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Case Number: S200200010

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| 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 |
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 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
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 INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
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 AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 AMEMBASSY QUITO
 AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
 AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
 AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
 AMEMBASSY ROME
 DEAHQS WASHDC

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM E. LANDFAIR
 DATE/CASE ID: 13 AUG 2002 S200200010
 CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 25X1

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

UNCLASSIFIED

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Case Number: S200200010

[REDACTED] SECTION 01 OF 03 LIMA 001938

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 CU DR
SUBJECT: PERU'S HOSTAGE CRISIS UPDATE - MARCH 1-5

REF: A) HAVANA 1379, B) GENEVA 1214, C) SANTO DOMINGO 1095

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

2. [REDACTED] SUMMARY: THOUGH MRTA COMANDANTE CERPA DECLINED TO ATTEND THE EIGHTH ROUNDS OF TALKS, THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT AND TUPAC AMARU REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT (MRTA) CONTINUED TO MAKE SOME PROGRESS TOWARD A RESOLUTION OF THE HOSTAGE STANDOFF, NOW IN ITS 78TH DAY. AFTER RETURNING FROM HIS SURPRISE VISIT TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND CUBA, PRESIDENT FUJIMORI ANNOUNCED THAT THE GOP WOULD PRESENT AN "COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE" TO THE MRTA IN THE COURSE OF THE ONGOING TALKS. MEANWHILE, THE ICRC ON ITS OWN IS FOCUSED ON MAKING LOGISTICAL ARRANGEMENTS TO FACILITATE THE

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SAFE DEPARTURE OF THE HOSTAGES AND THE HOSTAGE TAKERS. AT THE SAME TIME, THE RED CROSS IS INSISTING THAT THE GOP PERMIT IT TO RESUME PRISON VISITS TO POLITICAL PRISONERS IN PERU IMMEDIATELY. THE NINTH SESSION OF THE MRTA-GOVERNMENT TALKS IS SCHEDULED FOR THE AFTERNOON OF MARCH 5. END SUMMARY.

GOP AND MRTA HOLD EIGHTH ROUND OF TALKS WITHOUT CERPA

3. [REDACTED] GOP INTERLOCUTOR DOMINGO PALERMO MET MARCH 3 WITH MRTA LIEUTENANT ROLI ROJAS FERNANDEZ ("EL ARABE") FOR ABOUT TWO 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. AFTER THE MEETING, CIPRIANI TOLD THE PRESS ONLY THAT THE MARCH 3 MEETING WAS "CORDIAL" IN NATURE AND THAT THE GUARANTORS CONSIDERED THE SESSION "POSITIVE." MRTA COMANDANTE NESTOR CERPA CARTOLINI DID NOT APPEAR FOR THE EIGHTH

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ROUND; HE HAD ATTENDED THE FOURTH THROUGH SEVENTH SESSIONS. ROJAS REPORTEDLY RECITED A LIST OF REASONS WHY CERPA COULD NOT ATTEND, BUT THE MOST LIKELY MAY HAVE BEEN THE MRTA CHIEF'S PIQUE ABOUT PRESIDENT FUJIMORI'S UNEXPECTED MARCH 2-3 VISITS TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND CUBA. AFTER CONSULTING WITH THE CUBAN LEADER, PRESIDENT FUJIMORI ANNOUNCED TO THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS THAT HIS "PERSONAL FRIEND" FIDEL CASTRO HAD AGREED TO GRANT CERPA POLITICAL ASYLUM "FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS," I.E., TO SAVE THE LIVES OF THE 72 HOSTAGES.

FUJIMORI PREPARING "COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE"
[REDACTED]
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4. (U) IN A STATEMENT TO JOURNALISTS MARCH 4, PRESIDENT FUJIMORI ANNOUNCED THAT THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARING AN "COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE" TO PRESENT TO THE MRTA AS A WAY TO RESOLVE THE CRISIS. THIS PROPOSAL--WHICH THE PERUVIAN PRESIDENT DID NOT ELABORATE ON--WOULD REFLECT THE PERUVIAN AND INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND PERMIT THE HOSTAGE TAKERS TO LEAVE PERU. DEPENDING ON PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN THE GOP-MRTA TALKS, THE GOP WOULD PRESENT ITS PROPOSAL TO THE MRTA AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME IN THE UPCOMING MEETINGS.

5. (U) FUJIMORI ADDED THAT PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO HAD AGREED TO GRANT THE MRTA HOSTAGE TAKERS ASYLUM IN CUBA. FUJIMORI SAID HE HAD SPOKEN WITH THE CUBAN LEADER REGARDING HOW THE MRTA MEMBERS WOULD BE RECEIVED IN CUBA AND THE NEED TO PREVENT THE MRTA FROM PROSELYTIZING IN CUBA. FUJIMORI EMPHASIZED THAT CUBA'S OFFER DID NOT MEAN THAT THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED THE MRTA'S TAKEOVER OF THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE.

6. (U) AS FOR THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, FUJIMORI SAID HE WAS WAITING FOR A DEFINITIVE RESPONSE. THE ULTIMATE DECISION TO ACCEPT THE MRTA TERRORISTS LIES WITH DOMINICAN PRESIDENT LEONEL FERNANDEZ, WHO, HE SAID, WAS CONSULTING CAREFULLY WITHIN HIS GOVERNMENT IN ORDER TO AVERT POLITICAL PROBLEMS.
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JUSTICE FOR TVCS -- J LANCASTER
SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/24/07

TAGS: PTER ASEC PREL PGOV PE CU DR

SUBJECT: PERU'S HOSTAGE CRISIS UPDATE - MARCH 1-5

CERPA SPEAKS TO JOURNALISTS ON ASYLUM OFFERS

7. (U) IN A STATEMENT TO JOURNALISTS MARCH 4, MRTA LEADER CERPA CATEGORICALLY REJECTED THE POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING ASYLUM IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. HE SAID THE MRTA DID NOT WISH TO HAVE ASYLUM IN ANY COUNTRY WHICH "OPPRESSES ITS PEOPLE" AND WITH WHICH IT DID NOT HAVE "SOLIDARITY." AS FOR CUBA'S WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE THE MRTA, CERPA SAID HE WOULD NOT COMMENT OUT OF RESPECT FOR "THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT, COMMANDER FIDEL CASTRO, HIS REVOLUTION, AND HIS PEOPLE" IN ORDER THAT HIS WORDS NOT BE DISTORTED. CERPA THEN

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TERMED FUJIMORI'S TRIP TO HAVANA "SCENE STEALING" MEANT TO CREATE FALSE EXPECTATIONS. CERPA ADDED THE PROBLEM WAS NOT WHERE THE MRTA WILL GO, BUT RATHER RESOLVING THE MRTA'S "MAIN DEMAND, WHICH EVERYONE KNOWS" (I.E., THE RELEASE OF IMPRISONED MRTA MILITANTS).

8. (U) FUJIMORI DECLINED JOURNALISTS' REQUEST THAT HE RESPOND TO CERPA'S STATEMENT WHICH CALLED THE PERUVIAN LEADER'S VISITS TO SANTO DOMINGO AND HAVANA "PLEASURE TRIPS." FUJIMORI REITERATED, HOWEVER, THAT THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD BE OFFERING THE MRTA VIABLE AND VERY REASONABLE OPTIONS. NEVERTHELESS, FUJIMORI AGREED THAT CERPA'S STATEMENT SEEMED TO REFLECT A REJECTION OF EXILE. FUJIMORI NOTED THAT THERE WERE FEW OPTIONS FOR THE MRTA, SINCE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, ESPECIALLY THE DEVELOPED WORLD, OPPOSES VIOLENT ACTIONS SUCH AS THE MRTA'S DECEMBER 17 TAKEOVER OF THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE. (COMMENT: THE EVER RESOURCEFUL FUJIMORI IS REGAINING THE HIGH GROUND IN THE PUBLIC RELATIONS WAR. HE NOW HAS RECEIVED PUBLICLY EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR HIS "PEACEFUL RESOLUTION" APPROACH FROM EVERY FOREIGN GOVERNMENT THAT MATTERS--FROM JAPAN AND THE U.S. TO WESTERN EUROPE AND NOW CUBA. END COMMENT.)

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ICRC HOPEFUL THAT POINT OF AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED

9. [REDACTED] TOLD POLOFF AND FBI NEGOTIATION EXPERTS ON MARCH 1 THAT THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE SEVENTH GOP-MRTA MEETING WAS "RATHER POSITIVE." THE MOOD WAS MUCH BETTER THAN THAT WHICH PREVAILED IN THE TENSION-FILLED SIXTH ROUND. THE PARTICIPANTS HAD EVEN LAUGHED TOGETHER IN THE FEBRUARY 28 MEETING, LEADING [REDACTED] TO CONCLUDE THAT THE PARTICIPANTS WERE

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PAGE 04 LIMA 01938 02 OF 03 061144Z SHOWING MORE FLEXIBILITY.

10. [REDACTED] ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] THE MAIN FOCUS OF THE SEVENTH SESSION WAS THE CORE ISSUE, THE RELEASE OF IMPRISONED MRTA MEMBERS. THE DISCUSSION CENTERED ON POSSIBLE GOP CONSIDERATION OF RELEASING AN UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF MRTA PRISONERS WITH MEDICAL PROBLEMS OR THOSE WHO COULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR "LIBERATION" BASED ON SOME OTHER HUMANITARIAN CONCERN. [REDACTED] HOPED THAT THE MRTA COULD SEE SUCH AN OFFER AS A FACE-SAVING WAY TO END THE HOSTAGE STANDOFF; WHETHER IT WOULD BE ENOUGH TO SATISFY THE SUBVERSIVE GROUP'S CENTRAL DEMAND REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

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11. [REDACTED] ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] THE HOSTAGES THEMSELVES RESPONDED WELL TO THE NEWS OF PROGRESS IN THE SEVENTH ROUND. TWO GUARANTORS, CANADIAN AMBASSADOR VINCENT AND ICRC CHIEF DELEGATE MINNIG, SPENT TIME WITH THE HOSTAGES ON MARCH 1 TO REASSURE THEM THAT A RESOLUTION TO THE CRISIS WAS IN THE WORKS. MINNIG AND ARCHBISHOP CIPRIANI, WHO HAD RETURNED TO HIS DIOCESE IN AYACUCHO OVER THE WEEKEND, ALSO VISITED THE HOSTAGES IN THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE ON MARCH 4.

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12. [REDACTED] NOTED THAT, DESPITE "EVERYONE'S" EFFORTS TO CONVINCING THE GOP TO STOP BLASTING MUSIC INTO THE HOSTAGE SITE, THE NEIGHBORHOOD NOISE POLLUTION CONTINUED, PERHAPS AT A SLIGHTLY LOWER VOLUME THAN BEFORE. THE MEDICAL CONDITION OF THE HOSTAGES

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REMAINED STABLE. MRTA HOSTAGE TAKER "TITO'S" CAST HAD BEEN REMOVED; HE WAS NOW WALKING ON CRUTCHES. IN RECENT DAYS THE ICRC HAD ESCORTED A DENTIST INTO THE HOSTAGE SITE TO EXAMINE THE HOSTAGES; IT WAS HIS SECOND OR THIRD VISIT.

13. [REDACTED] THE ICRC [REDACTED] COMPLAINED ABOUT SEEMINGLY ARBITRARY GOP DISAPPROVAL OF ITEMS THE HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATION TRIED TO TAKE INTO THE HOSTAGE SITE. MOST RECENTLY, THE GOP BANNED THE ENTRY OF HEAVY PLASTIC CONTAINERS OF RUG CLEANING SOLVENT AND LARGE PLASTIC BAGS IN WHICH TO TRANSPORT TRASH. FEARING THAT THE MRTA COULD APPROPRIATE THESE MATERIALS FOR OTHER USES, THE GOP PERMITTED THE ENTRY OF THE SOLVENT ONCE IT HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED INTO SMALLER CONTAINERS AND ALLOWED ONLY A FEW

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GARBAGE BAGS AT A TIME.

RED CROSS SETS ABOUT MAKING CONTINGENCY DEPARTURE PLANS

14. [REDACTED] ASKED THE NEGOTIATION EXPERTS FOR ADVICE ON PLANNING THE LOGISTICS OF THE RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES AND THE SAFE PASSAGE OF THE HOSTAGE TAKERS, PRESUMABLY IN THE COMPANY OF THE GUARANTORS. THE RED CROSS HAD SOME KNOWLEDGE OF HOW A SIMILAR SITUATION WITH THE M-19 IN COLOMBIA HAD BEEN HANDLED, BUT WAS UNCERTAIN OF THE DETAILS. THE [REDACTED] WAS ESPECIALLY CONCERNED THAT THE NEGOTIATION EXPERTS REMIND [REDACTED] "WHAT NOT TO FORGET." [REDACTED] THE EXPERTS [REDACTED] CAUTIONED THE ICRC TO KEEP THE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE AND MEANS OF TRANSPORT INVOLVED TO A MINIMUM. IN GENERAL, IT WAS BEST TO HAVE AS MANY DETAILS IRONED OUT IN ADVANCE AS POSSIBLE SO THAT THE INEVITABLE ADJUSTMENTS COULD BE MADE MORE EASILY.

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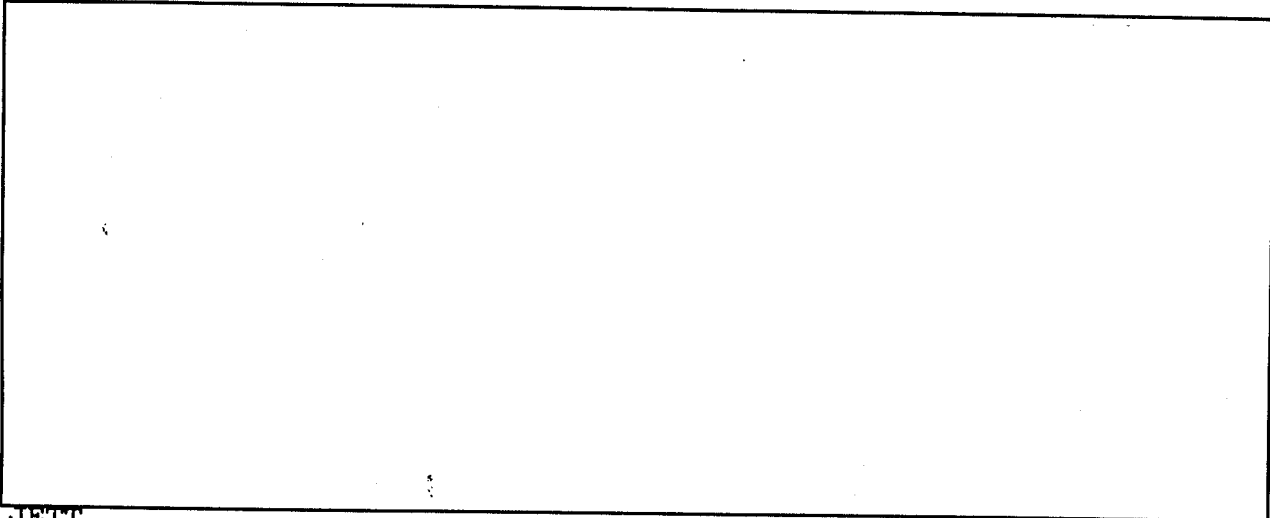
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