

To: Edward W. Kaska  
 From: David Passage  
 Subject: Robles update

ROOM 5906

PHUM

X62

Date Received: 11/29/96

UNCLASSIFIED

RELEASED IN FULL

Ed -- this is good poop. Thank Henry for me next time you talk to him (or anyone else down there). DP

Original Memo

To: David Passage  
 Subject: Robles update

From: Edward W. Kaska  
 Date Sent: 11/27/96

Henry Bisharat of Embassy Lima's political section called me late this morning (11/27) and provided some additional details concerning General Robles. As far as Henry knows, General Clark did not involve himself personally in the case. However, our DCM Jim Mack did raise the issue with Interior Minister Briones, which as best as I can determine, happened during the Clark-Briones meeting. Henry Bisharat did not know if Ambassador Jett had ever gotten in contact with FM Tudela on the Robles case (Amb Jett apparently has been ill the last day or two). (more)

There is a great deal of controversy regarding whether Robles' arrest was made in conformity with standard procedures. The GOP's Human Rights Ombudsman has stated it was not, while military authorities claim everything about the arrest was according to the book. (more)

The "proximate cause" of Robles' arrest appears to have been statements he made during a television interview last week. Robles apparently indicated during the interview that the Colina death squad was still active and that Montesinos still directed its operations. Robles also alleged that one of three military personnel arrested for a recent bombing of an "anti-government" television station in Puno was a Colina member. Perhaps ironically, the commander of the military base in Puno was recently relieved of duty, apparently because of involvement in a possible cover-up concerning the bombing. (more)

There appear to be precedents for trying retired officers on charges like those pending against Robles. Some former officers were apparently tried and convicted on such charges a year or two ago, but were released under the amnesty law which the GOP promulgated. Henry Bisharat said that the normal penalty for Robles' alleged "crimes" would run about 18 months. (more)

The arrest of Robles apparently has made him a "hero" in the Peruvian press and has brought attention to his allegations, which for the most part had previously been ignored, despite his television interview. Even pro-government papers have criticized the GOP for its actions in this case. (more)

The Human Rights Ombudsman and apparently Robles' family were able to visit Robles yesterday. Robles appeared to be in good condition. Robles is being held at a military detention facility in Callao (near Lima).

970466 Box 2  
 PHUM JUL-DEC 96

Henry said he is working on a cable regarding a case. He will make sure that at least an e-mail version is sent to us today. (end)

UNCLASSIFIED