

n/a  
Case Number: 200102972

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RELEASED IN PART  
B1, 1.5(D)

PAGE 01 LIMA 00112 01 OF 03 071950Z  
ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-08	ACDE-00	INLB-01	AID-00	AMAD-01	CIAE-00
	INL-01	OASY-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-01	ADS-00	M-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00
	PRS-00	P-00	CIO-00	SP-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	T-00
	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-10	PRME-01	DRL-04	G-00	MR-00

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-----0CBD89 071950Z /38

R 071952Z JAN 98  
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1053  
INFO USIA WASHDC 4098  
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA

SECTION 01 OF 03 LIMA 000112

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/05/08  
TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, PE  
SUBJECT: CHANNEL 2 AFTER IVCHER: THE CORROSIVE EFFECT OF  
GOVERNMENT INTIMIDATION OF THE MEDIA

REF: 98 LIMA 8103 (AND PREVIOUS)

[REDACTED]

PAGE 02 LIMA 00112 01 OF 03 071950Z

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR DENNIS C. JETT, EMBASSY LIMA.  
REASON 1.5 (D).

2. (C) SUMMARY: THREE MONTHS AFTER BARUCH IVCHER LOST CONTROL  
OF HIS TELEVISION STATION, CHANNEL 2 HAS LOST ITS INVESTIGATIVE  
EDGE AND NO LONGER SERVES AS A CHECK ON THIS GOVERNMENT'S POWER.  
LIKE OTHER PERUVIAN TELEVISION NEWS, IT NOW EMPHASIZES POLICE-  
RELATED STORIES, PERSONALITY PIECES, AND AN OCCASIONAL REPORT ON

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Case Number: 200102972

OPPOSITION ACTIVITIES. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF PRO-GOVERNMENT STORIES ON THE PERU-ECUADOR BORDER TALKS, IT HAS NOT OVERTLY SUPPORTED THE GOVERNMENT IN RECENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS, RATHER AVOIDING COMMENT ALTOGETHER. OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT THE STATION WILL INCREASINGLY SHOW ITS TRUE PRO-GOVERNMENT COLORS AS THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN THE YEAR 2000 APPROACH. FEW BELIEVE THAT IVCHER WILL REGAIN CONTROL OF HIS CHANNEL. WHILE THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM IS STILL WENDING ITS WAY TOWARD A FINAL DECISION, IT APPEARS THAT FUJIMORI HAS GOTTEN AWAY WITH STRIPPING IVCHER OF HIS NATIONALITY AND NEUTRALIZING A GOVERNMENT CRITIC -- A LESSON NOT LOST ON THE REST OF THE ELECTRONIC MEDIA.

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BACKGROUND - OWNERSHIP AND PERSONNEL CHANGES.  
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3. (U) IN A WIDELY REPORTED NEWS EVENT, MENDEL AND SAMUEL WINTER, THE MINORITY SHAREHOLDERS OF CHANNEL 2, TOOK TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL OF THE STATION ON SEPTEMBER 19, 1997, UNTIL THE QUESTION OF IVCHER'S NATIONALITY (AND THEREFORE ABILITY TO OWN A TELEVISION STATION UNDER PERUVIAN LAW) IS RESOLVED.

4. (U) AS QUICKLY AS THE WINTER BROTHERS ENTERED THE CHANNEL 2  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

PAGE 03 LIMA 00112 01 OF 03 071950Z  
HEADQUARTERS, A GROUP OF NEWS DIRECTORS, PRODUCERS AND REPORTERS LOYAL TO PRINCIPAL OWNER BARUCH IVCHER RESIGNED -- AS THEY SAID THEY WOULD -- AND LEFT THE STATION. AMONG THOSE DEPARTING WERE THE SENIOR NEWS TEAM OF IVAN GARCIA, LUIS IBERICO, FERNANDO VIANA AND GONZALO QUIJANDRIA. ABOUT 15 OTHER RESIGNATIONS BY PRODUCERS AND REPORTERS AND STAFF FOLLOWED THE NEXT WEEK. REMAINING AT CHANNEL 2 WERE THE NOON NEWS DIRECTOR AND A NUMBER OF WORKING LEVEL REPORTERS AND TECHNICAL STAFF.

5. (C) IN THE PLACE OF IVCHER LOYALISTS THE WINTERS HIRED HUGO CHAUCA, A PUBLIC RELATIONS SPECIALIST WITH CLOSE TIES TO THE DELGADO PARKER FAMILY (OWNERS OF A MAJOR CELLULAR TELEPHONE AND CABLE TELEVISION SERVICE), TO RUN THE "CONTRAPUNTO" NEWS MAGAZINE PROGRAM AND NEWS OPERATIONS. CHAUCA, HOWEVER, RESIGNED AFTER SIX WEEKS, FOLLOWING THE RETURN OF JULIAN CORTEZ AS NEWS DIRECTOR AND CHIEF OF STAFF.

[REDACTED] B1

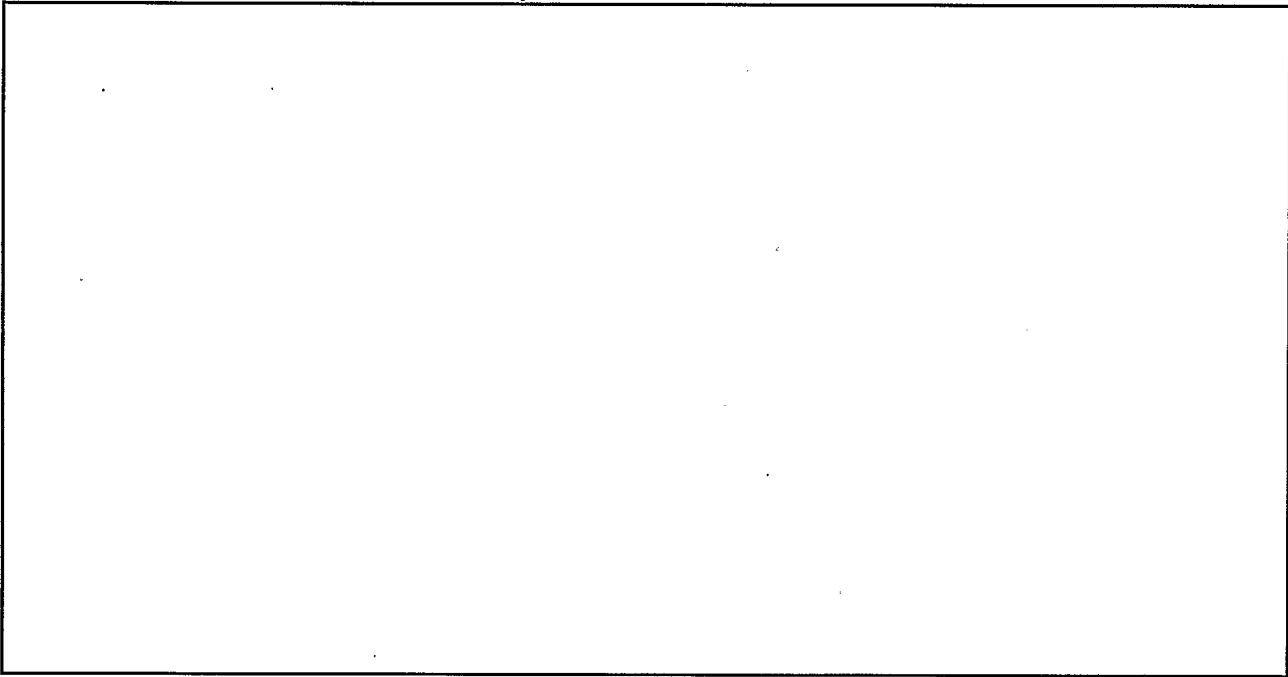
[REDACTED] n/a

Page: 2

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n/a

Case Number: 200102972



B1

7. (SBU) THOSE JOURNALISTS AND MANAGERS WHO RESIGNED IN PROTEST HAVE GONE THEIR SEPARATE WAYS. SEVERAL HAVE FOUND THEIR WAY ONTO OTHER NEWS PROGRAMS, BUT AT A RISK, JOURNALISTS SAY, FOR THEIR NEW STATIONS. OTHERS HAVE LANDED JOBS IN PUBLIC RELATIONS FIRMS; SEVERAL ARE STARTING, [REDACTED] AN NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO PRESS FREEDOM. STILL OTHERS, WE UNDERSTAND WHO PREVIOUSLY HAD VISAS, ARE NOW IN THE UNITED STATES.

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MAJOR PROGRAMMING SHIFTS  
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8. (C) "CONTRAPUNTO," THE SUNDAY NEWS MAGAZINE SHOW THAT BROKE THE EMBARRASSING INVESTIGATIVE PIECES ON THE GOVERNMENT, WAS SUSPENDED FOLLOWING THE TAKEOVER. AFTER SEVERAL WEEKS OF RUNNING DATED MOVIES IN THE SLOT, IT RETURNED TO THE AIR ON SUNDAY OCTOBER 12 IN THE SAME FORMAT BUT WITH A FAR DIFFERENT PROGRAM CONTENT AND DIRECTION. "IT'S A POLICE SHOW," [REDACTED]

B1

[REDACTED]

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Case Number: 200102972

PAGE 01 LIMA 00112 02 OF 03 071950Z  
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R 071952Z JAN 98  
 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1054  
 INFO USIA WASHDC 4099  
 AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
 AMEMBASSY QUITO  
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[REDACTED] SECTION 02 OF 03 LIMA 000112.

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[REDACTED]

PAGE 02 LIMA 00112 02 OF 03 071950Z  
 [REDACTED] BEARING LITTLE RESEMBLANCE TO THE INVESTIGATIVE PIECES  
 REVEALING HIGH-LEVEL CORRUPTION AND GOVERNMENT WIRETAPPING AND  
 TORTURE OF INDIVIDUALS BY MILITARY. THE JULIAN CORTEZ-INFLUENCED  
 PROGRAMMING ON "CONTRAPUNTO" AND REGULAR NEWS HAS MORE  
 SENSATIONALIST POLICE REPORTS ON RAPE, MURDER, DRUG DEALING; PRO-  
 GOVERNMENT SLANTED REPORTING ON THE PERU-ECUADOR BORDER TALKS; THE  
 OCCASIONAL REPORT ON POLITICAL OPPOSITION EFFORTS; AND  
 PERSONALITY/PUFF PIECES. [REDACTED]

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THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW EXPOSES ON MILITARY CORRUPTION, BUT AS A  
 MEDIA CONTACT TOLD US, "NOTHING ABOVE THE LEVEL OF CAPTAIN."

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Case Number: 200102972

DESCRIBES THE WINTER BROTHERS CHANNEL 2 AS A TELEVISION VERSION OF "SI" MAGAZINE,

[REDACTED]

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9. (C) TODAY'S CHANNEL 2 PROGRAMMING, ESPECIALLY ON "CONTRAPUNTO," SEEMS TO HAVE BROADER MASS AUDIENCE APPEAL.

[REDACTED]

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10. (C) SOME EXAMPLES OF "CONTRAPUNTO" PROGRAMMING SINCE THE WINTERS ASSUMED CONTROL OF THE STATION:

--THE MACABRE STORY OF A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD CHILD RAPED, MURDERED, THEN QUARTERED BY AN INDIVIDUAL POSING AS A DENTIST. THIS PIECE (WITH

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PAGE 03 LIMA 00112 02 OF 03 071950Z  
CLOSE-UP VISUALS OF THE DENTIST'S CHAIR WHERE THE RAPE ALLEGEDLY TOOK PLACE) WAS FEATURED ON CONTRAPUNTO AND THROUGHOUT THE WEEK ON CHANNEL 2 NEWS PROGRAMS.

--A PIECE FEATURING THE "TOP MODEL" DAUGHTER OF A COMMANDO KILLED DURING THE RETAKING OF THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE.

--TWO PIECES ON TERRORISTS: ONE ON A REFORMED MRTA MEMBER IN HIS NEW LIFE AS A RESTAURANT WAITER; ANOTHER ON THE SENDERO LUMINOSO'S PLAN, DISCOVERED BY THE MILITARY, TO CAR BOMB CHANNEL 2 LAST JULY.

--A REPORT ON OPPOSITION CONGRESSWOMAN ANEL TOWNSEND'S ALLEGATION OF POSSIBLE ELECTORAL FRAUD, SHOWING EVIDENCE OF SIN (INTELLIGENCE SERVICE'S) INFILTRATION OF THE NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION REGISTRY -- THE AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR UPDATING PUBLIC ELECTORAL DOCUMENTATION.

--HIDDEN CAMERA REPORT ON CASH SKIMMING AT THE LIMA MASONIC TEMPLE.

--"CONTRAPUNTO'S" MOST COMPELLING PIECE TO DATE WAS ONE FROM MEXICO ON FUGITIVE DRUG LORD MANUAL LOPEZ PAREDES IN WHICH HE CLAIMED HIS INNOCENCE BUT INCRIMINATED FUGITIVE PERUVIAN AIRLINE OWNER FERNANDO ZAVELLOS. IN THE SAME STORY, ZAVELLOS' LAWYER CLAIMED HIS CLIENT'S INNOCENCE DRAWING INCORRECTLY FROM A DEA REPORT.

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11. (SBU) NEWS PROGRAMMING HAS BEEN FAIRLY STRAIGHTFORWARD AND NON-CONTROVERSIAL. WHILE NOT OVERTLY PRO-GOVERNMENT, IT HAS DROPPED ITS EARLIER CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE EMBARRASSING LEAKS THAT RESULTED IN INVESTIGATIVE PIECES AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT HAVE ALSO STOPPED. [REDACTED] SUGGESTS IT MAY BE LEANING TOWARD BECOMING ONE MORE GOVERNMENT SUPPORTER AMONG THE MEDIA.

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] PREDICTS THAT AS THE 2000 ELECTION NEARS, CHANNEL 2 WILL BE IN PLACE AS A PRO-GOVERNMENT TELEVISION STATION WITH A NATIONAL AUDIENCE.

12. (SBU) AN INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER FOR OPPOSITION NEWSPAPER "LA REPUBLICA" REPORTED TO US THAT PERUVIAN NAVY SOURCES THAT ONCE WORKED WITH CHANNEL 2 IN ITS INVESTIGATIVE PIECES ARE NOW TIED MORE CLOSELY TO HIS NEWSPAPER. AS EVIDENCE OF THE "LA REPUBLICA" RELATIONSHIP THE REPORTER BROUGHT IN A NUMBER OF TRANSCRIPTS FROM THE WIRETAPPING SCANDAL. [REDACTED] INDICATED THAT CHANNEL 2'S SOURCES IN THE MILITARY AND INTELLIGENCE ARE SIMPLY WAITING FOR "THINGS TO SORT OUT" BEFORE RESURFACING, MOST CERTAINLY WITH OTHER MEDIA.

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13. (U) RATINGS AND ADVERTISING REVENUES: WE HAVE NO SOLID INFORMATION YET ON CHANGES IN RATINGS AND WHO IS CURRENTLY WATCHING CHANNEL 2, ESPECIALLY "CONTRAPUNTO." CHANNEL 2 RETAINS AN EXCELLENT LINE-UP OF DUBBED, MOSTLY U.S., MOVIES, SITCOMS AND OTHER SERIES--SCHINDLER'S LIST, FORREST GUMP, THE SIMPSONS, DR. QUINN MEDICINE WOMAN, AMONG THEM--WHICH GENERATE EXCELLENT ADVERTISING REVENUE TO HELP KEEP THE STATION IN THE BLACK.

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IS FUJIMORI GETTING AWAY WITH THIS?

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] PTQ6550

PAGE 01 LIMA 00112 03 OF 03 071950Z  
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INFO LOG-00 ACDA-08 ACDE-00 INLB-01 AID-00 AMAD-01 CIAE-00

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PAGE 02 LIMA 00112 03 OF 03 071950Z

14. (SBU) SINCE PEOPLE DO NOT EXPECT IVCHER TO RETURN, THE MEDIA STORY ABOUT CHANNEL 2 HAS LOST ITS EDGE AND IS NO LONGER FRONT PAGE NEWS. THERE IS EVIDENCE OF SELF-CENSORSHIP ON THE PART OF OTHER MEDIA SO THE LESSON OF CHANNEL 2 IS CLEAR TO OTHERS.

15. (C) WHILE THERE IS STILL ONE MORE LEGAL APPEAL PENDING ON THE QUESTION OF IVCHER'S NATIONALITY, IT APPEARS THAT PRESIDENT FUJIMORI GOT WHAT HE WANTED BY EFFECTIVELY ELIMINATING A MEDIA NEMESIS IN BARUCH IVCHER, AND STOPPING THE EMBARRASSING INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS ABOUT HIS ADMINISTRATION. JETT

[REDACTED]

NNNN

n/a

[REDACTED]