

n/a

Case Number: 200102877

PTQ3742

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ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DODE-00	DS-00
	VC-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAB-00	ACE-00
	SSO-00	SS-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	SAS-00	/003W	
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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7618

SECTION 01 OF 02 LIMA 007059

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/29/10  
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PE  
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S FIRST MEETING WITH PRESIDENT PANIAGUA

REF: STATE 227027

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR JOHN R. HAMILTON FOR REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D).

2. (C) SUMMARY. AMBASSADOR AND DCM MET WITH PRESIDENT VALENTIN PANIAGUA NOVEMBER 29 FOR AN INITIAL DISCUSSION OF IMPORTANT BILATERAL ISSUES. THE MEETING ENABLED THE AMBASSADOR TO REVIEW BRIEFLY US SUPPORT FOR UPCOMING ELECTIONS, CONTINUATION OF THE OAS DIALOGUE, DESIRE FOR CONTINUED COOPERATION ON COUNTERNARCOTICS, COOPERATION ON INVESTIGATIONS INTO VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS' ACTIVITIES, AND VIEWS ON THE LORI BERENSON CASE. IT WAS A CORDIAL ENCOUNTER, AND DEMONSTRATED PANIAGUA'S FOCUS ON ELECTIONS

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AND PREPARATIONS FOR A NEW FIVE-YEAR GOVERNMENT. ALTHOUGH REFTEL HAD NOT ARRIVED WHEN WE WERE CALLED TO THE PALACE, ALL ITS POINTS WERE COVERED IN THE CONVERSATION. END SUMMARY.

3. (C) AMBASSADOR HAD FORMALLY REQUESTED A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT PANIAGUA ON NOVEMBER 28, AND WAS CALLED TO THE PALACE MIDDAY NOVEMBER 29. PANIAGUA WAS ALONE; DCM JOINED THE AMBASSADOR FROM THE US SIDE. PANIAGUA EXPRESSED PLEASURE WITH THE LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CLINTON AND THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT WE HAD JUST RECEIVED A SIMILAR LETTER

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OF SUPPORT FROM SECRETARY ALBRIGHT FOR PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PEREZ DE CUELLAR. THE AMBASSADOR STRESSED TO PANIAGUA USG DESIRE TO SUPPORT THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE, AND NOTED THAT WE WERE OPTIMISTIC THERE WOULD BE SIGNIFICANT ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR SUCH ACTIVITIES. PANIAGUA WAS PLEASED AND NOTED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS ABSOLUTELY COMMITTED TO HOLDING ELECTIONS THAT WERE ABOVE REPROACH, AND THAT OBSERVERS WERE LESS NECESSARY THAN IN THE PAST. HE ALSO STRESSED, HOWEVER, PRIME MINISTER/MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PEREZ DE CUELLAR'S RECENT PUBLIC COMMENTS THAT THE GOP WOULD BE INVITING THE OAS AND POSSIBLY THE UNITED NATIONS FORMALLY TO OBSERVE THE ELECTIONS, BUT WOULD ALSO ISSUE A GENERAL INVITATION THAT ALL OTHER OBSERVERS WOULD BE WELCOME. PANIAGUA WAS ALSO VERY PLEASED THAT THE USG MIGHT HELP THE JNE AND ONPE WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN ORGANIZING THE ELECTIONS.

4. (C) ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE OAS DIALOGUE, THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT THE ROLE OF THE OAS WAS OBVIOUSLY

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DIFFERENT THAN HAD BEEN SET OUT IN WINDSOR. HE SAID THAT AS WE ENTER AN ELECTION PERIOD--WHICH EMPHASIZES DIFFERENCES AMONG PERUVIANS--THERE SEEMED TO US TO BE A NEED FOR SUCH A FORUM FOR CREATING CONSENSUS ON IMPORTANT NATIONAL ISSUES. PANIAGUA AGREED, AND NOTED THAT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE OAS DIALOGUE WAS SCHEDULED FOR TODAY AND WOULD DEAL WITH REMAINING LEGISLATIVE MATTERS AND THE FUTURE OF THE FORUM. ALTHOUGH HE STRESSED THAT EVEN FORMER GOP AND PERU 2000 MEMBERS AGREE THE DIALOGUE IS NO LONGER NECESSARY IN THE SAME WAY, HE CONCURRED THAT A DIFFERENT CONTINUING ROLE COULD BE BENEFICIAL.

5. (C) THE AMBASSADOR REVIEWED WITH PANIAGUA OUR DESIRE TO BE HELPFUL AS APPROPRIATE IN THE INVESTIGATIONS INTO ACTIVITIES OF VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS. HE NOTED THAT WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR A "LETTER ROGATORY" FORMAL REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON A NEW YORK BANK ACCOUNT SINCE PRESIDENT FUJIMORI MENTIONED IT TO THE AMBASSADOR ON NOVEMBER 8. THE AMBASSADOR SAID WE HAD HEARD THAT PERHAPS PART OF THE PROBLEM WAS A LACK OF RESOURCES FOR SPECIAL PROSECUTOR UGAZ. PANIAGUA SAID THAT SUCH A REQUEST WOULD COME NOT FROM UGAZ BUT HAVE TO WORK THROUGH THE COURT SYSTEM, AND THAT THIS PERHAPS WAS DELAYING THE PAPERWORK. HE ASKED WHETHER WE COULD FUND UGAZ AND THE AMBASSADOR DEMURRED, SUGGESTING THAT

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IF PERU SET UP A TRUTH COMMISSION IN THE FUTURE, WE WOULD BE PLEASED TO SUPPORT SUCH AN EFFORT, AS WE HAD IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

6. (C) PANIAGUA AGREED WITH THE AMBASSADOR ON THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUING COUNTERNARCOTICS EFFORTS, NOTING AN INCREASE IN DRUG ABUSE IN PERU. HE SAID NEW INTERIOR

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MINISTER KETIN VIDAL WOULD BE INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING THESE ISSUES WITH US QUICKLY SO AS NOT TO LOSE MOMENTUM IN THIS AREA. IN RESPONSE TO THE AMBASSADOR'S OFFER OF A BRIEFING ON OUR USAID PROGRAMS, PANIAGUA SUGGESTED CABINET MEMBERS WOULD BE THE RIGHT AUDIENCE.

7. (C) THE AMBASSADOR BRIEFED PANIAGUA ON THE CASE OF AMCIT LORI BERENSON, THE STATUS OF THE CASE AT THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, AND EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE THAT JUSTICE MINISTER GARCIA SAYAN HAD BEEN ABLE TO RECEIVE MARK BERENSON JUST THAT MORNING. PANIAGUA LISTENED CAREFULLY BUT INDICATED THAT, AS THE MATTER WAS NOW IN A CIVILIAN COURT IN PERU, THE PRINCIPLE OF JUDICIAL NON-INTERVENTION PRECLUDED HIS TAKING ACTION ON THE CASE. HE MUSED THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT THE IACHR TO ACT QUICKLY AND NOTED THIS WOULD LIKELY BE AN ISSUE HIS SUCCESSOR WOULD HAVE TO HANDLE. THE AMBASSADOR REJOINED, HOWEVER, THAT THE CASE MIGHT REQUIRE ACTION DURING HIS TENURE.

8. (C) HANDED A NOTE BY AN AIDE, PANIAGUA APOLOGIZED FOR

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ACTION WHA-00

INFO LOG-00 NP-00 ACQ-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DS-00 VC-00  
TEDE-00 INR-00 VCE-00 AC-01 NSAE-00 ACE-00 SSO-00  
SS-00 DSCC-00 DRL-02 SAS-00 /003W  
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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7619

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ENDING THE MEETING SOMEWHAT PRECIPITOUSLY, BUT SAID HE HAD A MEETING WITH THE DEFENSE MINISTER AND THE ARMED FORCES' CHIEFS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING, AND UNDERScoreD THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS STILL IN FORMATION.

9. (C) COMMENT: THE TONE OF THIS FIRST SUBSTANTIVE MEETING WITH PANIAGUA WAS GENIAL THROUGHOUT BUT, AS IN HIS MEETING WITH THE ROMERO DELEGATION A WEEK AGO, THE THEME TRANSMITTED WAS THAT THIS NEW, DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT DOES NOT NEED THE MONITORING AND PRESSURING THE WAY THE FUJIMORI GOVERNMENT DID. AMBASSADOR GAVE THE REPLY HE DID CONCERNING UGAZ IN THE BELIEF THAT WE SHOULD NOT FUND OTHER GOVERNMENTS' LAW ENFORCEMENT INVESTIGATIONS. FUNDING A TRUTH COMMISSION WOULD BE A DIFFERENT MATTER. IF THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THE

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UGAZ INVESTIGATION IS AN APPROPRIATE USE OF FUNDING,  
HOWEVER, PLEASE ADVISE. UGAZ HAS TWICE COMPLAINED THAT HE  
LACKS THE FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO DO AN ADEQUATE JOB.  
HAMILTON

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