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E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/22/96

TAGS: PREL, PTER, APER, ASEC, PE, JA

SUBJECT: TFPEOL: SITUATION REPORT NO. 11, AS OF 0600

EST 12/23/96

CLASSIFIED BY: ROBIN MORRITZ, COORDINATOR, S/CT,

REASON: 1.5(D)DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

- (S) THE SEVEN AMERICANS AND THE PERUVIAN EMPLOYEE OF EMBASSY LIMA WERE AMONG THE 225 HOSTAGES RELEASED SUNDAY NIGHT IN WHAT THE MRTA DESCRIBED AS A CHRISTMAS GESTURE. THE HOSTAGES WERE TAKEN TO A LOCAL HOSPITAL, WHERE AMBASSADOR JETT MET WITH THE AMERICANS. THEY ARE REPORTEDLY IN GOOD CONDITION, AND HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR ABOUT 115 HOSTAGES, DESCRIBED AS ASIAN AND LATIN AMERICAN DIPLOMATS, REPRESENTATIVES OF JAPANESE BUSINESSES, AND PERSONS LINKED TO THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT, REMAIN IN THE HANDS OF THE MRTA IN THE JAPANESE RESIDENCE.
- (U) THE MRTA ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE, SIGNED BY NESTOR CERPA, THE CO-FOUNDER AND ACTING CHIEF OF THE MRTA, JUST PRIOR TO THE RELEASE OF THE 225 HOSTAGES. IN THE

THAT ONE THE RELEASE OF COMMUNIQUE, THE MRTA STAT

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MRTA MEMBERS FROM PRISON WOULD FACILITATE THE RELEASE OF THE REMAINING HOSTAGES. THE MESSAGE ALSO STATED THAT PRESIDENT FUJIMORI'S STATEMENT OF DECEMBER 21 CALLING FOR THE SURRENDER OF THE GUERRILLAS WAS 1, UNACCEPTABLE, "AND THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A MILITARY SOLUTION BY THE GOP WOULD BE MET BY RESISTANCE BY THE MRTA.

3. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. (U) TARNOFF

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*** Current Handling Restrictions ***

*** Current Classification ***