n/a Case Number: 200102877 RELEASED TO PART B1, 1.5(D)

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PANAMA 03719 01 OF 02 2718342

ACTION WHA-00

ACQ-00 INFO LOG-00NP - 00INL-00DS-00 FBIE-00 VC-00 TEDE-00 **VCE-00** AC-01 NSAE-00 INR-00 ACE-00 SSO-00 11P - 00DSCC-00 SS-00 USIE-00 DRL-02 NFAT-00 SAS-00

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O 271831Z SEP 00
IM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1744
INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE
CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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SECTION 01 OF 02 PANAMA 003719

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/27/2010 TAGS: PREL, PHUM, PINS, PE, PM SUBJECT: PANAMA SITREP ON PERUVIAN EXILE VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS

CLASSIFIED BY CHARGE F. BECKER- REASONS 1.5 (B) (D)

1. (C) SUMMARY. FORMER PERUVIAN INTELLIGENCE CHIEF VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS REPORTEDLY ENTERED PANAMA ON A 90 DAY TOURIST VISA ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2000. PRESIDENT MOSCOSO HAS NOT DECIDED ON MONTESINOS, PERMANENT STATUS OR WHETHER HE

DAVIE CO. DAVIANA COTTO OF CO.

PAGE 02 PANAMA 03719 01 OF 02 271834 WILL BE GRANTED POLITICAL ASYLUM.

PUBLIC OPINION IN PANAMA IS SQUARELY AGAINST ALLOWING MONTESINOS TO STAY, AND THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL PROTESTS CALLING ON THE GOP TO KICK HIM OUT. CITING "OFFICIAL SOURCES," A LEADING PANAMANIAN NEWSPAPER REPORTED THAT THE GOP WILL BE REMOVED FROM A MONEY-LAUNDERING BLACKLIST IN EXCHANGE FOR ALLOWING MONTESINOS INTO PANAMA--INTIMATING SOME SORT OF SECRET DEAL WITH THE UNITED STATES. END SUMMARY.

2. (C) EXILED PERUVIAN EX-INTELLIGENCE CHIEF VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS EVIDENTLY ENTERED PANAMA ON A VALID TOURIST VISA

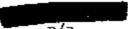
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Page: 1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: MELVIN E, SINN DATE/CASE LD: 14 JUN 2002 200192877

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Case Number: 200102877

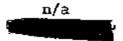
ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, WHICH ALLOWS HIM A LECAL STAY OF 90 DAYS. HE HAS, ACCORDING TO MEDIA,

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GIVEN HIS PASSPORT UP TO GOP IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS. BLITE OPINION IS AS ONE-SIDED AS THE MEDIA COMMENTARY REPORTED BELOW, WITH MOST PANAMANIANS HAVING GROWN WEARY OF THEIR COUNTRY, S REPUTATION AS THE RETIREMENT HAVEN FOR EX-TYRANTS, SINCE MONTESINOS HAS JOINED THE RANKS OF SUCH NOTABLE UN-SAVORIES AS RAUL CEDRAS AND FILLIPE BIAMBI (HAITI), ABDALA BUCARAM (ECUADOR) AND JORGE SERRANO (GUATEMALA), AS WELL AS THE SHAH OF IRAN.

- 3. (U) THE OUTCRY AGAINST THE GOP, S DECISION IS BEING LED BY PANAMANIAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS, THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND MANY PROMINENT PUBLIC FIGURES, SUCH AS FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER ALEMAN AND VICE MINISTER ARIAS, FORMER PRESIDENT ENDARA IS THE PRINCIPAL VOICE OF SUPPORT FOR THE DECISION, LARGELY ON GROUNDS THAT IT HELPS PERU AND REFLECTS SOLIDARITY WITH THE OAS AND OTHER HEMISPHERIC NATIONS. THE OPPOSITION DEMOCRATIC
- PAGE 03 PANAMA 03719 01 OF 02 271834Z REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (PRD) HAS BEEN STRANGELY RESTRAINED. THE PRD CHAIRMAN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, S FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HAS CALLED FOR HEARINGS AND RAISED SOME CRITICAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE DECISION, BUT THEIR GENERAL RESTRAINT MAY BE DUE TO THE FACT THAT PREVIOUS (PRD) PRESIDENT PEREZ BALLADARES, GOVERNMENT HAD GRANTED MONTESINGS A *PROVISIONAL RESIDENCY PERMIT, " ALLEGEDLY BECAUSE THE PERUVIAN HAD MADE SUBSTANTIAL REAL ESTATE INVESTMENTS IN PANAMA. A GROUP OF ABOUT 50 HUMAN RIGHTS AND POLITICAL ACTIVISTS ORGANIZED A PUBLIC VIGIL AT A PANAMA CITY CHURCH ON TUESDAY AFTERNOON, BUT MOST OBSERVERS EXPRESSED DOUBT ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH ACTIONS ESCALATING MUCH FURTHER, ESPECIALLY GIVEN THE RESTRAINT AND INTERNAL DIVISION WITHIN THE PRD RANKS.
- 4. (U) THE PANAMANIAN MEDIA HAVE GIVEN EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH MONTESINOS WAS PERMITTED TO ENTER PANAMA AND TO SPECULATION OVER WHETHER HE WILL BE GRANTED POLITICAL ASYLUM. EDITORIAL COMMENT HAS BEEN ALMOST UNIVERSAL IN ITS OPPOSITION TO ASYLUM FOR MONTESINOS, BEMOANING PANAMA, S HISTORY OF SERVING AS SANCTUARY FOR DICTATORS AND OUTCASTS FROM NEAR AND FAR. MANY MEDIA OBSERVERS SEE AN OVERBEARING U.S. HAND IN THE PRESSURE ON PANAMA TO ACCEPT MONTESINOS AND ASK RHETORICALLY, IF ASYLUM FOR HIM IS SO IMPORTANT, WHY DOESN, T THE UNITED STATES PROVIDE IT. A FEW COMMENTATORS HAVE SPECULATED THAT THE QUID



Page: 2

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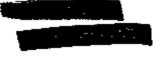
Page: 3

Case Number: 200102877

PRO QUO WHICH THE GOP DEMANDED AND RECEIVED FROM THE UNITED STATES FOR PANAMA, S COOPERATION WAS REMOVAL FROM THE INTERNATIONAL MONEY-LAUNDERING "BLACK LISTS." INDEED, "EL PANAMA AMERICA" REPORTED ON ITS SEPTEMBER 27 FRONT PAGE THAT THE "U.S. WILL COMPENSATE PANAMA FOR ACCEPTING CHIEF OF THE SIN." CITING A WELL-INFORMED OFFICIAL, THE ARTICLE SAYS THAT

PAGE 04 PANAMA 03719 01 OF 02 271834Z
THE U.S. WILL HELP PANAMA GET OFF THE BLACKLIST OF MONEY
LAUNDERING COUNTRIES AT NEXT MONTH, S FATF MEETING IN MADRID.

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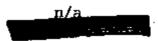


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PAGE 01 PANAMA 03719 02 OF 02 271834Z ACTION WHA-00

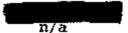
INFO LOG-00 NP-00 ACQ-00 DS-00 VC-00 FBIE-00 TEDE-00 INR-DO ACE-00 AC-01 NSAE-00 ACE-00 SSO-00 SS-00 USIE-00 IIP-00 DSCC-00 DRL-02 NFAT-00 SAS-00 /003W ------8AA8F4 271834Z /38

O 271831Z SEP 00 FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1745 INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE



Page: 3

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- Case Number: 200102877

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SECTION 02 OF 02 PANAMA 003719

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PAGE 02 BECKER PANAMA 03719 02 OF 02 271834Z

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Page: 4

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