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LTMA PAGE 01 ACTION ARA-01

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USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS:

PGOV, PE

SUBJECT:

PERUVIAN PRESIDENT FUJIMORI

FORESHADOWS SELECTIVE PARDONS FOR

COUP PLOTTERS

REF:

A. LIMA 2002, B. LIMA 1144,

C. LIMA 397

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02

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- (U) IN SEPARATE MEDIA INTERVIEWS MAY 23 AND 24, PRESIDENT FUJIMORI STATED THAT HE WAS CONSIDERING PRESIDENTIAL PARDONS FOR SOME OF THE ARMY OFFICERS INVOLVED IN THE NOVEMBER 1992 FAILED COUP ATTEMPT. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM JOURNALISTS, FUJIMORI SAID HE WOULD MAKE HIS DECISION BEFORE THE END OF THE WEEK AND THAT THE LEADER OF THE PLOT, RETIRED GENERAL JAIME SALINAS, WOULD NOT BE AMONG THOSE PARDONED. PRESIDENT DID NOT OFFER FURTHER DETAILS.
- (C) COMMENT: FUJIMORI HAD ORIGINALLY PROMISED TO CONSIDER SELECTIVE PARDONS FOR THE COUP PLOTTERS AFTER THEY WERE SENTENCED FEBRUARY 18 (REFTEL A); OVER THREE MONTHS LATER, HE IS ONLY NOW NEARING A DECISION ABOUT WHOM TO PARDON. THERE ARE SEVERAL LIKELY REASONS FOR THE DELAY. ONE IS THAT FUJIMORI MAY HAVE HAD LOUBTS ABOUT

BOTH THE UTILITY AND THE TIMING OF A PARCON. HE PROBABLY WANTED TO ENSURE THAT THERE WOULD BE A DISSUASIVE EFFECT IN HAVING THE CONSPIRATORS IN PRISON (I.E., KEEPING THEM BEHIND BARS WOULD HELP DISCOURAGE OTHER POTENTIAL COUP PLOTTERS; PARDONING THEM RIGHT AWAY WOULD HAVE SENT THE WRONG SIGNAL). ANOTHER REASON FOR THE DELAY IS THAT FUJIMORI GENUINELY WANTED TO PUNISH THE PLOTTERS.

3. (C) FUJIMORI MAY HAVE FINALLY COME TO THE DECISION IN PART TO PLACATE GROWING DISCONTENT

CONFIDENTIAL DEVICE TO THE PROPERTY OF THE PRO

PAGE 03 LIMA 05981 261311Z

AMONG ARMY OFFICERS AND IN PART BECAUSE PUBLIC
PRESSURE HAS GROWN MORE VOCAL (OFFICERS' WIVES
HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING A PETITION, SOME NEWSPAPER
EDITORIALS HAVE BEEN CLAMORING FOR A PARDON, AND
RECENT POLLS SHOW THE PUBLIC HAS A
FORGIVE-AND-FORGET ATTITUDE TOWARD THE
PLOTTERS). HIS ONLY TASK NOW IS TO DECIDE WHICH
OF THE OFFICERS TO FORGIVE.
BRAYSHAW



NNNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\*

