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Current Class: [REDACTED]
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Document Number: 1992LIMA16308

Page: 1

Channel: n/a

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PAGE 01 LIMA 16308 01 OF 02 241819Z
ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00
	DODE-00	EAP-01	EB-01	EUR-01	HA-09	H-01	INM-02
	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	LAB-04	L-03	ADS-00	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01
	SIL-00	SNP-00	SP-00	SR-00	SS-00	STR-17	TRSE-00
	T-01	USIE-00	RPE-00	/089W			

-----8A39A6 241836Z /38

R 241818Z DEC 92
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4431
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
USAFSO HOWARD AFB PM
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
USEC BRUSSELS 0063

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[REDACTED] SECTION 01 OF 02 LIMA 16308

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, PE
SUBJECT: NINETEEN FORMER ARMY COMMANDERS
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PAGE 02 LIMA 16308 01 OF 02 241819Z
ATTACK THE GOVERNMENT

1. SUMMARY: (U) NINETEEN FORMER ARMY COMMANDERS
HAVE PUBLISHED A LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE CURRENT
ARMY COMMANDER STRONGLY CRITICIZING BOTH HIM AND
FUJIMORI ADMINISTRATION TREATMENT OF ALLEGED
COUP PLOTTERS. THE LETTER, DATED DECEMBER 16,
WAS SENT TO THE MEDIA DECEMBER 23 WHEN IT WENT
UNANSWERED BY GENERAL NICOLAS DE BARI HERMOZA
RIOS, CURRENT CHIEF OF THE JOINT STAFF.
END SUMMARY.

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J. OLSON
DATE/CASE ID: 13 AUG 2001 200003853

Current Class: [REDACTED]
 Current Handling: n/a
 Document Number: 1992LIMA16308

Page: 2

Channel: n/a

2. (U) THE NINETEEN GENERALS -- INCLUDING FORMER PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ -- EXPRESS SURPRISE IN HARSH AND SARCASTIC TONES THAT GENERALS VICTOR MALCA AND JUAN BRIONES SIGNED THE GOVERNMENT DECREE 25861 AUTHORIZING MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES ARRESTED AND CONVICTED TO COMPLETE THEIR SENTENCES IN EITHER MILITARY OR CIVILIAN DETENTION FACILITIES. THE DECREE'S PURPOSE, THEY CLAIM, IS TO UNDERMINE THE DIGNITY OF THE ARMED FORCES AND INTIMIDATE THE ARMED FORCES AS AN INSTITUTION AND ITS OFFICERS PERSONNALLY. (ACCORDING TO THE GOVERNMENT, THE DECREE WAS DRAFTED NOVEMBER 6, AND SO COULD BE APPLIED TO THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE NOVEMBER 12-13 COUP PLOTTING.)

3. (U) IN HARSH TONES, THE LETTER:

-- EXPRESSES AMAZEMENT THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS

PAGE 03 LIMA 16308 01 OF 02 241819Z
 IMPRISONING CIVILIANS CONVICTED IN MILITARY COURTS IN MILITARY PRISONS WHILE HOUSING MILITARY OFFICERS AMONG THE COMMON CRIMINAL POPULATION.

-- CHARACTERIZES PUTTING MILITARY PERSONNEL IN THE GENERAL PRISON POPULATION AS NOT ONLY BREAKING WITH LONG-STANDING PERUVIAN TRADITION BUT CONTRARY TO THE PRACTICE OF "ALL THE CIVILIZED COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD."

-- ENERGETICALLY PROTESTS PUTTING OFFICERS INVOLVED IN ANTI-TERRORIST ACTIONS IN THE SAME PRISON WITH CONVICTED TERRORISTS THEY CAPTURED.

-- EXPRESSES OPPOSITION TO THE ARREST AND DETENTION OF GENERALS JOSE PASTOR VIVES AND LUIS PALOMINO RODRIGUEZ BY THE POLICE INSTEAD OF THEIR BEING ARRESTED BY OFFICERS OF THEIR OWN RANK AND DETAINED WITHIN THE MILITARY SYSTEM.

-- OBJECTS TO THE ALLEGED MISTREATMENT OF MILITARY OFFICERS WHILE IN CIVILIAN CUSTODY, INCLUDING NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE "ADVISER" MONTESINOS' PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT IN

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 2

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1992LIMA16308

Page: 3
Channel: n/a

TORTURE OF THESE OFFICERS.

-- CRITICIZES THE TREATMENT ACCORDED FAMILIES OF THE IMPRISONED OFFICERS WHEN VISITING DETAINEES.

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[REDACTED]

PAGE 04 LIMA 16308 01 OF 02 241819Z
4. (U) THE GENERALS' LETTER RECEIVED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE IN THE NATIONAL PRESS. IT FOLLOWS THE ON-GOING PUBLICATION IN THE MEDIA OF PRISON INTERVIEWS, CONDUCTED VIA SMUGGLED IN CELLULAR TELEPHONES AND WRITTEN MESSAGES, WITH LEADERS OF THE NOVEMBER 12/13 ATTEMPTED COUP, AND A CAMPAIGN TO PRESSURE THE FUJIMORI ADMINISTRATION TO GRANT AMNESTY TO THE COUP PLOTTERS. THE LETTER WAS PRECEDED BY A SOFTER CRITICISM OF THE USE OF CIVILIAN PRISONS FOR ARMY OFFICERS, PUBLISHED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF ACTIVE DUTY AND RETIRED GENERAL OFFICERS.

5. (C) COMMENT: THE STRONGLY WORDED LETTER

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PAGE 01 LIMA 16308 02 OF 02 241822Z
ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00
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Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 3

Current Class: [REDACTED]
 Current Handling: n/a
 Document Number: 1992LIMA16308

Page: 4
 Channel: n/a

USAFSO HOWARD AFB PM
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 USEC BRUSSELS 0064

[REDACTED] SECTION 02 OF 02 LIMA 16308

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PAGE 02 LIMA 16308 02 OF 02 241822Z

DRAFTED BY NINETEEN FORMER MILITARY CHIEFS REFLECTS THE INCREASED TENSION IN THE MILITARY-FUJIMORI SCHISM. THE DOCUMENT'S NO CONFIDENCE VOTE IN GENERAL HERMOZA FOR BETRAYING THE INSTITUTIONAL INTERESTS OF THE PERUVIAN MILITARY COULD EASILY BEEN SEEN AS PROVIDING THE IMPRIMATUR FOR ANOTHER ROUND OF PLOTTING AGAINST THE FUJIMORI ADMINISTRATION BY CLOTHING THE PLOTTERS IN BROADER, MORE FUNDAMENTAL IDEALS.

6. (C) IMPRISONING ALLEGED PLOTTERS IN REGULAR PRISONS ALLEGED WAS PRESIDENT FUJIMORI'S SIGNAL HE WAS BREAKING WITH THE TRADITIONAL LATIN AMERICAN PRACTICE OF TREATING COUP PLOTTING AS "WHITE COLLAR CRIME." THE PERUVIAN MILITARY, PREDICTABLY, VIEWED THIS AS A CHALLENGE TO THE VERY INTEGRITY AND AUTONOMY OF THEIR "STATE WITHIN THE STATE." AND HAVE REACTED ACCORDINGLY. PRESIDENT FUJIMORI AND HIS CHIEF ADVISOR VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS APPEAR TO HAVE STARTED A FIGHT WITH THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT FROM WHICH ONLY ONE IS GOING TO EMERGE INTACT AS EACH SIDE INVESTS MORE POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL CAPITAL IN A DISPUTE THAT FOR THE MOMENT NEITHER APPEARS WILLING TO BACK DOWN.

7. (C) WITH THE YEAR-END ARMY PROMOTION AND ASSIGNMENTS LIST STILL UNPUBLISHED, AND WITH RUMORS THAT UP TO 240 OFFICERS COULD BE FORCIBLY RETIRED, TENSION REMAINS HIGH.

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 4