

[REDACTED]

n/a

Case Number: S200200010

PTQ4551

RELEASED IN FULL

[REDACTED]

PTQ4551

PAGE 01 LIMA 10928 01 OF 03 232139Z
ACTION SCT-00

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-05	ACDE-00	AID-00	AMAD-01	ARA-01	A-00
	CA-02	CCO-00	CG-00	COME-00	CTME-00	OASY-00	DOEE-00
	DOTE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EAP-01	EB-00	EUR-01	OIGO-01
	FAAE-00	IMMC-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00	IO-00	L-02
	MCO-01	ADS-00	M-00	NEA-01	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	OCS-03
	OIC-02	OIS-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00	SSO-00
	SS-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-01	PMB-00	DSCC-00
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 SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5006
 COMJSOC FT BRAGG NC PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY
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 AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

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[REDACTED]

PAGE 02 LIMA 10928 01 OF 03 232139Z
 AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
 USMISSION GENEVA
 WHITE HOUSE WASHDC

n/a

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n/a

Case Number: S200200010

USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM//J3/J5/IMMEDIATE

[REDACTED] SECTION 01 OF 03 LIMA 010928

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/23/01

TAGS: PTER, ASEC, PGOV, PE

SUBJECT: MRTA CONSOLIDATES ITS BARGAINING POSITION

REF: LIMA 10886

1. CLASSIFIED BY DENNIS JETT, AMBASSADOR, EMBASSY LIMA, REASON:
 1.5 (D).

2. [REDACTED] SUMMARY: MRTA'S DECEMBER 22 RELEASE OF 225 (AND 7 AMCIT)
 HOSTAGES DOES NOT FUNDAMENTALLY CHANGE MRTA'S STANDOFF WITH THE
 PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT. BY RETAINING SOME 140 PERUVIAN OFFICIALS,
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]

PAGE 03 LIMA 10928 01 OF 03 232139Z
 SOME ASIAN AND LATIN AMERICAN DIPLOMATS, AND SOME JAPANESE
 BUSINESSMEN, MRTA REDUCED ITS HOSTAGES TO A MORE MANAGEABLE NUMBER
 AND RETAINED THE PERSONS MOST VALUABLE TO ITS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE
 GOP. AT THIS POINT, WE BELIEVE MRTA IS UNLIKELY TO MAKE FURTHER
 RELEASES UNTIL THE GOP ADDRESSES ITS EMOTIONAL AND/OR SUBSTANTIVE
 DEMANDS. BASED ON THE AMBASSADOR'S CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT
 FUJIMORI AS THEY WAITED TO GREET THE RELEASED HOSTAGES, THIS IS
 SOMETHING FUJIMORI SEEMS LESS, NOT MORE, INCLINED TO CONCEDE.
 END SUMMARY.

 MRTA MAKES UNILATERAL CONCESSIONS ...

3. [REDACTED] MRTA RELEASED 225 HOSTAGES DURING THE NIGHT OF
 DECEMBER 22, INCLUDING THE SEVEN AMERICANS AND AN AID FSN. WE KNOW
 OF NO AMERICANS CURRENTLY BEING HELD. ONE OF THE PERUVIAN
 DIPLOMATS WHO IS STILL A HOSTAGE IS MARRIED TO AN AMCIT. WE DO NOT
 BELIEVE MRTA GAINED ANYTHING CONCRETE IN RETURN, EXCEPT THE CHANCE

[REDACTED]
n/a

[REDACTED]

n/a

Case Number: S200200010

TO ISSUE ANOTHER COMMUNIQUE TO THE PRESS, THIS TIME THROUGH FORMER LABOR MINISTER SANDRO FUENTES ACURIO. MRTA LEADER NESTOR CERPA CARTOLINI WAS PROBABLY MOTIVATED TO DO SO BY A NUMBER OF FACTORS:

--- TO ESTABLISH GOOD WILL AND TRUST TO ENTICE THE GOP TO ENTER INTO SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS;

--- TO COMMUNICATE ITS WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE AND TO PORTRAY ITSELF AS REASONABLE TO THE PERUVIAN PUBLIC;

--- TO CONCENTRATE ON HOLDING PERSONS WITH GREATER STRATEGIC WEIGHT AND FEWER LIABILITIES IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GOP;

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PAGE 04 LIMA 10928 01 OF 03 232139Z

--- TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF HOSTAGES TO A NUMBER EASIER TO MANAGE BUT STILL BIG ENOUGH TO GENERATE INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION.

... BUT WILL LIKELY DIG IN

4. [REDACTED] WE BELIEVE MRTA IS UNLIKELY NOW TO RELEASE MANY MORE, IF ANY, HOSTAGES UNTIL THE GOP ENTERS INTO SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MRTA CAPTORS. IN ITS DECEMBER 22 COMMUNIQUE, MRTA STILL PRESSED ITS UNREALISTIC DEMAND THAT THE GOP RELEASE IMPRISONED MRTA MEMBERS AND A VAGUE PROPOSAL FOR "A DIALOGUE IN SEARCH OF COMMON GROUND ON WHICH TO BUILD A PEACE PROCESS WITH SOCIAL JUSTICE." AT THE SAME TIME, THE MRTA CAPTORS ARE UPSET THAT THE GOP IS NOT TREATING THEM WITH THE RESPECT THEY DESIRE. IN THE SAME COMMUNIQUE, CERPA COMPLAINED THAT PRESIDENT FUJIMORI "CHOSE TO BE CONFRONTATIONAL" IN HIS DECEMBER 21 TELEVISION ADDRESS TO THE NATION.

5. [REDACTED] EVEN AFTER RELEASING 225 HOSTAGES, MRTA HAS 140 HIGH-VALUE CAPTIVES FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GOP. MRTA STILL HOLDS THE

NOTE: NOT PASSED TO ABOVE ADDRESSEE(S)

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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n/a

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Case Number: S200200010

PAGE 01 LIMA 10928 02 OF 03 232139Z
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PAGE 02 LIMA 10928 02 OF 03 232139Z
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[REDACTED] SECTION 02 OF 03 LIMA 010928

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FOREIGN MINISTER, PRESIDENT FUJIMORI'S YOUNGER BROTHER, THE PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT, THE PERUVIAN POLICE'S COUNTERTERRORISM CHIEF, AND FIVE CONGRESSMEN, AMONG MANY OTHER SENIOR GOP OFFICIALS. BY HOLDING ONTO THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR AND SEVERAL OTHER JAPANESE DIPLOMATS, MRTA IS PROBABLY CALCULATING THAT THE GOJ WILL MODERATE THE GOP'S RESPONSE TO THE HOSTAGE CRISIS. BY RETAINING A NUMBER OF JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN, MRTA MAY BE PREPARING A FALLBACK POSITION OF A RANSOM PAYMENT FROM DEEP POCKETS.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PAGE 03 LIMA 10928 02 OF 03 232139Z

6. [REDACTED] THE MRTA DID SAY IN ITS DECEMBER 22 COMMUNIQUE THAT IN KEEPING LATIN AMERICAN AND ASIAN DIPLOMATS, IT WOULD EVALUATE THEIR POSSIBLE RELEASE. WE EXPECT THE MRTA TERRORISTS WILL WANT TO HOLD ON TO THE AMBASSADORS FROM BOLIVIA AND URUGUAY, TWO COUNTRIES WITH MRTA PRISONERS. MRTA, WHICH HAS LONGSTANDING LINKS TO INSURGENT GROUPS IN CENTRAL AMERICA, MAY BE HOLDING ON TO THE AMBASSADORS FROM GUATEMALA AND HONDURAS AS A GESTURE TO ITS INTERNATIONAL SUPPORTERS. MRTA PROBABLY SEES LESS VALUE IN THE AMBASSADORS FROM MALAYSIA AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

7. [REDACTED] MRTA CALLED THE RELEASE OF THE 225 HOSTAGES "A CHRISTMAS GESTURE," BUT THERE REMAINS AN OUTSIDE CHANCE THAT THE MRTA MAY CONSIDER SOME RELEASES RIGHT BEFORE OR ON CHRISTMAS DAY TO CONTINUE TO TRY TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE ORGANIZATION IS "REASONABLE." NEVERTHELESS, BESIDES SOME POSSIBLE MINIMAL RELEASES ON THE MARGINS, WE DO BELIEVE THAT MRTA UNDERSTANDS THAT FURTHER SIGNIFICANT UNILATERAL HOSTAGE RELEASES WILL ONLY UNDERMINE ITS BARGAINING POSITION.

FUJIMORI DIGGING IN EVEN MORE

[REDACTED]
n/a

[REDACTED]

n/a

Case Number: S200200010

8. [REDACTED] IF THE MRTA EXPECTED TO GENERATE PRESSURE ON THE GOP TO NEGOTIATE BY RELEASING A LARGE NUMBER OF HOSTAGES OVER THE LAST SIX DAYS, IT HAS ACHIEVED THE OPPOSITE. FROM THE AMBASSADOR'S DISCUSSIONS WITH FUJIMORI AS THEY WAITED LAST NIGHT TO GREET THE LIBERATED HOSTAGES, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE PERUVIAN PRESIDENT FEELS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF HIS TACTICS HAS BEEN VALIDATED. THE GOP HAS NOT MADE ANY CONCESSIONS (THAT WE ARE AWARE OF) TO THE MRTA, AND [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PAGE 04 LIMA 10928 02 OF 03 232139Z
YET HAS ACHIEVED THE RELEASE OF ABOUT THREE-QUARTERS OF THE HOSTAGES TAKEN CAPTIVE BY 15-20 MRTA TERRORISTS ON DECEMBER 17. FUJIMORI REPEATEDLY ATTRIBUTED THIS TO HIS TOUGH STANCE AND DISCOUNTED THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE MRTA'S THREATS AND THEIR ORGANIZATION. HE EXPLAINED HE EVEN DISCONNECTED THE PHONE AT THE PRESIDENCY SO HE WOULD NOT BE SUBJECTED TO THE CALLS FROM FOREIGN OFFICIALS AND DIPLOMATS WHICH HE EQUATED TO PRESSURE ON HIM TO BE ACCOMMODATING TO TERRORISTS.

9. [REDACTED] IF MRTA HOLDS THE LINE ON FURTHER RELEASES, AS WE BELIEVE IT WILL, FUJIMORI SHOULD REEXAMINE HIS STRATEGY OF AVOIDING MEANINGFUL TALKS WITH THE MRTA. WE DO NOT BELIEVE HE WILL DO SO, HOWEVER, UNTIL MUCH MORE TIME HAS ELAPSED. WE ALSO EXPECT HE WILL TAKE A HARD SECOND LOOK AT CONTINGENCY RESCUE PLANS, PARTICULARLY NOW THAT FEWER LIVES ARE AT STAKE. THE GOP WILL CONTINUE TO MANIPULATE THE SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY, FOOD, WATER AND COMMUNICATIONS AS A WAY TO PRESSURE THE TERRORISTS.

ICRC MICHEL MINNIG'S ROLE IS ESSENTIAL

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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PAGE 01 LIMA 10928 03 OF 03 232139Z
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	FAAE-00	IMMC-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00	IO-00	L-02

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PAGE 02 LIMA 10928 03 OF 03 232139Z
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10. [REDACTED] ICRC CHIEF DELEGATE TO PERU MICHEL MINNIG CONTINUES TO DO AN OUTSTANDING JOB OF FACILITATING THE RELEASE OF HOSTAGES. THE RELEASE OF 225 HOSTAGES SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT EITHER HE IS PLAYING A BIGGER ROLE THAN HE WANTS TO LET ON, OR HE IS ACTING AS A CONDUIT FOR CONSIDERABLY MORE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE GOP AND MRTA THAN HE HAS REVEALED SO FAR (REFTEL). WITH THE MRTA CONSOLIDATING ITS BARGAINING POSITION, AND WITH THE GOP AND MRTA APPARENTLY STILL POLES APART, MINNIG WILL EITHER HAVE TO STEP UP HIS MEDIATING ROLE

[REDACTED]

PAGE 03 LIMA 10928 03 OF 03 232139Z
OR CONVINCE THE GOP AND MRTA TO AGREE TO THE INTRODUCTION OF A THIRD PARTY MEDIATOR WHO CAN ENGAGE MORE ACTIVELY ON SUBSTANCE.

JETT

[REDACTED]

NNNN

n/a

[REDACTED]