

UNCLASSIFIED PTQ6169

PAGE 01 LIMA 01440 01 OF 02 131858Z
ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	EB-00	UTBD-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	PRS-00
	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	T-00
	USIE-00	PMB-00	PRM-01	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00	/008W

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R 121637Z MAR 01
 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9229
 AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
 AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
 AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
 AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
 AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
 AMEMBASSY MADRID
 AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
 AMEMBASSY QUITO
 AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
 USCINCSO MIAMI FL

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LIMA 001440

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PHUM, PE
 SUBJECT: PERU POLITICAL UPDATE -- MARCE 9
 UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LIMA 01440 01 OF 02 131858Z

REF: LIMA 1221

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: UNIDAD NACIONAL FILED A COMPLAINT WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AFTER STUDENTS BROKE THE WINDOWS IN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE LOURDES FLORES'S CAR DURING A CAMPAIGN EVENT IN HUANCAYO. ALLEGATIONS DATING BACK TO 1989 THAT PERU POSIBLE' ALEJANDRO TOLEDO FATHERED AN ILLEGITIMATE DAUGHTER RESURFACED MARCH 3. AFTER PRESSURE TO TAKE A DNA TEST TO CLEAR UP THE MATTER ONCE AND FOR ALL, TOLEDO AGREED TO DO SO -- AFTER THE ELECTIONS AND IF

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UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 2

n/a

Case Number: 200102877

ORDERED BY A JUDGE. TOLEDO ALSO CHARGED THAT PERSONS LOYAL TO FORMER INTELLIGENCE CHIEF MONTESINOS STILL TAINT THE COUNTRY'S ELECTION AGENCIES, PROMPTING INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC OBSERVERS TO DEFEND ONPE. END SUMMARY

 CAMPAIGN STARTS TO GET PERSONAL

2. (SBU) UNIDAD NACIONAL (UN) FILED A CRIMINAL COMPLAINT WITH PERU'S ATTORNEY GENERAL MARCH 6 OVER ATTACKS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE LOURDES FLORES SUFFERED IN THE PROVINCIAL TOWN OF HUANCAYO AND LIMA. A UN REPRESENTATIVE SAID A SIMILAR COMPLAINT WOULD BE FILED WITH THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS BOARD (JNE). FLORES BLAMED THE ATTACKS IN HUANCAYO ON STUDENT LEADERS WHICH SHE ALLEGES ARE MEMBERS OF ALEJANDRO TOLEDO'S PERU POSIBLE. ON MARCH 4, STUDENTS THREW ROCKS AT FLORES' CARAVAN AS IT ENTERED THE MOUNTAIN CITY'S CENTRAL PLAZA, SMASHING THE WINDOW OF FLORES' CAR. TOLEDO INITIALLY DENIED FLORES'S CHARGES, BUT LATER

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 LIMA 01440 01 OF 02 131858Z
 PROMISED TO INVESTIGATE, STATING VIOLENCE HAD NO PLACE IN HIS PARTY. A PRELIMINARY POLICE INVESTIGATION IDENTIFIED SIX STUDENTS AFFILIATED WITH APRA, ONE FORMER MORAL INDEPENDENCE FRONT (FIM) CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATE, AND A STUDENT ORGANIZER FOR PERU POSIBLE AS POSSIBLE PERPETRATORS.

3. (SBU) EARLIER, FLORES CAMPAIGN ORGANIZERS FILED A COMPLAINT REGARDING A RISE OF PERSONAL ATTACKS IN YELLOW PRESS TABLOIDS WITH THE JNE AND WITH THE CIVILITY COMMISSION ORGANIZED BY ELECTORAL WATCHDOG NGO TRANSPARENCIA. THE JNE PLEDGED TO INVESTIGATE THE ALLEGATION, AND TRANSPARENCIA CONDUCTED A STUDY OF THE YELLOW PRESS, CONCLUDING FLORES HAD BEEN THE VICTIM OF PERSONAL ATTACKS BY SEVERAL TABLOIDS, AS HAD OTHER CANDIDATES, INCLUDING TOLEDO.

 PATERNITY IN THE PICTURE

4. (SBU) ALLEGATIONS THAT ALEJANDRO TOLEDO FATHERED AN ILLEGITIMATE DAUGHTER RESURFACED MARCH 3 WHEN THE MOTHER AND 12-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER APPEARED ON NEWS TALKSHOW "THE

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UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 2

SHARP SHOOTER," HOSTED BY JAIME BAILY. BAILY IS A WIDELY RESPECTED JOURNALIST WORKING FOR CHANNEL 2. BARUCH IVCHER, WHO OWNS CHANNEL TWO, AND BAILY ARE WIDELY REGARDED AS TOLEDO SUPPORTERS. TOLEDO SAID THE AIRING OF THE ACCUSATIONS AT THIS JUNCTURE IN THE CAMPAIGN ARE PART OF A PLOT AGAINST HIM AND ACCUSED BAILY OF BEING AN AGENT OF MONTESINOS.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 LIMA 01440 01 OF 02 131858Z

5. (U) THE STORY, WHICH ALSO CAME OUT DURING LAST YEAR'S CAMPAIGN, IS NOT NEW. THE MOTHER BROUGHT THE CASE TO COURT IN 1989 AND LOST, EVEN THOUGH BLOOD TESTS INDICATED WITH 97% CERTAINTY THAT TOLEDO IS THE FATHER, ACCORDING TO BAILY. A 1995 SUPREME COURT DECISION UPHELD THE EARLIER FINDING. IN THE WAKE OF THE BAILY SHOW, TOLEDO WAS REPEATEDLY ASKED IF HE WOULD TAKE A DNA TO SETTLE THE MATTER ONCE AND FOR ALL. THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE REFUSED REPEATEDLY UNTIL FOUR DAYS LATER, WHEN HE SAID HE WOULD TAKE THE DNA TEST -- AFTER THE ELECTIONS AND IF ORDERED BY A JUDGE.

DESPITE TOLEDO'S ATTACKS, JNE AND ONPE DOING WELL

6. (SBU) ON MARCH 5, AFTER MEETING WITH AN NDI/CARTER CENTER PRE-ELECTIONS ASSESSMENT DELEGATION, TOLEDO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE ALLEGED DANGEROUS PRESENCE OF PERSONNEL IN ONPE AND THE JNE WITH TIES TO THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT AND

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED PTQ0849

PAGE 01 LIMA 01440 02 OF 02 150001Z
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	USIE-00	PMB-00	PRM-01	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00	/008W

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R 121637Z MAR 01
FM ANEMBASSY LIMA

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UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 4

n/a

Case Number: 200102877

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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 LIMA 001440

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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LIMA 01440 02 OF 02 150001Z

FORMER INTELLIGENCE CHIEF MONTESINOS. PRIVATELY, IN A THREE-HOUR MEETING, TOLEDO ALSO TOLD NDI/CARTER MEMBERS HE DID NOT BELIEVE ONPE AND THE JNE WERE FREE FROM POTENTIALLY CORRUPTING FORCES. TOLEDO'S STATEMENTS LED A NUMBER OF PUBLIC FIGURES TO ISSUE STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE JNE AND ONPE. TRANSPARENCIA PRESIDENT SALOMON LERNER, OAS MISSION CHIEF EDUARDO STEIN, AND THE NDI/CARTER DELEGATION ALL PRAISED REFORMS UNDERTAKEN BY BOTH INSTITUTIONS, AND LERNER TOLD TOLEDO IN FRONT OF DINNER GUESTS MARCH 7 THAT TOLEDO HAD GONE TOO FAR.

 ELECTIONS SOFTWARE

7. (U) MEANWHILE, IN A MOVE DESIGNED TO INCREASE TRANSPARENCY AND CONFIDENCE IN THE VOTING PROCESS, ONPE RELEASED ITS VOTE TABULATING SOFTWARE TO POLITICAL PARTIES AND THE JNE MARCH 8. THE PARTIES AND JNE HAVE A WEEK TO EXAMINE THE SOFTWARE AND SUGGEST CHANGES TO ONPE BEFORE PROGRAMMERS BEGIN REVISIONS TO THE PROGRAM. THE JNE HAS EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN CONDUCTING A SEPARATE AUDIT OF THE PROGRAM AND ONPE'S COMMUNICATION NETWORK AS A PART OF ITS

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UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 4

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 5

n/a

Case Number: 200102877

ELECTORAL SUPERVISION RESPONSIBILITIES AND HAS APPROACHED
USAID AND OTHER DONORS TO FINANCE IT.
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Page: 5

UNCLASSIFIED