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ACTION ARA-01

INFO LOG-00	ACDA-15	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	C-01	DODE-00	EUR-01
HA-09	H-01	INRE-00	INR-01	L-03	ADS-00	NSAE-00
NSCE-00	OMB-01	PA-02	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-01
SP-01	SSO-00	SS-01	TRSE-00	T-01	USIE-00	/043W
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O 202200Z APR 92
 FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0168
 INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA
 AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
 AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
 AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
 AMEMBASSY MEXICO
 AMEMBASSY PANAMA
 AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
 AMEMBASSY QUITO
 AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
 AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
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E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PE, VE
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SUBJECT: MIXED DOMESTIC REACTIONS TO GOV DECISION TO
"SUSPEND" DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PERU

REF(S): (A) CARACAS 04230; (B) CARACAS 04204

1. SUMMARY: THE LOCAL PRESS, AFTER A TWO-DAY HIATUS FOR HOLY WEEK, REPORTED OVER THE WEEK-END OF APRIL 17-18 MIXED REACTIONS TO PRESIDENT PEREZ' DECISION TO "SUSPEND" DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PERU. A PROMINENT LEADER IN ACCION DEMOCRATICA SUPPORTED THE DECISION (ALTHOUGH COMPLAINING THAT AD HAD NOT BEEN CONSULTED), COPEI REACTION WAS MIXED, AND MAS (THOUGH CRITICAL OF THE "FUJICOUP") CRITICIZED THE GOV'S SUSPENSION OF RELATIONS AS AN ACT OF A GOVERNMENT HAVING LITTLE MORAL

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United States Department of State
Office of FOI, Privacy, & Classification Review
Review Authority: MOSKOWITZ, SAM
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AND POLITICAL AUTHORITY OF ITS OWN. END SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

2. PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ' DECISION (REFTELS) TO "SUSPEND" DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PERU WAS MADE PUBLIC JUST AS THE GOVERNMENT AND THE MEDIA WERE SHUTTING DOWN LATE APRIL 15 -- FOR THE TRADITIONAL HOLY WEEK VACATION. THERE WERE NO NEWSPAPERS ON APRIL 16 AND 17 AND ONLY OVER THE WEEK-END (APRIL 18-19) DID THE REACTIONS TO CAP'S DECISION EMERGE -- FROM CONDEMNATION OF A UNILATERAL ACTION TO SUPPORT FOR A VERY "LOGICAL" DECISION.

QUALIFIED SUPPORT FROM MAJOR POLITICAL LEADERS

3. LUIS EMILIO RONDON, ACCION DEMOCRATICA (AD)
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SPOKESPERSON, SAID THE PARTY "SUPPORTS THIS MEASURE THAT DOES NOT RECOGNIZE THE LEGITIMACY OF THE 'DE FACTO' GOVERNMENT PRESIDED OVER BY PRESIDENT ALBERTO FUJIMORI." HOWEVER, RONDON POINTED OUT THAT AD WAS NOT CONSULTED ABOUT THE IMPENDING SUSPENSION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, AND CRITICIZED THE GOV FOR MAKING A UNILATERAL DECISION. HE SAID "THAT UNILATERAL AND ISOLATED ACTIONS OF DIFFERENT GOVERNMENTS DO NOT CONSTITUTE AN EFFECTIVE ANSWER AGAINST THE SELF-IMPOSED PERUVIAN COUP." AD, HE SAID, PREFERS A COMMON POSITION WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION.

4. THE FORMER COPEI PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES' FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, JOSE RODRIGUEZ ITURBE, SAID "THE SUSPENSION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PERU IS LOGICAL GIVEN THE UNCONSTITUTIONAL ACT COMMITTED BY PRESIDENT ALBERTO FUJIMORI." RODRIGUEZ ALSO SAID THAT VENEZUELA MUST DIFFERENTIATE ITSELF FROM THE POSITION OF THE OAS WHICH INCREASINGLY IS LOOSING CREDIBILITY AS AN EFFECTIVE REGIONAL ORGANIZATION. BUT PACIANO PADRON, RODRIGUEZ'S SUCCESSOR ON THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, FOUND CAP'S DECISION "PRECIPITOUS." LIKE AD'S RONDON, PADRON EXPLAINED THAT HE PREFERS "A COMMON POSITION DEVELOPED THROUGH REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE ANDEAN PACT, THE RIO GROUP OR THE OAS." PADRON COMMENTED THAT ALL "VENEZUELAN DEMOCRATS REJECT THE FUJI-MILITARY COUP. HOWEVER, NOT ALL OF US AGREE TO BREAKING RELATIONS WITH PERU."

MAS: CRITICISM OF OAS ACTIONS RE HAITI AND PERU

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5. THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF MOVEMENT TOWARDS SOCIALISM (MAS) PARTY, FREDDY MUNOZ, SAID THAT THE GOV DECISION WAS "SELF-SERVING": THAT IS, AN ATTEMPT TO PROTECT ITSELF IN CASE OF ANOTHER COUP. HOWEVER, MUNOZ CONTINUED, THOUGH CAP'S DECISION WAS "LOGICAL," HIS GOVERNMENT "HAS VERY LITTLE POLITICAL LEGITIMACY AND LACKS THE MORAL AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH ITSELF AS A DEMOCRATIC POINT OF REFERENCE."

6. MUNOZ ALSO POINTED TO THE DIFFERENT POLITICAL REACTIONS OF THE REGION TO THE COUPS IN HAITI AND PERU. REGARDING HAITI, "THE OAS INITIALLY ADOPTED AN ACTIVE

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AND MILITANT POSITION AGAINST THE COUP-LEADERS AND
NEARLY REACHED THE POLITICAL-JURIDICAL POSITION THAT
GIVEN THE NECESSITY TO IMPEDE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A 'DE
FACTO' (UNDEMOCRATIC) REGIME, ONE MUST REFORMULATE THE
PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERVENTION. IN THE CASE OF THE COUP
OF FUJIMORI, THE BEHAVIOR (OF THE OAS) WAS MORE LUKEWARM
AND CLEARLY CONCILIATORY. FROM ALL OF THIS WE CONCLUDE
THAT THERE IS NO ESTABLISHED POSITION BASED ON
PRINCIPLES. SOMETIMES THE PRINCIPLES ARE HARD AND
INFLEXIBLE, AND SOMETIMES THEY ARE WEAK AND SOFT."

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