

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1994LIMA08685

Channel: n/a

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ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	ACDE-00	AID-01	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	OASY-00
	DODE-00	DOEE-00	EB-01	EUR-01	H-01	INM-02	TEDE-00
	INR-00	IO-16	L-01	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02
	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-00	SP-00
	SR-00	SS-00	STR-01	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00
	PRME-01	DRL-09	G-00	/058W			

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R 201454Z SEP 94
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9671
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
USINT HAVANA
USEU BRUSSELS
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM

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USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PHUM, PE
SUBJECT: PERU'S NUMBER OF PRESIDENTIAL
CANDIDATES KEEPS GROWING

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1. (C) SUMMARY: WITH SOME 20 DAYS REMAINING BEFORE THE REGISTRATION DEADLINE, IT APPEARS THAT PERU MAY END UP WITH AS MANY AS A DOZEN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES. IN ADDITION TO THE TRADITIONAL PARTIES (APRA, ACCION POPULAR AND POPULAR CHRISTIAN) A NUMBER OF UNKNOWN OR POPULIST PARTIES ARE SET TO JOIN THE FRAY. MRS. FUJIMORI GRABBED HEADLINES WITH A WILD CLAIM THAT THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE TRIED TO KIDNAP HER. MEANWHILE, A NATIONWIDE POLL PUT FUJIMORI AT 44 PERCENT OVER JPC'S 24 PERCENT OF

Current Class: [REDACTED]

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J. OLSON
DATE/CASE ID: 8 AUG 2001 200003853

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INTENDING VOTERS WITH A 63 PERCENT APPROVAL RATING FOR HIS ADMINISTRATION. END SUMMARY.

FROM THE (DISCREDITED) TRADITIONAL PARTIES...

2. (C) THE NUMBER OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES FOR PERU'S APRIL 1995 ELECTION IS LIKELY TO REACH DOUBLE DIGITS BY THE OCTOBER 9 INSCRIPTION DEADLINE. AS OF SEPTEMBER 19, SEVERAL MORE CANDIDATES HAD ANNOUNCED THEIR INTENTION TO RUN. OF THE TRADITIONAL POLITICAL PARTIES:

-- CENTER RIGHT ACCION POPULAR (AP) WAS THE FIRST TICKET TO DATE TO ANNOUNCE A FULL PRESIDENTIAL SLATE: RAUL DIEZ CANSECO FOR PRESIDENT, JUAN INCHAUSTEGUI FOR FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT AND EDMUNDO DEL AGUILA FOR SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT. DIEZ CANSECO, AP'S NATIONAL

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 SECRETARY GENERAL HANDPICKED FOR THE CAMPAIGN BY PARTY FOUNDER AND FORMER PRESIDENT FERNANDO BELAUNDE TERRY (AND DIEZ CANSECO'S UNCLE), HAMMERED THE GOP IN HIS ACCEPTANCE SPEECH ON SEPTEMBER 17. DIEZ CANSECO PLEDGED TO RUN ON THREE MAIN PLANKS: MORE JOBS, DECENTRALIZATION AND BETTER AGRICULTURAL POLICIES (A NOD TO AP'S RURAL BASES).

-- CENTRIST POPULAR CHRISTIAN PARTY (PPC) DEFIED THE WISHES OF ITS FOUNDER AND DE FACTO LEADER, LUIS BEDOYA, TO RUN ITS OWN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE RATHER THAN THROWING IN WITH OPPOSITION FRONT-RUNNER JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR. THE DELEGATES TO THE PPC'S VI NATIONAL CONGRESS DECIDED 435 TO 14 AGAINST RUNNING WITH OTHER CANDIDATES (READ PEREZ DE CUELLAR). PPC'S PRESIDENTIAL SLATE WILL BE ELECTED IN A NATIONAL VOTE ON OCTOBER 2, OPEN TO ANYONE WITH A NATIONAL VOTER IDENTIFICATION CARD. THE CLEAR FRONT RUNNER IS CONGRESSWOMAN LOURDES FLORES NANO. PARTY FOUNDER AND LEADER BEDOYA TOLD THE PRESS THE PARTY'S LIST OF CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES WOULD BE CHOSEN IN A SIMILAR ELECTION IN NOVEMBER.

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-- APRA, PERU'S LARGEST ORGANIZED PARTY,
POSTPONED ITS OWN NATIONAL ELECTIONS (OPEN ONLY
TO PARTY MEMBERS) TO SELECT A CANDIDATE UNTIL
SEPTEMBER 25. MERCEDES CABANILLAS SEEMS TO HAVE
ACQUIESCED AND ACCEPTED HER FATE AS FRONT RUNNER

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DESPITE HER EARLIER RELUCTANCE TO HEAD A
HOPELESS TICKET -- THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE
CANNOT ALSO STAND FOR CONGRESS.

-- THE LEFTIST PARTIES OF THE FRACTURED UNITED
LEFT (IU) FAILED IN UNIFICATION TALKS AIMED AT
OVERCOMING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE UNITED LEFT
ELECTORAL ALLIANCE, LED BY GENARO LEDESMA
(INCLUDING FOCEP-PUM-PCP) AND THE UNITED LEFT

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	PRME-01	DRL-09	G-00	/058W			

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R 201454Z SEP 94
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9672
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
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POPULAR FRONT, LED BY FORMER LIMA MAYOR AND 1985
 IU PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ALFONSO BARRANTES
 LINGAN.

...TO THE CONTROVERSIAL...

3. (C) THE CANDIDATE MOST LIKELY TO IRK THE
 PRESIDENT -- HIS WIFE, SUSANA HIGUCHI DE
 FUJIMORI -- PROBABLY DID JUST THAT WITH A
 STARTLING (BUT AGAIN UNCORROBORATED) CLAIM THAT
 SHE NARROWLY ESCAPED A KIDNAP ATTEMPT A FEW
 WEEKS BACK STAGED BY HER HUSBAND'S NATIONAL
 INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SIN). -- SHE ALLEGED THAT AN
 ARMY MAJOR WORKING FOR THE SIN TRIED TO DRIVE
 HER TO AN UNKNOWN LOCATION BUT THAT SHE WAS ABLE
 TO CALL JOURNALISTS ON A CELLULAR TELEPHONE AND
 ALERT THEM OF THE ATTEMPT. (COMMENT: WITH MRS.
 FUJIMORI IN THE RUNNING, AND IN THE LIKELY EVENT
 THAT CABANILLAS AND LOURDES FLORES WILL WIN
 THEIR RESPECTIVE NOMINATIONS, PERU WILL HAVE
 THREE WOMEN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES. END
 COMMENT.)

... TO THE RELATIVELY UNKNOWN...

4. (U) ECONOMIST ALEJANDRO TOLEDO CAME CLOSE TO
 THROWING HIS HAT INTO THE RING AT THE SEPTEMBER
 14 LAUNCHING OF THE "POSSIBLE COUNTRY (PAIS
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 [REDACTED]

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 (POSSIBLE) INDEPENDENT POLITICAL MOVEMENT."
 TOLEDO CLAIMED "POSSIBLE COUNTRY" ALREADY HAS

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THE 100,000 SIGNATURES NEEDED TO REGISTER WITH THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS BOARD (JNE). TOLEDO ACKNOWLEDGED GOP SUCCESSES IN THE ECONOMY AND AGAINST TERRORISM, BUT CRITICIZED THE GOP FOR MAKING PERU PAY TOO HEAVY A PRICE FOR ITS ECONOMIC SUCCESS AND FOR HAVING FORGOTTEN THE POOR. THE QUECHUA-SPEAKING, STANFORD-EDUCATED TOLEDO TOLD THE MEDIA HIS POLITICAL BASE LAY WITH HIS FAMILY ROOTS AND WITH THE CAMPESINOS OF HIS NATIVE ANCASH DEPARTMENT, AND HE RECALLED HIS DAYS AS PAPERBOY AND SHOESHINE.

...TO THE POPULIST

5. (U) ONE OF THE MORE PICTURESQUE CANDIDACIES ON THE HORIZON IS THAT OF FORMER MAYOR OF AREQUIPA (PERU'S SECOND CITY) LUIS CACERES VELASQUEZ, WHO ANNOUNCED (THIS TIME OFFICIALLY) THAT HE WILL RUN FOR THE PALACE DURING A SEPTEMBER 17 RALLY IN LIMA'S SAN JUAN DE LURIGANCHO SHANTYTOWN. CALLING HIMSELF THE "CANDIDATO CHOLO" (CANDIDATE OF THE MESTIZOS), HE CHALLENGED FUJIMORI TO A "FACE TO FACE" DEBATE IN QUECHUA OR AYMARA AND MOCKED THE PRESIDENT'S HABIT OF DRESSING UP IN THE TRADITIONAL ANDEAN GARB. "THAT CLOTHING DOES NOT BELONG TO YOU BUT TO ME. I'LL BRING YOU A KIMONO INSTEAD," CACERES RHETORICALLY TOLD THE

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 CROWD. PROMISING (IMPROBABLY) TO HELP HIS RURAL CONSTITUENCY, CACERES PLEDGED TO BUY A MILLION HEAD OF CATTLE FROM AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND TO BOOST FARM EMPLOYMENT.

POLL: FUJIMORI FAR AHEAD; SOCIAL CONCERNS TOP

6. (U) MEANWHILE, A SEPTEMBER 18 POLL BY "APOYO," LABELLED THE FIRST NATION-WIDE SURVEY SINCE THE RETURN OF JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR TO PERU, GAVE FUJIMORI 44 PERCENT AMONG FIRST ROUND VOTER PREFERENCE VS. 24 PERCENT FOR JPC, AND SMALLER PERCENTAGES FOR OTHER CANDIDATES (EXCLUDING SUSANA FUJIMORI). IN THE EVENT OF A

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SECOND ROUND RUN-OFF BETWEEN FUJIMORI AND JPC,

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ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	ACDE-00	AID-01	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	OASY-00
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	PRME-01	DRL-09	G-00	/058W			

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THE POLL FOUND 50 PERCENT VOTER PREFERENCE FOR
FUJIMORI VS. 35 PERCENT FOR JPC. (APOYO'S ONLY
POLL TO TAKE A SUSANA FUJIMORI FACTOR INTO
CONSIDERATION WAS LIMA-BASED. IT FOUND THAT IN
LIMA, VOTER PREFERENCE FOR FUJIMORI STOOD AT 66

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PERCENT VS. 27 PERCENT FOR JPC AND 6 PERCENT FOR SUSANA FUJIMORI.)

7. (U) ASKED WHAT THE COUNTRY'S MOST PRESSING PROBLEMS WERE, RESPONDENTS ANSWERED:

- UNEMPLOYMENT - 78 PERCENT
- POVERTY - 61 PERCENT
- CORRUPTION - 37 PERCENT
- TERRORISM - 25 PERCENT
- EDUCATION - 24 PERCENT
- INFLATION - 17 PERCENT
- HUMAN RIGHTS - 17 PERCENT
- HEALTH - 15 PERCENT
- DRUG TRAFFIC - 11 PERCENT

ASKED IF THEY APPROVED OF FUJIMORI'S ADMINISTRATION, RESPONDENTS ANSWERED:

	NATIONAL	NORTH COAST	SOUTH COAST	NORTH ANDES	CENTER ANDES	SOUTH ANDES	EASTERN JUNGLE
YES:	63&	53&	62&	67&	70&	62&	52&
NO :	24&	23&	23&	24&	20&	21&	27&

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 N/A : 13& 24& 15& 9& 10& 17& 21&

8. (C) COMMENT: FUJIMORI AND JPC, BOTH AS YET UNDECLARED, ARE STILL THE ONES TO WATCH. MOST OF THE OTHER CAMPAIGNS ARE AIMED AT GARNERING CONGRESSIONAL SEATS FOR THE PARTIES IN FIRST ROUND VOTING. THE PARTIES ARE CALCULATING THAT THE MAIN EVENT WILL START WHEN THE GROUPS THROW THEIR WEIGHT BEHIND ONE OF THE TWO PRESIDENTIAL CONTENDER LEFT TO FIGHT THE SECOND ROUND RUN-OFF. ADAMS

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