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ACTION INR-00

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 ARA-01 CIAE-00 C-01 OASY-00 DODE-00  
HA-09 INM-02 TEDE-00 ADS-00 NSAE-00 /030W  
-----14CA78 281808Z /38

R 281810Z DEC 93  
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3747

S E C R E T LIMA 13546

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PINR, PE  
SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC PROFILE: FERNANDO VEGA  
SANTA GADEA

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.

NAME: FERNANDO VEGA SANTA  
GADEA

CURRENT OCCUPATION: MINISTER OF JUSTICE

ADDRESSED AS: "SEÑOR MINISTRO"

D/POB: 1931, LIMA

BACKGROUND:

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2. VEGA IS A POLITICAL CONSERVATIVE WHO WORKED  
IN THE FIRST BELAUNDE ADMINISTRATION (1963-68)  
AS A JUDGE AND THEN HEAD OF THE PRISON SYSTEM,  
AND IN THE SECOND ADMINISTRATION (1980-85) AS AN  
ADVISOR TO THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE. A LAW  
PROFESSOR AT LIMA'S CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY SINCE  
THE LATE 1960S, VEGA OBTAINED A DOCTORATE FROM  
THE CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF MADRID AND DID HIS  
UNDEGRUATE WORK AT SAN MARCOS UNIVERSITY.  
SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE, HE IS REPORTED TO HAVE  
STRUCK UP A FRIENDSHIP WITH DE FACTO

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DEPT OF STATE APPEALS REVIEW PANEL (ARP)

ECM/PA	
( ) Referred	
( ) Exempt	
( ) Deny	
Exemptions	Date
ARP Action Cert. <i>me</i>	<i>01/02/94</i>

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INTELLIGENCE (SIN) CHIEF, PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR  
VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS. VEGA IS ONE OF THE MOST  
VETERAN CABINET MEMBERS REMAINING.

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3. AS MINISTER, VEGA IS GIVEN TO STANDING ON  
PROTOCOL AND RANK -- SO MUCH THAT HE IS WIDELY  
PERCEIVED AS STIFF AND ARROGANT. HE ALSO HAS A  
STRONG NATIONALISTIC STREAK, INTERTWINED WITH  
ILL-FOUNDED REVERENCE FOR LOCAL JUDICIAL  
TRADITIONS. QUICK TO TAKE OFFENSE AND EVEN  
QUICKER TO GIVE IT, VEGA HAS A TENDENCY TO LASH  
OUT AGAINST LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS  
GROUPS. HE WAS PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR  
DISRUPTING ICRC ACCESS TO PRISONS IN 1992 AND  
THEN PERSONALIZING THE ISSUE BY ACCUSING THE  
ICRC HEAD DELEGATE OF UNDIPLOMATIC BEHAVIOR.  
VEGA SUCCEEDED IN GETTING THE ICRC DELEGATE  
EXPELLED FROM PERU AS HIS PRICE FOR RE-ADMITTING  
THE RED CROSS TO PRISONS. HIS RELATIONS WITH  
DOMESTIC HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS ARE POOR. VEGA

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STRONGLY RESENTED BEING FORCED BY ARA A/S ARONSON  
IN MARCH 1993 TO SIGN A LETTER PROMISING TO CARRY  
OUT CERTAIN STEPS TO IMPROVE HUMAN RIGHTS. THE  
"MONTHLY" MEETINGS WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS  
HE PROMISED THE USG HE WOULD HOLD NEVER GOT OFF  
THE GROUND, UNTIL THEY WERE DOWNGRADED TO MUCH  
LOWER LEVEL GOP REPRESENTATION. VEGA DID,  
NONETHELESS, COOPERATE WITH THE DISTINGUISHED  
JURISTS VISIT IN AUGUST, BUT ONLY AFTER FUJIMORI  
OVERRULED HIM ON ISSUE. HE REFUSED TO SEE THE  
COMMISSION OF JURISTS WHEN THEY RETURNED TO PERU  
IN DECEMBER TO PRESENT THEIR FINDINGS AND  
RECOMMENDATIONS -- FINDINGS THAT SEVERELY  
CRITICIZED THE JUDICIAL MECHANISM VEGA HAD SET UP  
TO DEAL WITH TERRORISM CASES IN MILITARY COURTS.

4. VEGA'S OFFICIAL DUTIES INCLUDE OVERSIGHT OF  
THE PRISON SYSTEM, AND TO SERVE AS THE  
ADMINISTRATION'S "IN-HOUSE" JUDICIAL EXPERT.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE COURT SYSTEM IS IN  
PRACTICE LEFT TO SANTIAGO FUJIMORI, THE  
PRESIDENT'S BROTHER. ATTORNEY GENERAL COLAN  
THEORETICALLY IS IN CHARGE OF GOP PROSECUTIONS,  
AND HUMAN RIGHTS, BUT IN PRACTICE TAKES GUIDANCE

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FROM SANTIAGO, AND KEEPS A WARY EYE ON VEGA.

5. VEGA SPEAKS NO ENGLISH.  
BRAYSHAW

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