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Case Number: 200102877

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ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	EB-00	UTED-00
	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-00	AC-01
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	ERS-00
	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00
	T-00	USIE-00	PME-00	PRM-01	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00

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R 262255Z FEB 01
 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8940
 AMEMBASSY QUITO
 AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
 AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
 AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
 AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
 AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
 AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
 AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
 AMEMBASSY MEXICO
 AMEMBASSY MADRID
 USCINCSO MIAMI FL

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E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PHUM, PE
 SUBJECT: PERU POLITICAL UPDATE -- FEBRUARY 23
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SUMMARY
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1. (U) PERU'S CONGRESS BANNED FORMER PRESIDENT FUJIMORI FROM PUBLIC OFFICE FOR 10 YEARS IN A DIVIDED VOTE FEBRUARY 22. CONGRESS ALSO CHARGED FUJIMORI WITH DERELICTION OF DUTIES AND ABANDONMENT OF THE PRESIDENCY. IN ADDITION, CONGRESS UNANIMOUSLY EXTENDED THROUGH MAY 30 THE COMMISSION INVESTIGATING EX-INTELLIGENCE CHIEF MONTESEINOS, AND AN EXTRADITION TREATY WITH MEXICO. IN ITS FIRST PRE-ELECTION

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: MELVIN E. SINN
 DATE/CASE ID: 20 JUN 2002 200102877

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REPORT, THE NGO TRANSPARENCIA GAVE GOOD MARKS TO THE GOP AND ELECTORAL AGENCIES. THE REPORT ALSO SUGGESTS AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT, AMONG THEM CAMPAIGN FINANCING AND VOTER EDUCATION. END SUMMARY.

FUJIMORI BANNED FROM OFFICE
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2. (U) PAST MIDNIGHT AND FOLLOWING A LONG AND ACRIMONIOUS DEBATE FEBRUARY 23, CONGRESS BANNED FORMER PRESIDENT ALBERTO FUJIMORI FROM HOLDING PUBLIC OFFICE FOR TEN YEARS. THE DIVIDED CONGRESS (37 FOR, 24 AGAINST, 4 ABSTENTIONS) ALSO CHARGED FUJIMORI WITH ABANDONING OFFICE AND NOT FULFILLING HIS DUTIES. PRO-FUJIMORI LEGISLATORS ARGUED UNSUCCESSFULLY THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD SOUGHT TO RESIGN, BUT THEN-OPPOSITION LEGISLATORS SUCCEEDED IN REMOVING HIM FROM OFFICE.

MONTESINOS INVESTIGATION
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3. (U) IN CONTRAST TO THE FUJIMORI VOTE, LEGISLATORS UNANIMOUSLY EXTENDED THE POWERS OF THE COMMISSION INVESTIGATING THE DEEDS OF FORMER INTELLIGENCE CHIEF VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS THROUGH MAY 30. THE COMMISSION, HEADED BY PERU POSSIBLE LEGISLATOR AND ALEJANDRO TOLEDO VICE PRESIDENTIAL RUNNING-MATE DAVID WAISMAN, BEGAN WORKING IN NOVEMBER 2000. WAISMAN SOUGHT THE EXTENSION BECAUSE WORK ON TRACKING MONTESINOS'S FINANCES THROUGH SOME FOREIGN BANKS IS NOT COMPLETE. WAISMAN TOLD HIS FELLOW LEGISLATORS THAT MONTESINOS HAD AMASSED \$221 THROUGH ARMS AND DRUG TRAFFICKING, EXTORTION AND MONEY LAUNDERING.

PERU-MEXICO EXTRADITION
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4. (U) IN ANOTHER UNANIMOUS VOTE, CONGRESS APPROVED AN EXTRADITION TREATY WITH MEXICO. THE TREATY MAY FACILITATE PERU'S EFFORTS AGAINST FORMER DEFENSE MINISTER AND AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO VICTOR MALCA, BELIEVED STILL TO BE IN MEXICO. MALCA IS UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR ILLICIT ENRICHMENT AND CORRUPTION. THE TWO COUNTRIES SIGNED THE TREATY MAY 2, 2000.

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TRANSPARENCIA: ELECTIONS ARE GOING WELL

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5. (U) THE NGO TRANSPARENCIA RELEASED ITS FIRST ASSESSMENT OF THE 2001 ELECTORAL PROCESS FEBRUARY 16. IN CONTRAST TO THE 2000 ELECTIONS, THE NGO NOTES, THE ELECTORAL PROCESS MEETS THE FOUR INITIAL CONDITIONS FOR A FREE AND FAIR VOTE.

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ELECTION LEGISLATION HAS IMPROVED SUBSTANTIALLY; THE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO ENSURING ITS NEUTRALITY AND THAT OF THE ARMED FORCES; THE PUBLIC ACCEPTS AND HAS CONFIDENCE IN THE NEW ELECTORAL AUTHORITIES; AND THE MEDIA -- PARTICULARLY TELEVISION -- HAVE BEGUN TO ALLOW GENUINE COMPETITION.

6. (U) TRANSPARENCIA ALSO CITES SEVERAL AREAS WHICH MERIT CONTINUED ATTENTION. THE NGO NOTES ONLY TWO CANDIDATES HAVE SO FAR FILED REPORTS THAT PROJECT HOW MUCH THEY WILL SPEND ON THEIR CAMPAIGNS. THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL BOARD (JNE) REQUIRES THE FILING OF THOSE PROJECTIONS ANY TIME WITHIN 60 DAYS PRIOR TO THE ELECTIONS. CANDIDATES ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT ACTUAL EXPENSES WITHIN 60 DAYS OF THE ELECTIONS. ANOTHER AREA FOR IMPROVEMENT IS POLITICAL ADVERTISING, WHERE THE REPORT RECOMMENDS THAT THE JNE SET LIMITS OF TIME, FREQUENCY, AND COST ON ADS. TRANSPARENCIA RECOMMENDS THAT THE OFFICE OF ELECTORAL PROCESSES (ONPE) GIVE MORE URGENCY TO VOTER EDUCATION.

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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