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B1, 1.5(D)

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Case Number: S200200010

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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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O 242217Z FEB 97  
 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6007  
 INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY  
 DOJ WASHDC PRIORITY  
 JCS WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
 USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM PRIORITY  
 AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY  
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 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY  
 AMEMBASSY LONDON  
 AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
 AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
 DEAHQS WASHDC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

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 AMEMBASSY QUITO  
 AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
 AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
 AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
 AMEMBASSY ROME

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM E. LANDFAIR  
 DATE/CASE ID: 3 SEP 2002 S200200010  
 CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 25X1

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

n/a

Case Number: S200200010

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

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/24/07

TAGS: PTER ASEC PREL PGOV PE

SUBJECT: PERU'S HOSTAGE CRISIS UPDATE - FEBRUARY 21-23

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

2. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SUMMARY: THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT AND TUPAC AMARU REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT (MRTA) REACHED AGREEMENT DURING THEIR FIFTH ROUND OF TALKS FEBRUARY 24 TO MEET AGAIN FEBRUARY 25. MANY MORE NEGOTIATING SESSIONS WILL LIKELY BE NECESSARY AS LONG AS THE MRTA HOSTAGE TAKERS BELIEVE THAT THEY CAN ACHIEVE THE RELEASE OF THEIR IMPRISONED MILITANTS. DURING THE UPCOMING, AND PROBABLY DAILY SESSIONS, WE EXPECT THE GOP WILL PROBE WHAT COMPROMISES THE MRTA WOULD ACCEPT, IF ANY, IN EXCHANGE FOR MRTA RELEASING ALL 72 HOSTAGES AND DROPPING ITS DEMAND FOR PRISONER RELEASES.  
 END SUMMARY.

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 GOP AND MRTA HOLD FIFTH ROUND OF TALKS  
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3. (U) GOP INTERLOCUTOR DOMINGO PALERMO MET FEBRUARY 24 WITH MRTA COMANDANTE NESTOR CERPA CARTOLINI AND MRTA LIEUTENANT ROLI ROJAS FERNANDEZ FOR ABOUT THREE HOURS. GUARANTORS ARCHBISHOP JUAN LUIS CIPRIANI, CANADIAN AMBASSADOR ANTHONY VINCENT, ICRC CHIEF DELEGATE TO PERU MICHEL MINNIG, AND GUARANTOR OBSERVER TDY JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TERUSUKE TERADA ALSO ATTENDED THE TALKS. PALERMO WAS AGAIN ASSISTED BY A LEGAL ADVISOR, DR. JOSE ANTONIO PAYET PUCCIO (AND NOT A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SIN) AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED BY SOME LIMA MEDIA OUTLETS AFTER THE FOURTH ROUND OF TALKS).

4. (U) READING A BRIEF COMMUNIQUE, CIPRIANI AND VINCENT INFORMED REPORTERS THAT THE FIFTH ROUND OF TALKS TOOK PLACE IN A "CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE" AND THAT "SOME IMPORTANT ISSUES ARE STILL BEING DISCUSSED." THEY ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT THE NEXT ROUND OF TALKS WOULD TAKE PLACE ON FEBRUARY 25.

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[REDACTED]

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5. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] THE MRTA HOSTAGE TAKERS STILL BELIEVE THEY CAN WIN THE RELEASE OF MRTA PRISONERS. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] THAT MRTA COMANDANTE NESTOR CERPA CARTOLINI AND HIS LIEUTENANT ROLI ROJAS RETURNED FROM THE FOURTH ROUND OF TALKS UNREALISTICALLY ENCOURAGED BY THE FACT THAT

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PAGE 04 LIMA 01590 01 OF 03 242215Z PALERMO IS STUDYING A GOP LIST OF MRTA PRISONERS. THE MRTA BELIEVES THE GOP'S NEW WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS ALL ISSUES, INCLUDING PRISONER RELEASES, IS A SIGN THAT THE GOP WILL EVENTUALLY CONCEDE TO THE MRTA'S DEMAND THAT THE GOP RELEASE SOME OF THEIR COMRADES.

6. [REDACTED] ASKED IF THE MRTA STILL DEMANDS THE RELEASE OF ITS OVER 400 IMPRISONED MILITANTS, [REDACTED] THAT THE MRTA HOSTAGE TAKERS DO NOT EVEN HAVE A PREPARED LIST OF MRTA MEMBERS THAT IT WANTS TO SEE FREED. [REDACTED] THAT MRTA COMANDANTE CERPA IS MOST INTERESTED IN SEEING THE MRTA'S POLITICAL STRATEGISTS RELEASED, IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN TO HELP HIM NEGOTIATE AN END TO THE CRISIS. THE MRTA TERRORISTS CONSIDER THAT THEIR SAFE PASSAGE CAN BE NEGOTIATED ONLY AFTER THEY HAVE ACHIEVED THE RELEASE OF SOME OF THEIR COLLEAGUES. THE

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[REDACTED] ADDED THAT THE MRTA HOSTAGE TAKERS WOULD PREFER TO TRAVEL TO THE PERUVIAN JUNGLE, BUT HE THOUGHT THAT THEY WOULD ACCEPT GOING TO A THIRD COUNTRY TO CEMENT ANY DEAL CONTAINING PRISONER RELEASES.

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7. [REDACTED] ALSO SAID THAT THE GOP CONTINUES TO APPLY SOME PRESSURE AT THE HOSTAGE SITE. HE REPORTED THAT SECURITY FORCE PERSONNEL STILL THROW ROCKS NIGHTLY AT THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE, AND THE POLICE CONTINUE TO BLARE PERUVIAN MUSIC SEVERAL HOURS DAILY. [REDACTED] REMARKED THAT

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INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-10	ACDE-00	INLB-01	AID-00	ARA-01	A-00
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	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
	DRL-09	G-00	/039W				

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O 242217Z FEB 97  
 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6008  
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 03 LIMA 001590

JUSTICE FOR TVCS -- J LANCASTER  
 SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

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Case Number: S200200010

ROME PASS EMBASSY VATICAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/24/07

TAGS: PTER ASEC PREL PGOV PE

SUBJECT: PERU'S HOSTAGE CRISIS UPDATE - FEBRUARY 21-23

THESE TACTICS HAD LITTLE IMPACT ON THE MRTA HOSTAGE TAKERS WHO, HE SAID, HAVE NOW BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO THE ROCK THROWING AND WHO SLEEP IN AREAS SHIELDED FROM THE LOUD MUSIC. [REDACTED] THE MUSIC IS MERELY ANNOYING THE HOSTAGES, AND AT TIMES, IMPEDING [REDACTED] WORK AT THE RESIDENCE BY MAKING IT DIFFICULT TO COMMUNICATE VIA RADIO.

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PALERMO PERSEVERES WITHOUT OUTSIDE ADVICE  
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8. [REDACTED] IN A BRIEF, CHANCE ENCOUNTER ON FEBRUARY 23, GOP INTERLOCUTOR DOMINGO PALERMO TOLD POL COUNSELOR THAT HE HOPES THE GOP AND MRTA CAN SOON MOVE TO DAILY MEETINGS TO RESOLVE THE ONGOING HOSTAGE STANDOFF. PALERMO CAUTIONED THAT MRTA COMANDANTE

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CERPA HAS A "PSYCHOPATHIC" PERSONALITY. IN RESPONSE TO POL COUNSELOR'S REMINDER THAT FBI NEGOTIATION EXPERTS STAND READY TO PROVIDE NEGOTIATION STRATEGIES AND FEEDBACK, PALERMO SAID HE WAS AWARE OF THE FBI TEAM'S PRESENCE IN LIMA, BUT BELIEVED THAT PERU'S HOSTAGE CRISIS WAS A "UNIQUE" EVENT THAT DID NOT LEND ITSELF TO OUTSIDE PROGNOSSES.

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FUJIMORI DAMPENS EXPECTATIONS AND ASSIGNS BLAME  
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9. [REDACTED] SINCE GOP-MRTA TALKS STARTED ON FEBRUARY 11, PRESIDENT FUJIMORI HAS WISELY LIMITED HIS PUBLIC REMARKS ON THE CONTENT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. THE PERUVIAN PRESIDENT'S FEW RECENT PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE HOSTAGE CRISIS HAVE SERVED TO PREPARE THE PUBLIC FOR LENGTHY NEGOTIATIONS. FUJIMORI TOLD REPORTERS ON FEBRUARY 22 THAT THE GOP-MRTA DIALOGUE "IS ADVANCING SLOWLY" BUT TAKING PLACE IN A "CONSTRUCTIVE" ATMOSPHERE. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE GOP AND MRTA ARE "STILL HAVING PRELIMINARY TALKS" WITHOUT AN AGREEMENT ON AN AGENDA. GIVEN THE PACE OF THE DISCUSSIONS SO FAR, FUJIMORI STRESSED THAT HE COULD NOT PREDICT "HOW MANY MORE WEEKS" THE

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HOSTAGE CRISIS WOULD LAST.

10. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SO FAR PRESIDENT FUJIMORI AND THE MAINSTREAM PRESS HAVE REFRAINED FROM BLAMING ANYONE OR ANY INSTITUTION FOR THE SECURITY LAPSES THAT ALLOWED THE MRTA TO SEIZE THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE AND SEVERALHUNDRED VIP GUESTS ON DECEMBER 17, 1996. NEVERTHELESS, FUJIMORI TOLD REPORTERS ON FEBRUARY 23 THA THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SIN) PROVIDED GENERAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE TRANSPORT OF AUOMATIC WEAPONS FROM THE CENTRAL JUNGLE AREA TO LMA PRIOR TO THE MRT ATTACK.

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NOTING THAT THERE WA NO SPECIFIC INFORMATION INDICATING THAT THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE WAS GOING TO BE A TARGET, FUJIMORI NONETHELESS SAID THE POLICE SHOULD HVE SUSPECTED THAT THE JAPANESE RESIDENCE WOULD B A TARGET. THE PERUVIAN PRESIDENT REPORTEDLY SAI THAT "SOME OFFICIALS AND MEMBES OF THE POLICE ARE RESPONSIBLE."

11. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ COMMENT: WE DO NOT EXPECT THE FINGER POINTING TO BEGIN IN EARNEST UNTIL AFTER THE HOSTAGE CRISIS IS OVER, BUT FUJIMORI'S PUBLIC COMMENTS ARE CONSISTENT WITH WHAT WE HAVE HEARD PRIVATELY. WE ANTICIPATE FUJIMORI WILL EVENTUALLY FORCE POLICE CHIEF LT. GENERAL ANTONIO KETIN VIDAL TO BEAR THE BRUNT OF ANY GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATION INTO MRTA'S TAKEOVER OF THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE. END COMMENT.

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GUARANTORS VISIT HOSTAGES  
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12. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ CANADIAN AMBASSADOR VINCENT, ARCHBISHOP CIPRIANI, AND ICRC CHIEF DELEGATE TO PERU MINNIG VISITED THE HOSTAGE SITE FOR TWO HOURS ON FEBRUARY 22. [REDACTED] TOLD US ON FEBRUARY 23 THAT THE GUARANTORS (BUT NOT OBSERVER TDY JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TERADA) VISITED THE HOSTAGES TO EXPLAIN THAT THE GOP NEEDED SOME DAYS TO PREPARE FOR THE FIFTH ROUND OF

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AMEMBASSY QUITO  
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 03 OF 03 LIMA 001590

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

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Case Number: S200200010

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/24/07

TAGS: PTER ASEC PREL PGOV PE

SUBJECT: PERU'S HOSTAGE CRISIS UPDATE - FEBRUARY 21-23

NEGOTIATIONS AND TO ENCOURAGE THE HOSTAGES TO BE PATIENT WITH THE  
LABORIOUS AND TIME-CONSUMING GOP-MRTA DIALOGUE.

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