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SOURCE: CLOUTCLS.005150

DRAFTED BY: WHA/PDA:LSHAMILTON:LSH -- 11/01/00 647-4726

APPROVED BY: WHA/PDA:A KOSS

PA: R BOUCHER (SUBS)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEW AUTHORITY: MELVIN E. SINN

DATE/CASE ID: 19 JUN 2002 200102877

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ALL POSTS FOR PAO; ROME FOR VATICAN; USSOCOM FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, KPAO

SUBJECT: WHA GUIDANCES, NOVEMBER 1, 2000

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS:

1. WHA PRESS GUIDANCE, NOV 1 (PERU, HAITI)
 2. CA PRESS GUIDANCE, NOV 1 (MEXICO)
- END SUMMARY.

1. WHA PRESS GUIDANCE, NOVEMBER 1, 2000:

-- PERU: POLITICAL CRISIS UPDATE --

Q: UPDATE ON POLITICAL CRISIS IN PERU, REBELLION OF ARMY
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LIEUTENANT COLONEL? IS PRESIDENT FUJIMORI IN CHARGE? HOW
SERIOUS ARE THE THREATS TO HIS GOVERNMENT FROM THE PERUVIAN
MILITARY AND EX-INTELLIGENCE ADVISER VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS?

A: PRESIDENT FUJIMORI HAS TAKEN ACTION TO UNDERScore THAT
CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER AND CIVILIAN RULE WILL BE MAINTAINED
DURING THIS TIME OF POLITICAL CRISIS. HE HAS REPLACED THE
MILITARY HIGH COMMAND AND THE MILITARY HAS ACCEPTED THIS
DECISION APPARENTLY WITHOUT PROTEST. THE PERUVIAN ARMED
FORCES HAVE AFFIRMED THEIR ALLEGIANCE TO CONSTITUTIONAL
ORDER AND WE EXPECT THEY WILL HONOR THAT COMMITMENT.

PRESIDENT FUJIMORI HAS TAKEN ACTION AGAINST THE INFLUENCE OF
EX-INTELLIGENCE ADVISER MONTESINOS BY REASSIGNING MILITARY
OFFICERS BELIEVED TO BE SUPPORTIVE OF MONTESINOS, AND HE HAS
ORDERED A SEARCH TEAM TO LOCATE MR. MONTESINOS AND TURN HIM
OVER TO JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES.

THE PROTEST ACTION BY A SINGLE MILITARY UNIT IN SOUTHERN
PERU APPEARS TO BE AN ISOLATED INCIDENT INVOLVING A
DISGRUNTLED ARMY LIEUTENANT COLONEL. HIS CALLS FOR
NATIONWIDE MILITARY ACTION HAVE NOT MATERIALIZED AND THE
ARMY HAS CONDEMNED HIS INSUBORDINATION AND SENT UNITS TO
ARREST HIM AND HIS REMAINING FOLLOWERS.

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Q: WHAT ABOUT STATEMENTS BY THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION PRAISING THE ACTIONS BY THE ARMY LIEUTENANT COLONEL? DOESN'T THIS SHOW THAT FUJIMORI'S PRESIDENCY IS ILLEGITIMATE AND HE SHOULD STEP DOWN NOW?

A: WHILE WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THE ELECTORAL PROCESS WHICH UNCLASSIFIED

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RETURNED PRESIDENT FUJIMORI TO OFFICE WAS DEEPLY FLAWED, PRESIDENT FUJIMORI HAS TAKEN SEVERAL POSITIVE STEPS OVER THE PAST WEEKS TOWARDS RESTORING DEMOCRACY. WE EXPECT PRESIDENT FUJIMORI TO UPHOLD HIS COMMITMENT TO HOLD NEW ELECTIONS, IN WHICH HE WILL NOT RUN, AND TO STEP DOWN IN JULY WHEN A NEW PRESIDENT IS INAUGURATED.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THE PERUVIAN POLITICAL OPPOSITION CONTINUES TO ENGAGE IN DIALOGUE WITH THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE OAS-SPONSORED TALKS ON DEMOCRATIC REFORM. APRIL 8, 2001 HAS BEEN AGREED UPON AS THE DATE FOR NEW ELECTIONS AND DISCUSSION NOW FOCUSES ON REFORMS TO THE ELECTORAL AND JUDICIAL SYSTEMS.

--PERU: EX-INTELLIGENCE ADVISER MONTESINOS IMPLICATED IN ARMS TRAFFICKING TO COLOMBIAN GUERRILLAS --

Q: COMMENT ON STATEMENTS BY ARMS DEALER SARKIS SA THAT FORMER PERUVIAN SPY CHIEF MONTESINOS BROKERED OF WEAPONS FROM JORDAN TO PERU, AND THEN DIVERTED THE COLOMBIAN FARC GUERRILLAS?

A: THERE HAVE BEEN ALLEGATIONS FROM VARIOUS SOUR MR. MONTESINOS FACILITATED THIS ARMS SMUGGLING RE IS AN ISSUE FOR THE JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES IN PERU AND THE GOVERNMENT OF PERU HAS NOW APPOINTED THREE PROSECUTORS TO INVESTIGATE VARIOUS CHARGES AGAINST MR. MONTESINOS, INCLUDING CHARGES OF CORRUPTION. FOLLOW THIS INVESTIGATION CLOSELY.

ARMS DEAL

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Q: WAS PRESIDENT FUJIMORI AWARE OF THIS ARMS DI DIDN'T HE AND MONTESINOS WORK HAND IN HAND?

A: WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY EVIDENCE LINKING PRESIDENT FUJIMORI TO THIS SALE. THE GOVERNMENT OF PERU HAS STATED

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THAT THE PURCHASERS OF THE WEAPONS MISREPRESENTED THEMSELVES AS AGENTS OF THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT AND USED FORGED DOCUMENTS STATING THAT THE PERUVIAN MILITARY WAS THE INTENDED END USER.

Q: WAS THE USG AWARE OF THE SALE?

A: PRIOR TO THE SIGNING OF THE CONTRACT, THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT ASKED THE UNITED STATES WHETHER WE WOULD OBJECT TO WHAT THE JORDANIANS BELIEVED WAS A LEGITIMATE ARMS SALE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF PERU. WE HAD NO REASON AT THAT TIME TO BELIEVE THE SALE WAS ILLEGITIMATE. SUBSEQUENT INFORMATION MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF PERU WAS NOT THE INTENDED END USER AND THAT THE SALE WAS THEREFORE ILLEGITIMATE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT AS SOON AS THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT BECAME AWARE OF A PROBLEM, IT ACTED QUICKLY TO TERMINATE THE CONTRACT. INFORMATION REGARDING THE SALE WAS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PERUVIAN AUTHORITIES. ARRESTS THEN TOOK PLACE.

Q: DID THE USG CONSULT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF PERU PRIOR TO THE SALE?

A: THE U.S. HAD NO REASON TO CONSULT PERU ABOUT THESE THIRD PARTY SALES. IT WOULD BEST TO INQUIRE OF THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT OF THEIR OWN CONSULTATIONS. WE DO NOT BROKER
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ARMS SALES BETWEEN FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS WHEN U.S. ARMS ARE NOT INVOLVED. WE HAD NO REASON TO BELIEVE AT THE TIME OF THE SALE THAT THE TRANSACTION SHOULD BE QUESTIONED.

Q: DID YOU KNOW THE ARMS WERE BEING SUPPLIED TO THE FARC?
DID YOU ADVISE THE COLOMBIAN AUTHORITIES?

A: AS ALREADY NOTED, WE DID NOT KNOW THE TRUE DESTINATION OF THE ARMS WHEN CONSULTED ABOUT THE CASE. WE HAVE BEEN AND REMAIN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE COLOMBIA, AS WELL AS PERU AND JORDAN, ON THIS ISSUE. AS THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT HAS STATED, IT HAS BEEN TRACKING THE SOURCE OF THE ARMS USED BY THE FARC AND OTHER ILLEGAL ARMED GROUPS FOR SOME TIME.

-- HAITI - ELECTIONS POSTPONED --

Q. WHAT ARE U.S. VIEWS ON THE POSSIBLE POSTPONEMENT OF HAITI'S ELECTIONS CURRENTLY SET FOR NOVEMBER 26?

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A. THE ANNOUNCED DELAY IN HAITI'S UPCOMING PRESIDENTIAL AND PARTIAL SENATE ELECTIONS APPEARS PRUDENT.

SUCCESSFUL HAITIAN ELECTIONS REQUIRE A NATIONAL DIALOGUE AMONG HAITI'S POLITICAL ACTORS AND CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS TO ADDRESS A SERIOUS ELECTORAL IMPASSE STEMMING FROM IRREGULARITIES ASSOCIATED WITH LEGISLATIVE AND LOCAL ELECTIONS HELD ON MAY 21.

THESE IRREGULARITIES INCLUDE A FLAWED VOTE COUNT FOR EIGHT SENATE SEATS AND A DISCREDITED ELECTORAL COMMISSION, WHICH
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IS CHARGED WITH ADMINISTERING ELECTIONS.

IN ADDITION, ADEQUATE LOGISTICAL PREPARATION IS A PREREQUISITE FOR GOOD ELECTIONS.

HAITIAN POLITICAL LEADERS HAVE THUS FAR FAILED TO REACH AN AGREEMENT RESOLVING THE ELECTORAL IMPASSE OR UNDERTAKE ADEQUATE PREPARATION FOR UPCOMING ELECTIONS.

WE URGE THE GOVERNMENT OF HAITI AND HAITI'S POLITICAL PARTIES TO TAKE THE STEPS NECESSARY TO RESOLVE THE COUNTRY'S SERIOUS ELECTORAL IMPASSE AND HOLD ELECTIONS IN TIME TO ENSURE AN ORDERLY TRANSFER OF POWER ON FEBRUARY 7, 2001--AS MANDATED BY HAITI'S CONSTITUTION.

Q. WILL THE U.S. SUPPORT HAITI'S UPCOMING ELECTIONS?

A. WE HAVE INDICATED TO THE HAITIAN GOVERNMENT THAT, ABSENT MEANINGFUL ACTION TO ADDRESS SERIOUS ELECTORAL DEFICIENCIES, THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT SUPPORT PRESIDENTIAL AND LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS, FINANCIALLY OR THROUGH OBSERVATION MISSIONS.

Q. WILL THE U.S. TAKE ADDITIONAL MEASURES AGAINST HAITI?

A. IN ADDITION TO WITHHOLDING SUPPORT FOR UPCOMING ELECTIONS, THE UNITED STATES WOULD FIND IT NECESSARY TO CHANNEL NEARLY ALL U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO THE PEOPLE OF HAITI THROUGH PRIVATE AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, BYPASSING THE GOVERNMENT OF HAITI.

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 WE WOULD ALSO CLOSELY EXAMINE ANY PROPOSED NEW LOANS AND GRANTS FOR HAITI FROM INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, BALANCING THE NEED FOR A STRONG POLITICAL MESSAGE WITH THE DESIRE NOT TO PUNISH THE LONG-SUFFERING HAITIAN POPULATION.

Q: IS THE U.S. GIVING UP ON HAITI?

A: NO. THE UNITED STATES HAS WORKED LONG AND HARD TO SUPPORT THE GROWTH OF DEMOCRACY IN HAITI AND TO IMPROVE LIVING CONDITIONS FOR ITS PEOPLE. DESPITE OUR DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE INTRANSIGENCE OF THE HAITIAN GOVERNMENT, WE WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE OUR INTERESTS IN HAITI. WE WILL NOT ABANDON THE PEOPLE OF HAITI.

WE WILL REMAIN ENGAGED WITH THE OAS, THE UNITED NATIONS' "FRIENDS OF HAITI" GROUP, AND OTHERS IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WHO ARE ENDEAVORING TO ASSIST HAITI TO REMAIN ON THE PATH OF DEMOCRACY.

 2. CA PRESS GUIDANCE, NOVEMBER 1, 2000:

-- MEXICO: EVICTION OF AMCITS IN BAJA CALIFORNIA CONCLUDED --

Q: ANY UPDATE ON THE EVICTION OF SOME 200 AMERICAN RESIDENTS OF ENSENADA, MEXICO?

A: BY THE END OF THE DAY YESTERDAY (TUES. 10/31), EVICTIONS
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 BASICALLY CONCLUDED

A SMALL NUMBER OF AMERICANS HAVE MANAGED TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE NEW LANDOWNERS TO REMAIN TEMPORARILY IN THEIR HOMES

THE GREAT MAJORITY, HOWEVER, HAVE PACKED THEIR BELONGINGS AND DEPARTED

SOME HAVE PUT THEIR BELONGINGS INTO STORAGE; OTHERS HAVE RELOCATED DIRECTLY TO THE UNITED STATES

U.S. CONSULAR OFFICIALS FROM BOTH TIJUANA AND MEXICO CITY CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST HOWEVER POSSIBLE.

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Q: DOES THE U.S. GOVERNMENT BELIEVE THE MEXICAN SUPREME COURT RULING THAT LED TO THESE EVICTIONS WAS CORRECT?

A: THE AMERICAN CITIZEN HOMEOWNERS ARE THE UNFORTUNATE VICTIMS OF A LAND DISPUTE BETWEEN TWO GROUPS OF MEXICANS.

WE HAD HOPED THAT THE U.S. CITIZENS AND THE MEXICAN CITIZENS TO WHOM THE MEXICAN SUPREME COURT AWARDED THE LAND WOULD BE ABLE TO NEGOTIATE A SETTLEMENT.

THIS WAS OBVIOUSLY NOT POSSIBLE FOR MOST FAMILIES.
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