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ACTION INR-00

INFO	LOG-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	WHA-00	SRPP-00	VC-00	H-01
	TEDE-00	L-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01	PA-00
	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	F-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00
	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	PMB 00	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00

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O 032215Z OCT 00
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7410
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ IMMEDIATE

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DEPT FOR INR/R/MR, WHA/AND, WHA/PDA; SECDEF FOR PA; EMBASSIES FOR IO

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KMDR, OPRC, KJRE, PREL, SNAR, PGOV, CO, PE

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: FURTHER COMMENT ON FORMER PERUVIAN
INTELLIGENCE CHIEF MONTESINOS.

1. SUMMARY: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN PERU CONTINUE TO ATTRACT
EDITORIAL INTEREST IN COLOMBIAN MEDIA. COLUMNISTS HAVE BEEN CRITICAL
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OF FORMER INTELLIGENCE CHIEF MONTESINOS' SEEKING ASYLUM IN PANAMA,
AND THUS NOT HAVING TO FACE TRIAL IN HIS OWN COUNTRY. COMMENTARIES
WERE ALSO CRITICAL OF THE OAS' ROLE. BLOCK QUOTES FOLLOW. END
SUMMARY.

2. LEAD EDITORIAL IN COLOMBIA'S TOP NATIONAL DAILY "EL TIEMPO" (10/2)
UNDER HEADLINE: "THE ABUSE OF ASYLUM," STATED: "ALBERTO FUJIMORI
SURPRISINGLY TRAVELED TO THE UNITED STATES TO SEEK U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
STATE AND OAS SUPPORT FOR HIS DECISION TO TURN OVER POWER IN JULY TO
WHOMEVER WINS ELECTIONS. FUJIMORI'S PLAN FACES SEVERAL PROBLEMS...
OF WHICH MONTESINO'S FUTURE IS THE GREATEST CHALLENGE. ALTHOUGH THE
PERUVIAN JUSTICE SYSTEM HAS NO CASE AGAINST MONTESINOS, ALLEGATIONS

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THAT HE ABUSED HIS POSITION AND HUMAN RIGHTS ARE SURE TO ARISE. DEPENDING ON THE STATUS YET TO BE GRANTED BY PANAMA, THE PERUVIAN JUSTICE SYSTEM MAY BE ABLE TO TRY HIM. KNOWING THIS, MONTESINOS REQUESTED ASYLUM SEEKING IRONCLAD PROTECTION AGAINST ANY PERUVIAN PROSECUTION. IF ASYLUM IS GRANTED, IT WOULD BE AN UNFORTUNATE USE OF A [LEGAL CONCEPT] THAT HAS MADE A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL LAW IN LATIN AMERICA. IN HINDSIGHT, GRANTING ASYLUM TO VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS WILL BE SEEN TO HAVE BEEN A MISTAKE. ASIDE FROM ITS POLARIZING EFFECT IN PERU, WHERE THE OPPOSITION WON'T REST UNTIL MONTESINOS IS PUNISHED, [GRANTING ASYLUM] WOULD DELIVER A DIRECT BLOW TO A PRINCIPLE THAT DESERVES A RESPECTED PLACE IN HEMISPHERIC HISTORY."

3. COLUMN BY PROFESSOR OF LITERATURE MANUEL HERNANDEZ IN BOGOTA'S SECOND LEADING DAILY "EL ESPECTADOR" (10/3) UNDER THE HEADLINE "TOURISTS AND DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS," STATED: "LOOKING AT THE [ASYLUM STATUS BEING PROPOSED] IN PANAMA FOR MONTESINOS, WE HAVE TO CONCLUDE THAT POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC WORLDS IN LATIN AMERICA HAVE BEEN STOOD ON THEIR HEAD ... IF MONTESINOS IS A TOURIST, THEN NORIEGA IS A

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"TAMAL" MAKER. THIS WHOLE SITUATION IS CRAZY, ABSURD, AND ODIUS. HOW IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THE OAS ALLOWS ITSELF TO BE MANIPULATED TO THE EXTENT THAT IT CANNOT SAY A WORD ABOUT THIS HUGE MESS OF ESPIONAGE, DRUGS AND COUNTERINSURGENCY? THE OAS' DIPLOMACY [IN PERU] GOES FROM DEFENDING AN EMPTY DEMOCRACY TO JIBBERING NONSENSE ALLOWING THE CIA TO PURSUE ITS AGENDA. WHO KNOWS WHAT THE CIA IS UP TO IN LATIN AMERICA ... NEITHER CHAVEZ NOR CASTRO HAVE SAID MUCH ABOUT THE SITUATION IN PERU BECAUSE THEY HAVE THEIR OWN CONCERNS ABOUT RETAINING POWER. AND FUJIMORI IS ONE OF THEM ALTHOUGH HE APPEARS TO BE DIFFERENT. COMING EVENTS ARE NOT GOING TO BE EASY: A LONG STRUGGLE WILL ENSUE TRYING TO FORCE THE 'CHINAMAN' FROM OFFICE, FOLLOWED PERHAPS BY NEW PANAMANIAN INVOLVEMENT IN AN INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT IN DARIEN, AND EMERGING VENEZUELAN OR COLOMBIAN SCANDALS WHOSE OUTCOME IS HARD TO DISCERN."

4. ALSO IN "EL ESPECTADOR" (10/3), AN OP-ED BY LAW PROFESSOR LUIS CARLOS SACHICA ENTITLED "OBLIGATORY DEMOCRACY AND PERU" STATED: "ALTHOUGH I DON'T WANT TO, I'M STARTING TO HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT OAS GENERAL SECRETARY CESAR GAVIRIA'S DEMOCRATIC INTENTIONS IN PERU...NOW, GAVIRIA IS THE GUARDIAN ANGEL OF A STRONGMAN POLITICAL MODEL. HE WANTS TO TURN THE OAS INTO A KINDERGARTEN OF NATIONS, WITHOUT SOVEREIGNTY, BY FORGETTING FUNDAMENTALS OF FREE WILL, PLURALISM AND DEMOCRACY THAT GAVE RISE TO THE [ORGANIZATION]. AT THE SAME TIME, HE IS PERVERTING THE RIGHT OF ASYLUM, ACCEPTED BY THE COUNTRIES IN THE HEMISPHERE AS A MEANS FOR DEFENDING PEOPLE FROM

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GOVERNMENTS WITH WHICH THEY DO NOT AGREE, BY SUPPORTING THE
IMPORTUNEMENT OF PANAMA BY THE GOVERNMENT WHICH MONTESINOS SERVED."
PATTERSON

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