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DECAPTIONED

EXDIS

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PE
 SUBJECT: ARMY OFFICER CLAIMS ARMY UNREST
 - INCREASING

REFS: A) LIMA 1411, B) 92 LIMA 15502

1. [REDACTED] - ENTIRE TEXT

2. SUMMARY: A FIELD GRADE ARMY OFFICER TOLD US THAT MID-LEVEL ARMY OFFICERS HAD MET AS RECENTLY AS APRIL 3 TO DISCUSS OUSTING THE ARMY'S SENIOR OFFICERS AND FUJIMORI INTELLIGENCE ADVISOR

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 MONTESINOS. THE PLAN PURPORTEDLY WOULD LEAVE FUJIMORI AND CONGRESS IN PLACE AND ONLY AFFECT THE MILITARY. WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION SUCH A PLOT EXISTS; POSSIBLY THE REMARKS ARE MERELY WISHFUL THINKING. FUJIMORI HAS THE LOYALTY OF KEY SENIOR ARMY LEADERS; THERE IS RESENTMENT WITHIN THE ARMY, HOWEVER, OF THESE LEADERS AND MONTESINOS. END SUMMARY.

3. A FIELD GRADE ARMY OFFICER TOLD POLOFF ON APRIL 9 THAT UNIDENTIFIED MID-RANKING ARMY OFFICERS HAD MET AS RECENTLY AS APRIL 3 TO

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J. OLSON
 DATE/CASE ID: 2 AUG 2001 200003853

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DISCUSS PLOTTING AGAINST THE ARMY LEADERSHIP. THE OFFICER DENIED HE HAD HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE PLOTTERS, BUT SAID HE WAS TOLD OF THE PLOTTING BY FRIENDS WHO WANTED HIM TO BE AWARE OF "MOVEMENTS" WITHIN THE ARMY.

3. THE PLOTTERS' PURPORTED PLANS CENTER ON REMOVING THE ARMY'S CURRENT SENIOR OFFICERS, ESPECIALLY ARMY CHIEF AND PRESIDENT OF THE JOINT COMMAND GEN. NICOLAS HERMOZA, AND FUJIMORI INTELLIGENCE ADVISOR VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS. PRESIDENT FUJIMORI AND THE CONGRESS WOULD DELIBERATELY BE LEFT IN PLACE, SINCE THE CURRENT INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL SITUATION MAKES AN "OLD-STYLE" COUP IMPOSSIBLE AND THE OFFICERS REPORTEDLY RECOGNIZE FUJIMORI'S POPULARITY AND UNDENIABLE SUCCESSES ON THE ECONOMY AND COUNTER-SUBVERSIVE FRONTS. ACCORDING TO THE OFFICERS, CORRUPTION AND MISMANAGEMENT OF THE

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INSTITUTION (READ: THE ARMY) ARE SO WIDESPREAD THAT A "MODIFIED COUP" LIMITED TO A TAKE OVER OF THE ARMY IS NECESSARY TO SAVE PERU.

4. THE OFFICER BROACHED THE SUBJECT AFTER EXPLAINING AT LENGTH ABOUT HIS PERSONAL DIFFICULTIES IN MAKING ENDS MEET ON A REGULAR ARMY PAY AND THE SERIOUSNESS OF NARCO-CORRUPTION WITHIN THE MILITARY WHICH HE PINNED DIRECTLY ON HERMOZA AND MONTESINOS. HE WAS ESPECIALLY DEPRESSED BY THE FAILURE OF THE NOVEMBER 1992 BOTCHED COUP ATTEMPT, THAT HAD BROUGHT DOWN "SO MANY OF THE BRIGHTEST OFFICERS LEFT IN THE MILITARY." THE NOVEMBER PLOTTERS HAD BEEN INFILTRATED AND THEIR HAND HAD BEEN FORCED PREMATURELY. ANY MOVES WITHIN THE MILITARY WOULD NOW LIKELY COME FROM MID-LEVEL OFFICERS; HE ACKNOWLEDGED, HOWEVER, THAT THE SIN WAS MONITORING CLOSELY POTENTIAL TROUBLEMAKERS.

5. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION OF THIS OR ANY OTHER COUP PLOTTING EFFORTS. THE REPORTED COUP PLOTTING MAY BE SIMPLY AN EXERCISE IN SELF-PROMOTION, OR IN WISHFUL THINKING. THE SOURCE, HOWEVER, HAS REPORTED FAIRLY RELIABLY TO

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US ABOUT ARMY ATTITUDES IN THE PAST. AS WE HAVE
REPORTED IN REFTELS CIVILIAN-MILITARY TENSIONS
DO EXIST, AS WELL AS CRITICISM WITHIN THE ARMY
OF ITS SENIOR OFFICER LEADERS. FUJIMORI'S
CONTROL OVER THE KEY MILITARY UNITS IN LIMA,
PLUS SENIOR ARMY LEADERS, WOULD PROBABLY

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PRECLUDE A SUCCESSFUL "TRADITIONAL" COUP. A
SMALLER OPERATION DIRECTED AGAINST SENIOR ARMY
LEADERS, HOWEVER, CANNOT BE RULED OUT.
BRAYSHAW##

[REDACTED]

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