

The capture of Sendero Luminoso leader Guzman has enhanced President Fujimori's public support, and hence, his ability to put his personal stamp on Peru's constituent congress and the judiciary. [REDACTED]

Fujimori's rising approval rating--up from 58 to 73 percent since the Guzman arrest--have muted opposition criticism of his efforts to reconfigure Peru's suspended institutions and enhance his executive authority. Opposition politicians have admitted [REDACTED] that the arrest has been a serious blow to their parties' electoral prospects; one indicated that he now hoped merely to contain rather than defeat Fujimori at the polls. More than 100 groups--many of these independent organizations that have broken away from mainline parties--are gathering signatures to register for the election. [REDACTED] Fujimori has promised that the constituent congress will be autonomous, enjoy limited immunity, and have the power to overturn decrees he has issued [REDACTED] although he has made no move to modify the decree that covers these issues. [REDACTED]

Fujimori continues to use his decree power to reform the [REDACTED] judicial system. He has transferred much of the civilian courts' powers on [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

terrorism cases to the military justice system and emphasized the need to respect the "popular will" in sentencing arrested terrorists. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Fujimori has promised a fair trial and a harsh sentence for Guzman to be handed down by 7 October; a military court recently condemned two midlevel Sendero leaders to life imprisonment.

(b)(3) [REDACTED] Guzman is to be transferred to an island naval facility to block any attempt by Sendero to free him and to prevent him from directing the group from jail. [REDACTED]

Comment: Fujimori's remarks about congressional prerogatives appear aimed at reassuring international observers of his democratic intentions. B4A B5
Peruvian parties have little leverage, however, to compel the President to reverse the decree. § Although § Fujimori's steps to close legal loopholes that the insurgents have long exploited are popular with the military and a public frustrated by a corrupt judicial system, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]