSE CURRENTLY IN USE AT BY THE
 SPECIAL FORCES DIVISION OF THE ARMY.

MILITARY CONTINUE SHOW OF FORCE

7. (U) EARLY ON APRIL 22, A COLUMN OF AT LEAST
 FIFTY (BY EMBASSY COUNT) ARMORED MILITARY
 VEHICLES FROM THE 18TH ARMORED DIVISION RUMBLED
 THROUGH LIMA'S STREETS TO THE CENTRAL LIMA

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 4

Current Class: [REDACTED]
 Current Handling: n/a
 Document Number: 1993LIMA04603

Page: 5
 Channel: n/a

[REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]

PAGE 03 LIMA 04603 02 OF 03 222154Z
 "CAMPO DE MARTE" -- THE MILITARY PARADE GROUNDS
 NEAR THE EMBASSY. OSTENSIBLY, THE TANKS WERE TO
 FORM PART OF A PARADE. THE ARMORED VEHICLES
 DEPARTED AT 9:00 A.M., WITHOUT THERE HAVING BEEN
 ANY PARADE. THE EXERCISE APPEARED TO BE THE
 SECOND DISPLAY OF FORCE IN AS MANY DAYS BY THE
 ARMY.

MEDIA EMPHASIS VARIES

8. (C) COVERAGE BY PERUVIAN MEDIA OF THE ARMY
 ACTION WAS MIXED. ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S MAJOR
 TELEVISION CHANNELS PLACED THE STORY JUST AHEAD
 OF THE SPORTS NEWS IN ITS SUMMARY OF APRIL 21'S
 MAIN EVENTS. CHANNEL 5, PERU'S MOST POPULAR TV
 STATION, HOWEVER, LED OFF ITS EVENING NEWS WITH
 THE STORY AND DEVOTED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO BOTH
 THE MILITARY AND HENRY PEASE'S COMMENTS. THE
 COUNTRY'S ALL-NEWS RADIO STATION REPORTED THE
 MILITARY COMMUNIQUE THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

9. (U) THE PRO-GOVERNMENT "EXPRESO" GAVE MOST
 EMPHASIS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN ITS COVERAGE. IN
 ITS EDITORIAL, HOWEVER, "EXPRESO," TOOK GENERAL
 HERMOZA TO TASK FOR THE MANNER AND TONE OF HIS
 CRITICISM. SINCE GENERAL HERMOZA HAS DECLARED
 THE ARMY NOT INVOLVED IN THE LA CANTUTA
 KIDNAPPINGS, OBSERVED "EXPRESO," IT AWAITS THE
 RESULTS OF THE MILITARY'S INVESTIGATION OF WHO
 WAS RESPONSIBLE.

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PAGE 04 LIMA 04603 02 OF 03 222154Z

10. (U) IN ITS COLUMN "SIN CONFIRMAR,"
 ESTABLISHMENT "COMERCIO" OBSERVED THAT EVENTS OF
 THE LAST 48 HOURS HAVE PUT PERU'S RETURN TO
 DEMOCRACY IN DOUBT; QUESTIONED HOW IT WAS THAT
 UNKNOWN INDIVIDUALS WERE ABLE TO INFILTRATE LA
 CANTUTA'S CAMPUS AND KIDNAP TEN INDIVIDUALS WHEN
 THE ARMY HAD CONTROL OF THE CAMPUS AT THE TIME;

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 5

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1993LIMA04603

Page: 6
Channel: n/a

AND REPORTED THAT GENERAL HERMOZA WAS NOT VERY FORTHCOMING DURING HIS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SPECIAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING THE DISAPPEARANCES. "COMERCIO'S" COLUMNISTS CONCLUDED THEIR COLUMN AFTER HERMOZA'S APPEARANCE BEFORE THE CCD, "THE HOPES FOR A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF THE EVENTS IN LA CANTUTA HAVE RETURNED TO ZERO."

OPPOSITION REACTION

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PAGE 01 LIMA 04603 03 OF 03 222155Z
ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00	EAP-01
	EB-01	EUR-01	HA-09	H-01	INM-02	TEDE-00	INR-00
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/083W

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[REDACTED] SECTION 03 OF 03 LIMA 04603

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

CONFIDENTIAL

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 6

Current Class: [REDACTED]
 Current Handling: n/a
 Document Number: 1993LIMA04603

Page: 7
 Channel: n/a

[REDACTED]

PAGE 02 LIMA 04603 03 OF 03 222155Z
 TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PHUM, PE
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 11. (U) HENRY PEASE, DEMOCRATIC LEFT LEADER, WHO ORIGINATED THE CALL FOR THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE LA CANTUTA DISAPPEARANCES, CALLED THE ARMY COMMUNIQUE AN INSULT TO THE CONGRESS AND THAT IN A "TRUE DEMOCRACY" THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE WOULD HAVE ALREADY BEEN FORCED TO RESIGN. HE DEFENDED HIS DISCRETION IN THE HANDLING OF THE LA CANTUTA DOCUMENT AND SAID IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO TAKE STEPS TO ASSURE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE CONGRESS CAN ACT WITH FREEDOM AND AUTONOMY AND FREE OF THREATS.

12. (C) AT BRITISH EMBASSY RECEPTION, CHARGE SPOKE TO WIDE RANGE OF MILITARY OFFICIALS, THE INTERIOR AND JUSTICE MINISTERS, DIPLOMATS AND POLITICIANS WHO WERE PRESENT. THE NAVY AND AIR FORCE OFFICERS WERE STUNNED AT THE ARMY'S BELLIGERENT STATEMENT. ARMY OFFICERS WERE DEFENSIVE, BUT TOOK ON BOARD CHARGE'S TALKING POINTS ON THE DAMAGE THAT THE CONFRONTATION WITH CONGRESS WOULD DO TO OUR AID RELATIONSHIP. THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR WAS STUNNED THAT THE USG WAS TAKING THE ARMY COMMUNIQUE SERIOUSLY.

13. (U) OTHER MEMBERS OF THE MINORITY IN THE CONGRESS ALSO EXPRESSED INITIAL OPPOSITION TO THE ARMY COMMUNIQUE. ADJECTIVES DESCRIBING THE COMMUNIQUE RANGED FROM "INTOLERABLE,"

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PAGE 03 LIMA 04603 03 OF 03 222155Z
 "DISTURBING," AND "INTIMIDATING."

14. (C) OPPOSITION PLANS ARE STILL EVOLVING. MUCH MAY DEPEND UPON WHETHER DEFENSE MINISTER MALCA APPEARS AS REQUESTED BEFORE THE CCD. A JOURNALIST TOLD POLCOUNS APRIL 22 THAT THE OPPOSITION WAS PLANNING TO WITHDRAW FIRST FROM THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE, AND THEN FROM THE CONGRESS, IF CCD PRESIDENT YOSHIYAMA DID NOT GET THE ARMY TO RETRACT ITS STATEMENT.

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 7

Current Class: [REDACTED]
 Current Handling: n/a
 Document Number: 1993LIMA04603

Page: 8
 Channel: n/a

15. (C) AT A UK EMBASSY RECEPTION APRIL 21, ADMIRAL GIAMPETRI AND RETIRED ARMY GENERAL SNESIO JARAMA TOLD POLICONS THAT THE ARMY'S MOVE WAS NOT COORDINATED WITH OTHER MILITARY SERVICES. BOTH CALLED THE MOVE CLUMSY AND STUPID. JARAMA SAID HERMOZA HAD ACTED BECAUSE THE LA CANTUTA INVESTIGATION, IF NOT STOPPED, WOULD RUIN HERMOZA'S CAREER. HE OPINED, AS DID "SI" EDITOR RICARDO UCEDA, THAT FUJIMORI HAD APPROVED HERMOZA'S COMMUNIQUE AND SHOW OF FORCE. THERE WAS NO WAY THE FIVE ARMY REGIONAL COMMANDERS WOULD HAVE MET IN LIMA APRIL 21 WITHOUT THE PRESIDENT'S BLESSING. JARAMA ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT FUJIMORI'S APRIL 21 TRIP TO CUZCO GAVE HIM A POSSIBLE WAY TO DISAVOW PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF THE COMMUNIQUE. HE SAID THE PRESIDENT'S BEST COURSE OF ACTION WOULD BE TO REAFFIRM THAT THE MILITARY COURT WOULD CARRY OUT A REAL INVESTIGATION OF LA CANTUTA.

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PAGE 04. LIMA 04603 03 OF 03 222155Z
 16. (C) COMMENT: WHILE FUJIMORI AVOIDED AN ALL-OUT ENDORSEMENT OF HERMOZA AND THE ARMY, HE REFRAINED FROM SUPPORTING CONGRESSIONAL AUTONOMY AS WELL. SO FAR WE HAVE NOT HEARD OF ADDITIONAL PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS. THE OPPOSITION, WHILE SLOW TO REACT, MAY WELL PRESS AHEAD WITH A THREAT TO WITHDRAW FROM CONGRESS. FROM THE OPPOSITION'S PERSPECTIVE, FUJIMORI HAS NOT DONE ANYTHING YET TO CHANGE THE IMAGE OF AN ARMY THAT IS DICTATING RULES TO CONGRESS.
 BRAYSHAW##

CONFIDENTIAL

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Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 8