

[REDACTED]

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Case Number: S200200010

RELEASED IN PART
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ACTION SCT-00

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-10	ACDE-00	INLB-01	AID-00	ARA-01	A-00
	CA-02	CCO-00	CG-00	SMEC-00	COME-00	CTME-00	INL-01
	OASY-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EAP-01	EB-00
	EUR-01	FAAE-00	H-01	IMMC-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00
	IO-00	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00	MMP-00	M-00	NRCE-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-03	OIC-02	OIS-01	OMB-01	OPIC-01
	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00	CIO-00	SP-00	SSO-00
	SS-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-01	PMB-00	DSCC-00
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 INFO FBI WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 DOJ WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 CIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 JCS WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
 USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
 DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
 AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 AMEMBASSY QUITO

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 AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
 AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
 AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
 DEAHQS WASHDC
 AMEMBASSY ROME
 AMEMBASSY LONDON

[REDACTED] SECTION 01 OF 02 LIMA 000818

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[REDACTED]

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM E. LANDFAIR
 DATE/CASE ID: 13 AUG 2002 S200200010

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n/a

Case Number: S200200010

JUSTICE FOR TVCS -- J LANCASTER
SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD
ROME PASS EMBASSY VATICAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/28/07

TAGS: PTER ASEC PREL PGOV PE

SUBJECT: GOP AND MRTA PUSHING HOSTAGE CRISIS TO CROSSROADS

1. CLASSIFIED BY JAMES MACK, DCM, REASON: 1.5 (D).

2. [REDACTED] SUMMARY: AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF THE GOP'S BIGGEST DISPLAY OF ITS FIREPOWER AND MRTA'S FIRING AT POLICE, THE NEED TO START SOME DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE GOP AND MRTA IS MORE APPARENT THAN EVER. IF THEIR SHOTS SEND ANY MESSAGE, HOWEVER, THE MRTA TERRORISTS SEEM MORE DISPOSED TO A SHOWDOWN THAN THEY ARE PREPARED TO BACK DOWN FROM THEIR DEMAND THAT THE GOP RELEASE IMPRISONED MRTA MILITANTS. WHILE THE GOP HAS ANNOUNCED THAT LOGISTICAL PREPARATIONS FOR TALKS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED, THE GOP AND MRTA MUST STILL FIND A MUTUALLY-AGREEABLE FORMULA FOR HANDLING MRTA'S DEMAND FOR PRISONER RELEASES IN ORDER FOR NEGOTIATIONS TO BEGIN. END SUMMARY.

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GOP SHOWS ITS STRENGTH/MRTA LASHES OUT

3. (U) THE GOP PARADED SIX POLICE VEHICLES AND OVER 100 POLICEMEN AROUND THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE FOR TWO HOURS LATE IN THE AFTERNOON ON JANUARY 27. AT THE SAME TIME, THE GOP ALSO PUMPED PERUVIAN MARCHING MUSIC FROM THREE LOUDSPEAKERS SET UP OUTSIDE THE HOSTAGE SITE AND FLEW A HELICOPTER LOW IN THE VICINITY. ONE POLICEMAN RIDING IN AN ARMORED CAR MADE AN OBSCENE GESTURE TOWARDS THE MRTA TERRORISTS. WHEN THE POLICE FORCES PASSED IN FRONT OF THE JAPANESE RESIDENCE FOR THE FOURTH TIME, ONE MRTA GUNMAN SHOT FOUR TIMES, REPORTEDLY DIRECTLY AT THE POLICE.

4. (U) LOCAL TELEVISION COVERAGE SHOWED A POSSIBLE SHOT KICKING DUST UP AND NARROWLY MISSING A POLICEMAN WHO DUCKED INSIDE HIS ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIER JUST BEFORE THE SHOOTING. POLICE PERSONNEL IMMEDIATELY DEPLOYED TO THE WALL SURROUNDING THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S HOUSE. LATER, THEY COMPLETED A FIFTH LAP

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AROUND THE HOSTAGE SITE WITHOUT INCIDENT BEFORE CONCLUDING THE DAY'S MANEUVERS.

5. [REDACTED] TOLD US THAT THE GOP PREVIOUSLY INFORMED THE ICRC OF THE POLICE MOVEMENTS, AND THERE WERE NO ICRC WORKERS INSIDE THE HOSTAGE SITE AT THE TIME OF THE MRTA SHOOTING. THE ICRC [REDACTED] LATER DELIVERED DINNER AS SCHEDULED. ON THE MORNING OF JANUARY 28, THE GOP RESUMED BROADCASTING MILITARY MARCHES FROM THREE SPEAKERS OUTSIDE THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE, DROWNING OUT AT ONE POINT THE MRTA TERRORISTS' EFFORTS TO SING THE MRTA ANTHEM.

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GOP STILL OFFERS TO HOLD TALKS

6. (U) AFTER A THREE HOUR JANUARY 27 MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ALBERTO FUJIMORI, PRIME MINISTER ALBERTO PANDOLFI, AND INTERIOR MINISTER GENERAL JUAN BRIONES, GOP INTERLOCUTOR AND EDUCATION MINISTER DOMINGO PALERMO TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE GOP HAD COMPLETED THE "NECESSARY LOGISTICS" FOR POSSIBLE TALKS WITH MRTA. PALERMO SAID THE GOP HAS IDENTIFIED A SITE (AS YET UNSPECIFIED, BUT PRESUMABLY ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE JAPANESE RESIDENCE) AND HAS ALSO HIRED AN ARMORED VEHICLE. NOTING THAT IMPRISONED MRTA MEMBERS ARE RECEIVING PROPER CARE, THE GOP INTERLOCUTOR ANNOUNCED THAT THE GOP HAS APPOINTED A CATHOLIC CHURCH COMMISSION TO OVERSEE THE TREATMENT PROVIDED TO MRTA PRISONERS. (NOTE: THE GOP CONTINUES TO DENY ICRC ACCESS TO PRISONS. END NOTE.)

7. [REDACTED] PALERMO ALSO ANNOUNCED A GOP PROPOSAL TO REINFORCE THE MEDICAL ATTENTION THAT THE ICRC CURRENTLY PROVIDES THE 72 HOSTAGES. HE SUGGESTED THE ADDITION OF BOTH A JAPANESE DOCTOR RECOMMENDED BY THE GOJ AND A GOP PHYSICIAN. THE ICRC TOLD US THAT IT HAS BEEN DISCUSSING MEDICAL ISSUES WITH THE GOP, BUT IT HAS NOT AGREED TO THE FORMATION OF AN EXPANDED MEDICAL TEAM.

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	SS-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-01	PMB-00	DSCC-00
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 INFO FBI WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 DOJ WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 CIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 JCS WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
 USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
 DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
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 AMEMBASSY CARACAS
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[REDACTED] SECTION 02 OF 02 LIMA 000818

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 COMMENT

8. [REDACTED] AT THIS POINT, THE GOP SEEMS INTERESTED IN MAKING MRTA COMANDANTE NESTOR CERPA CARTOLINI'S CHOICES STARKLY CLEAR. HE CAN EITHER AGREE TO GO TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE WITHOUT MRTA'S PRINCIPAL DEMAND FOR THE RELEASE OF MRTA PRISONERS OR HE CAN CONFRONT THE INCREASINGLY AGGRESSIVE TACTICAL POLICE SURROUNDING HIM. IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY SUSTAINED DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE GOP AND MRTA TERRORISTS, THE RISK THAT AN ACCIDENT, PROVOCATION, OR HOT-HEADED MRTA TERRORIST WILL ULTIMATELY DECIDE HOW THE HOSTAGE CRISIS ENDS BECOMES EVEN GREATER. YESTERDAY, MRTA'S SHOTS CAME VERY CLOSE TO DOING JUST THAT.

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9. [REDACTED] WE STILL BELIEVE THE GOP PREFERS TO NEGOTIATE THE FREEING OF ALL 72 HOSTAGES IN EXCHANGE FOR THE SAFE PASSAGE OF THE MRTA TO A THIRD COUNTRY. THE MRTA TERRORISTS, HOWEVER, HAVE REFUSED TO ABANDON THEIR SEEMINGLY SINGLE-MINDED STRATEGY TO FORCE THE GOP TO RELEASE IMPRISONED MRTA MILITANTS. CERPA, IN THE WORDS OF A LOCAL EDITORIAL, SEEMS TO BE "DIGGING HIS OWN GRAVE." THE GOP, IN TURN, HAS HARDENED ITS POSITION AND MADE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR MRTA TO COME TO THE TABLE BY INSISTING THAT MRTA RENOUNCE ITS PRIMARY OBJECTIVE IN ADVANCE OF TALKS.

10. [REDACTED] THE GOP STILL POSSESSES THE USE OF FORCE AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO A NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT. IF MRTA DRAWS FIRST BLOOD OR A HOSTAGE DIES OF AN AGGRAVATED MEDICAL CONDITION, THE GOP WILL HAVE THE JUSTIFICATION IT NEEDS TO LAUNCH A RESCUE EFFORT. THE MRTA TERRORISTS WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE TO A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION EXCEPT A SUICIDAL STANDOFF WITH PERUVIAN SECURITY FORCES. EVEN AFTER 42 DAYS, HOWEVER, MRTA STILL HAS NOT SHIFTED FROM PUSHING ITS UNREALISTIC AND EMOTIONALLY-LADEN OBJECTIVE OF FREEING IMPRISONED MRTA MEMBERS TO FOCUSING RATIONALLY ON SECURING A SAFE EXIT.

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