

n/a

Case Number: 200102877

Page: 1
RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.5(D)

PTQ3572

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

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	ACQ-00	INL-00	DS-00	FBIE-00	VC-00
	TEDE-00	INR-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	ACE-00	SSO-00
	SS-00	USIE-00	IIP-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	NEAT-00	SAS-00
/003W							

-----8AA8F2 271834Z /38

O 271831Z SEP 00
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1744
INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE
CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USCINCSO MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE

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

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

B1

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

n/a

Page: 1

n/a

Case Number: 200102877

ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, WHICH ALLOWS HIM A LEGAL STAY OF 90 DAYS. HE HAS, ACCORDING TO MEDIA, [REDACTED]

BI

[REDACTED] GIVEN HIS PASSPORT UP TO GOP IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS. ELITE OPINION IS AS ONE-SIDED AS THE MEDIA COMMENTARY REPORTED BELOW, WITH MOST PANAMANIAN 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 PILLIPE 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 JOSE RAUL MULINO. BESIDES 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 [REDACTED]

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 MONTESINOS 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

n/a

n/a

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.

B1

PTQ3573

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

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	ACQ-00	DS-00	FBIE-00	VC-00	TEDE-00
	INR-00	VCE-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

n/a

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 4

n/a

Case Number: 200102877

CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USCINCSO MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE

SECTION 02 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

B1

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PANAMA 03719 02 OF 02 271834Z
BECKER

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

n/a

Page: 4

UNCLASSIFIED