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EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/06/02
TAGS: PHUM, PREL, PGOV, PTER
SUBJECT: VISIT OF PERUVIAN HUMAN RIGHTS WORKERS TO DOS

CLASSIFIED BY ARA PDAS PETER ROMERO. REASON 1.5(D).

1. (C) SUMMARY.

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VISITED THE STATE DEPARTMENT ON OCTOBER 6 FOR
MEETINGS WITH DRL A/S JOHN SHATTUCK AND ARA PDAS PETER
ROMERO. BRIEFED SHATTUCK AND ROMERO ON

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PROGRESS AND SETBACKS CONCERNING DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT AND
HUMAN RIGHTS IN PERU. THEY EXPRESSED PARTICULAR CONCERN
ABOUT FAILURES BY THE FUJIMORI GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT THE
CONSOLIDATION OF PERUVIAN DEMOCRACY AND ABOUT THE GROWING
POWER OF THE PERUVIAN MILITARY. ALSO
EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR STATEMENTS AMBASSADOR JETT HAS

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[REDACTED]
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MADE TO THE PERUVIAN MEDIA, INCLUDING STATEMENTS ON CASES INVOLVING BARUCH IVCHER AND THE REMOVAL OF CONSTITUTIONAL TRIBUNAL JUSTICES.

2. (U) DRL/BA DEPUTY DIRECTOR SUSAN SUTTON, HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER ROBERT WARD, AND PERU DESK OFFICER ED KASKA ALSO

WERE PRESENT FOR THE MEETING WITH A/S SHATTUCK. ARA/AND DIRECTOR DAVID PASSAGE AND DESK OFFICER KASKA SAT IN ON THE ROMERO MEETING. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] PARTICIPATED IN BOTH THE SHATTUCK AND ROMERO MEETINGS. END SUMMARY.

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MEETING WITH A/S SHATTUCK

3. (U) [REDACTED] PROVIDED A/S SHATTUCK WITH AN OVERVIEW OF THE COORDINADORA'S ACTIVITIES, NOTING THAT IT IS AN UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION FOR 47 PERUVIAN HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS (ANOTHER 10 ORGANIZATIONS HAVE APPLIED FOR MEMBERSHIP) WHICH ACTS AS A SPOKESPERSON FOR ITS MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN PERU AND REPRESENTS THEM IN INTERNATIONAL FORA. THE COORDINADORA, WHICH HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE FOR 13 YEARS, FOCUSES ITS WORK ON ISSUES INVOLVING CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS, ALTHOUGH IT ALSO

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HOPES AT SOME POINT TO BE ABLE TO ADDRESS ISSUES INVOLVING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS AS WELL. [REDACTED] STATED THAT THE COORDINADORA DURING THE COMING MONTHS WILL FOCUS ITS ENERGIES ON THREE ISSUES: I) TORTURE (SEE PARA. 9 BELOW); II) ABUSE OF AUTHORITY; AND III) ACCESS TO JUSTICE, ISSUES WHICH INVOLVE ALL PERUVIANS.

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4. (C) [REDACTED] INDICATED THAT THE "EMERGENCY TIME", A PERIOD OF 16 YEARS WHICH SAW 30,000 KILLINGS AND 5,000 DISAPPEARANCES, HAD PASSED IN LARGE MEASURE DUE TO THE FIGHT PRESIDENT FUJIMORI HAS LED AGAINST TERRORISM, AND THAT PERU HAS NOW ENTERED A NEW ERA WHERE A CONSOLIDATION OF DEMOCRACY IS NEEDED. UNFORTUNATELY, THE FUJIMORI GOVERNMENT HAS FALLEN SHORT IN BUILDING THE DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS WHICH THIS NEW PERIOD NEEDS. [REDACTED] CITED THE NEED FOR DEVELOPMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY AS A PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT ISSUE FROM THE COORDINADORA'S PERSPECTIVE.

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[REDACTED]
n/a

[REDACTED]
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5. (SBU) [REDACTED] PRAISED AMBASSADOR JETT FOR HIS SUPPORT OF DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN PERU, CALLING THE STATEMENTS HE HAS MADE TO THE MEDIA, INCLUDING THOSE ON THE CASES INVOLVING BARUCH IVCHER AND THE REMOVAL OF CONSTITUTIONAL TRIBUNAL JUSTICES, AS HAVING CONVEYED A CLEAR MESSAGE CONCERNING THE USG POSITION ON THESE ISSUES. ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHATTUCK REPLIED THAT THE WORDS PERUVIANS HEAR FROM AMBASSADOR JETT SHOULD BE TAKEN AS

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COMING DIRECTLY FROM SECRETARY ALBRIGHT HERSELF, AS THE USG SUPPORTS DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, INCLUDING PERU.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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6. (C) SHATTUCK THEN NOTED THAT HE HAD HEARD REPORTS THAT THE GOP WOULD ALLOW THE FACELESS COURTS USED TO TRY TERRORISM CASES TO EXPIRE, AN ACTION HE CHARACTERIZED AS A GOOD SIGN AND A GOOD CHANGE. [REDACTED] REPLIED THAT THE GOP ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING THE COURTS WAS ENCOURAGING, BUT THAT IT REMAINED TO BE SEEN WHETHER ONLY THE FACELESS CIVILIAN COURTS WOULD BE ABOLISHED, OR IF THE FACELESS MILITARY COURTS WOULD EXPIRE AS WELL. [REDACTED] ALSO NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH THE END OF THE FACELESS COURTS WOULD BE A STEP FORWARD, THE ANTI-TERRORISM LAW AND ITS CIVIL LIBERTIES DEFECTS APPARENTLY WILL REMAIN IN PLACE.

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(C) [REDACTED] TURNING AGAIN TO THE SUBJECT OF DEMOCRATIC CONSOLIDATION, CALLED THE PERUVIAN CONGRESS' REMOVAL OF THREE CONSTITUTIONAL TRIBUNAL JUSTICES FROM THEIR POSITIONS "A DISASTER"- WHICH HAD SURPRISED ALMOST ALL PERUVIANS. PRESIDENT FUJIMORI'S POPULARITY HAD PLUMMETED AFTER THE ACTION AGAINST THE JUDGES, AND [REDACTED] FINDS IT HARD TO UNDERSTAND WHY THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT DOES NOT PAY ATTENTION AND LEARN FROM SUCH EPISODES.

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8. (C) [REDACTED] THEN REFERRED TO THE TRIUMVIRATE OF PRESIDENT FUJIMORI, DE FACTO NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE HEAD VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS, AND PERUVIAN ARMY GENERAL NICOLAS HERMOZA RIOS AS HOLDING THE REAL POWER IN PERU. SHE EXPRESSED PARTICULAR CONCERN ABOUT THE ROLE MONTESINOS PLAYS IN GOVERNMENT AND SAID PERUVIANS ARE SUSPICIOUS ABOUT HOW HE COULD HAVE MADE \$600,000 DURING 1996 (ACCORDING TO MONTESINO'S OWN TAX STATEMENTS) AS A PUBLIC SERVANT.

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[REDACTED]
n/a
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
n/a

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REGARDING HERMOZA RIOS, [REDACTED] LAMENTED WHAT SHE SEES AS
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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THE MILITARY'S GROWING CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT. [REDACTED]
ADDED THAT THE MILITARY'S GROWING STRENGTH IS A BAD
PRECEDENT FOR THE REGION AND THREATENS THE PERU-ECUADOR
BORDER TALKS.

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9. (C) SHATTUCK NEXT INQUIRED ABOUT REPORTS OF INCREASED
TORTURE IN PERU. [REDACTED] REPLIED THAT TORTURE IS AN AGE OLD
PROBLEM IN PERU WHICH THE COORDINADORA WILL TAKE ON AS A
PRIORITY ISSUE. TORTURE IN PERU IS NOT JUST LIMITED TO
POLITICALLY CONNECTED CASES, BUT RATHER IS A COMMON
OCCURRENCE THROUGHOUT PERU. [REDACTED] NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH

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PERU HAS RATIFIED THE INTERNATIONAL TORTURE CONVENTION, A
PERUVIAN STATUTE MAKING TORTURE A CRIME IS NEEDED, AND THE
COORDINADORA WILL ASK THE PERUVIAN CONGRESS TO ENACT SUCH A
LAW. [REDACTED] ADDED THAT THE PERUVIAN PUBLIC HAD BEEN
HORRIFIED BY THE TORTURE OF ARMY INTEL AGENT LEONOR LA
ROSA, BUT THAT THE PUBLIC STILL NEEDS TO BE EDUCATED MORE
ABOUT THE ISSUE OF TORTURE, AND THAT HUMAN RIGHTS
ORGANIZATIONS NEED TO CONVINCE PERUVIANS TO DENOUNCE
TORTURE, RATHER THAN EXPECT IT.

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MEETING WITH PDAS ROMERO

10. (C) [REDACTED] IN THE MEETING WITH ARA PDAS ROMERO FIRST
REFLECTED ON THE STATE OF PERUVIAN DEMOCRACY, ECHOING HIS
AND [REDACTED] REMARKS EARLIER IN THE DAY ON THIS SUBJECT TO
A/S SHATTUCK. [REDACTED] NOTED THAT THE PERUVIAN ECONOMY WAS
DOING GREAT, BUT UNFORTUNATELY PERU'S DEMOCRATIC PROSPECTS
WERE DECLINING. PRESIDENT FUJIMORI'S APPARENT
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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PREOCCUPATION WITH REELECTION ESPECIALLY WAS NEGATIVELY
AFFECTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRACY AND WAS A
CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO MANY OF THE RECENT SETBACKS TO
DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING THE SACKING OF
CONSTITUTIONAL COURT JUSTICES, THE IVCHER CASE, AND THE
PERUVIAN JUDICIARY'S GENERAL LACK OF INDEPENDENCE.
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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11. (C) ROMERO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A NUMBER OF QUESTIONABLE CASES RECENTLY, BUT INDICATED THAT MANY OF THE CASES WHICH CONCERN SUPPORTERS OF DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS HAVE "NUBES" (CLOUDS) BEHIND WHICH THE GOP CAN HIDE. IN THE IVCHER CASE, FOR EXAMPLE, THE ATTACK ON PRESS FREEDOM ASSOCIATED WITH THE CASE IS CLOUDED BY THE CITIZENSHIP ISSUE AND THE FIGHT BETWEEN FRECUENCIA LATINA'S OWNERS FOR CONTROL OF THE STATION.

12. (SBU) ROMERO ALSO ASKED WHETHER THE REPORT ISSUED BY THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION WHICH HAD CRITICIZED THE GOP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS SHORTCOMINGS HAD HAD ANY IMPACT IN PERU. [REDACTED] NOTED THAT THE REPORT HAD BEEN ISSUED AT THE TIME OF THE JUNE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN LIMA, AND HAD BEEN OVERSHADOWED BY THE CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING THE REMOVAL OF THE THREE CONSTITUTIONAL TRIBUNAL JUSTICES, WHICH HAPPENED JUST BEFORE THE OASGA. [REDACTED] ADDED THAT THE GOP HAD TAKEN NO ACTION TO REPLACE THE SACKED JUSTICES, AND THAT AS A CONSEQUENCE THE

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JURISDICTION OF THE TRIBUNAL, FOR LACK OF A QUORUM, HAD BEEN SEVERELY RESTRICTED.

13. (C) [REDACTED] EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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BETWEEN FUJIMORI AND THE PERUVIAN MILITARY, ARGUING THE STRONG MILITARY COMPONENT IN GOVERNANCE WAS DANGEROUS FOR PERUVIAN DEMOCRACY. [REDACTED] DOES GIVE THE MILITARY CREDIT FOR ITS SUCCESS AGAINST TERRORISM, INCLUDING THE RESCUE OF HOSTAGES FROM THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE IN APRIL. HE ALSO NOTED THAT EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS AND DISAPPEARANCES, WHICH HAD ONCE CHARACTERIZED THE FIGHT BETWEEN SECURITY FORCES AND TERRORIST GROUPS, HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED. [REDACTED] NOTED THAT DESPITE THESE SUCCESSES, THE MILITARY HAS NOT DISCARDED CERTAIN TACTICS, ESPECIALLY TORTURE AND ILLEGAL DETENTIONS, WHICH HAD BEEN USED AGAINST TERRORISTS. [REDACTED] ADDED THAT THE SUCCESS AGAINST TERRORISM IN A SENSE HAD LEFT THE PERUVIAN MILITARY WITHOUT TARGETS, AND THAT THE MILITARY HAD NOW TURNED ON OTHERS, INCLUDING ITS OWN, CITING THE TORTURE CASE OF ARMY INTEL AGENT LEONOR LA ROSA.

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14. (C) ROMERO THEN ADVISED [REDACTED] THAT HE HAD

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

n/a

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MET THE PREVIOUS WEEK WITH [REDACTED]
 (STATE 188072) WHO HAD LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT THE
 MILITARY DOES ANSWER TO FUJIMORI. [REDACTED] HAD TOLD ROMERO
 OF THE MILITARY'S SUCCESS IN COMBATING SENDERO LUMINOSO
 (SL), AND HAD NOTED THAT SL HAD ABANDONED THE PRACTICE OF
 ENTERING A VILLAGE AND SUMMARILY KILLING VILLAGE LEADERS.
 [REDACTED] AGREED THAT THE MILITARY HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN THE
 FIGHT AGAINST SL, BUT NOTED THAT THERE WAS SOME EVIDENCE
 THAT SL ACTIVITY IN THE UPPER HUALLAGA WAS ON THE UPSWING.
 [REDACTED] ALSO STATED THAT ALTHOUGH SENDERO LUMINOSO APPEARS
 GENERALLY TO HAVE ABANDONED THE TACTIC OF KILLING LOCAL
 LEADERS, THERE STILL HAVE BEEN RECENT CASES IN WHICH SL
 MURDERED LOCAL LEADERS. IN ADDITION, SENDERO CONTINUES TO

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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 THREATEN LOCAL LEADERS, SUCH AS THOSE LEADING ORGANIZATIONS
 REPRESENTING "DESEMPLAZADOS" (PERSONS DISPLACED BY THE
 FIGHT BETWEEN THE GOP AND TERRORIST GROUPS), AS SL
 CONSIDERS SUCH PERSONS THREATS TO SL ACTIVITIES AND HOPES
 TO INTIMIDATE THEM. [REDACTED] ALSO NOTED THAT SL CONTINUES TO
 PROSELYTIZE, AND THAT THE GOP HAS NO APPARENT STRATEGY TO
 COUNTER SUCH ACTIVITY.

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15. (C) [REDACTED] THEN TOOK UP THE THEME OF FUTURE ELECTIONS
 IN PERU. SHE SEES FUJIMORI'S PREOCCUPATION WITH REELECTION

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AS THREATENING NOT ONLY HIS SUCCESSES WITH THE ECONOMY AND
 AGAINST TERRORISM, BUT AS ALSO AFFECTING FUJIMORI'S
 POPULARITY WITH THE PERUVIAN ELECTORATE. FUJIMORI HAS
 LOST GROUND IN THE POLLS, BUT IT REMAINS UNCLEAR AS TO WHO
 MIGHT ACTUALLY CHALLENGE HIM, GIVEN THE WEAK STATE OF
 PERU'S POLITICAL PARTIES. [REDACTED] STATED THAT LIMA MAYOR
 ALBERTO ANDRADE IS RATED MUCH MORE HIGHLY IN OPINION POLLS
 THAN FUJIMORI, BUT THAT IT REMAINED TO BE SEEN WHO MIGHT BE
 ABLE TO SERIOUSLY CHALLENGE FUJIMORI IN THE PRESIDENTIAL
 ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN 2000. [REDACTED] THINKS THAT THERE
 WILL BE SOME NEW FACES WHICH WILL EMERGE IN THE 1998
 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, AND THAT THESE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS
 WILL PROVIDE A CLEARER PICTURE OF POSSIBLE PRESIDENTIAL
 CANDIDATES.

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16. (C) ROMERO DURING THE MEETING WITH [REDACTED]
 STATED THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE STANDS ONE HUNDRED
 PERCENT BEHIND STATEMENTS AMBASSADOR JETT HAS MADE IN PERU.

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[REDACTED]

n/a

[REDACTED]

n/a

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HE INDICATED THAT THE USG WAS PLEASED WITH PROGRESS THE FUJIMORI GOVERNMENT HAS MADE ON ECONOMIC REFORM, TERRORISM,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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AND COUNTERNARCOTICS, BUT THAT PERU'S HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION REMAINS OF CONCERN TO US. [REDACTED] REPLIED THAT THE USG EFFORTS TO SUPPORT DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS WERE WELCOME, AND POINTED TO USG FUNDING OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OMBUDSMAN AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE BENEFITS OF USG SUPPORT. [REDACTED] CALLED THE OMBUDSMAN'S OFFICE THE "ONLY ROAD" COMMON CITIZENS HAVE TO THE GOP, AND EXPRESSED PLEASURE THAT THE OMBUDSMAN IS OPENING BRANCH OFFICES IN PIURA AND PUCALLPA.

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17. (C) ROMERO CLOSED THE CONVERSATION BY NOTING HE EXPECTS TO BE IN LIMA NOVEMBER 11 - 12 FOR A CICAD MEETING AND WILL WANT TO VISIT THE COORDINADORA DURING HIS VISIT TO PERU. [REDACTED] ENTHUSIASTICALLY GREETED THE PROSPECT OF A VISIT. - [REDACTED] ADDED THAT A VISIT TO THE COORDINADORA WOULD BE ESPECIALLY WELCOME AT SUCH TIME, AS [REDACTED] AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS WORKERS IN PERU HAVE RECENTLY BEEN SUBJECTED TO MURDER AND OTHER THREATS BY TELEPHONE. [REDACTED] INDICATED SHE IS CONVINCED THE SOURCE OF SUCH THREATS WAS VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS.
TALBOTT

[REDACTED]

NNNN

n/a

[REDACTED]