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INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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USCINCSO MACDILL AFB FL //POLAD

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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, OCTOBER 30-31, 2000

## SUMMARY OF CONTENTS:

1. WHA PRESS GUIDANCE, OCT 31 (PERU, EL SALVADOR)
2. WHA PRESS GUIDANCE, OCT 30 (COLOMBIA)
3. INL PRESS GUIDANCE, OCT 30 (DRUGS/MAJORS LIST)

END SUMMARY.

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1. WHA PRESS GUIDANCE, OCTOBER 31, 2000:
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-- PERU: UPDATE ON POLITICAL, MILITARY SITUATION --

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Q: ANY UPDATE ON THE MILITARY REBELLION IN SOUTHERN PERU?  
 ANY REACTION FROM THE MILITARY ON THE CHANGE OF COMMAND OVER  
 THE WEEKEND? UPDATE ON MONTESINOS? IS FUJIMORI STILL IN  
 CHARGE?

A: THE PROTEST ACTION OVER THE WEEKEND BY A MILITARY UNIT IN  
 SOUTHERN PERU HAS FIZZLED. THE NUMBER OF SOLDIERS  
 SUPPORTING A DISGRUNTLED ARMY COLONEL IN HIS CALL FOR  
 PRESIDENT FUJIMORI'S RESIGNATION HAS DWINDLED FROM 60 TO 7.  
 THE HOSTAGES TAKEN BY THE GROUP HAVE ALL BEEN RELEASED OR  
 RESCUED. THE COLONEL'S CALLS FOR NATIONWIDE ACTION IN  
 SUPPORT OF HIS UPRISING FELL FLAT.

THERE HAS BEEN NO NEGATIVE REACTION BY THE MILITARY TO  
 PRESIDENT FUJIMORI'S MOVE OVER THE WEEKEND TO REPLACE THE  
 MILITARY HIGH COMMAND. MR. FUJIMORI'S ACTIONS TO UNDERSCORE  
 THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER AND CIVILIAN RULE  
 APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED WITHOUT PROTEST.

EX-INTELLIGENCE ADVISER MONTESINOS REMAINS AT LARGE IN PERU  
 BUT HIS INFLUENCE WITHIN PERU HAS BEEN DIMINISHED BY  
 PRESIDENT FUJIMORI'S ACTIONS TO ASSERT HIS CONTROL AND  
 REAFFIRM HIS GOVERNANCE.

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Q: DOESN'T THIS TYPE OF ACTION SHOW THAT FUJIMORI'S ADMINISTRATION IS ILLEGITIMATE AND THAT HE SHOULD STEP DOWN IMMEDIATELY?

A: WHILE WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THE ELECTORAL PROCESS WHICH RETURNED PRESIDENT FUJIMORI TO OFFICE WAS DEEPLY FLAWED, PRESIDENT FUJIMORI HAS TAKEN SEVERAL POSITIVE STEPS OVER THE  
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PAST WEEKS TOWARDS RESTORING DEMOCRACY.

NEW ELECTIONS HAVE BEEN SET FOR APRIL 8, 2001.

A NEW PRESIDENT WILL BE INAUGURATED IN JULY.

MR. MONTESINOS HAS BEEN FIRED AND THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE IS BEING DEACTIVATED, UNDER CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT.

THE MILITARY HIGH COMMAND HAS BEEN REPLACED AND MR. MONTESINOS' INFLUENCE IN THE MILITARY HAS BEEN GREATLY REDUCED.

THE OAS-SPONSORED TALKS ON DEMOCRATIC REFORM ARE YIELDING AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION ON ELECTORAL AND JUDICIAL REFORMS.

THE REFORM PROCESS IS LARGER THAN THE GOVERNMENT ALONE, AND THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION, PERUVIAN CIVIL SOCIETY, AND THE OAS CERTAINLY DESERVE CREDIT FOR THESE ADVANCES AS WELL. HOWEVER, WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY CONCRETE MEASURES TAKEN BY THE FUJIMORI ADMINISTRATION TOWARD REFORM.

-- EL SALVADOR: CHURCHWOMEN'S MURDER - U.S. CIVIL SUIT --

Q: DOES THE US STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE CURRENT LITIGATION AGAINST THE TWO RETIRED SALVADORAN MILITARY OFFICIALS IMPLICATED IN THE 1980 DEATHS OF FOUR AMERICAN CHURCHWOMEN IN EL SALVADOR?

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A: THE MURDERS OF THE FOUR AMERICAN CHURCHWOMEN IN EL SALVADOR IN 1980 WERE HEINOUS CRIMES THAT CONTINUE TO BE OF GRAVE CONCERN TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT. THE UNITED STATES HAS WORKED FOR MANY YEARS WITH THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS

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AND THE GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR TO HELP SHED LIGHT ON THE THOSE TRAGIC EVENTS AND HAS COOPERATED IN EFFORTS TO BRING THOSE RESPONSIBLE TO JUSTICE. THE CURRENT LITIGATION AGAINST TWO RETIRED MILITARY OFFICIALS IN FLORIDA IS A MATTER FOR THE U.S. JUDICIAL SYSTEM. IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO COMMENT ON THE CASE AT THIS TIME.

Q: WHAT HAS THE STATE DEPARTMENT DONE TO SUPPORT THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS?

A: THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS RELEASED OVER 25 VOLUMES OF MATERIAL, ITS ENTIRE HISTORICAL RECORD ON THE CASE, IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THE VICTIMS' FAMILIES HAVE ACCESS TO ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION.

Q: WHAT HAS BEEN DONE TO BRING THOSE RESPONSIBLE TO JUSTICE?

A: FIVE MEMBERS OF THE DEFUNCT SALVADORAN NATIONAL GUARD WERE BROUGHT TO TRIAL IN EL SALVADOR AND CONVICTED OF THE MURDERS IN 1984. ALONG WITH HUNDREDS OF OTHER PRISONERS WHO BENEFITED FROM NEW CRIMINAL CODES IN EL SALVADOR, THREE OF THE MURDERERS WERE PAROLED IN 1998 AFTER SERVING 17 YEARS OF THEIR 30-YEAR SENTENCES. TWO OTHERS REMAIN IN PRISON.

Q: WHAT IS THE TORTURE VICTIM PROTECTION ACT AND HOW DOES  
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IT WORK IN THIS CASE?

A: PRESIDENT BUSH SIGNED THE TORTURE VICTIM PROTECTION ACT INTO LAW IN 1992. IT ALLOWS VICTIMS OF TORTURE AND SUMMARY EXECUTION OR THEIR SURVIVING FAMILY MEMBERS TO SUE ALLEGED PERPETRATORS IN U.S. COURTS FOR MONETARY DAMAGES. THIS IS NOT A CRIMINAL TRIAL AND IF FOUND LIABLE, THE PERPETRATORS CANNOT BE INCARCERATED.

Q: WHY WERE THE TWO SALVADORAN GENERALS ACCUSED OF COMPLICITY IN THE MURDER OF FOUR CHURCHWOMEN LET INTO THE US? WERE THEY GIVEN ASYLUM?

A: THE US EMBASSY IN SAN SALVADOR ISSUED AN IMMIGRANT VISA TO CARLOS EUGENIO VIDAS CASANOVA ON MAY 18, 1989. THE EMBASSY ALSO ISSUED A B-2 NONIMMIGRANT TOURIST VISA TO GENERAL JOSE GUILLERMO GARCIA MERINO ON NOVEMBER 30, 1984.

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AT THE TIME OF THEIR APPLICATIONS, THE EMBASSY HAD NO INFORMATION EITHER OF THESE INDIVIDUALS WAS INELIGIBLE FOR THE CATEGORIES OF VISAS FOR WHICH THEY HAD APPLIED. FOR FURTHER QUESTIONS ON HOW THEY WERE ADMITTED TO THE UNITED STATES OR THEIR CURRENT IMMIGRATION STATUS, I MUST REFER YOU TO THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE.

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2. WHA PRESS GUIDANCE, OCTOBER 30, 2000:  
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-- COLOMBIA: MUNICIPAL/PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS --

Q: COMMENT ON MUNICIPAL AND PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS?  
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A: DESPITE THE BEST EFFORTS OF THE GUERRILLAS AND PARAMILITARIES, COLOMBIANS VOTED YESTERDAY IN RELATIVELY PEACEFUL MUNICIPAL AND PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS. THE COLOMBIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE SAID THE ELECTIONS WERE A SUCCESS AND THEY EXPECT TO FIND THAT UP TO 50 PERCENT OF THE ELIGIBLE VOTERS HAD CAST BALLOTS. WE APPLAUD THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF COLOMBIA FOR CONTINUING THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS DESPITE THE VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION BY THE ILLEGAL ARMED ACTORS THAT CHARACTERIZED THE WEEKS LEADING UP TO THE ELECTION.

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3. INL PRESS GUIDANCE, OCTOBER 30, 2000:  
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(FOR USE PRIOR TO DECISIONS RELEASED BY THE WHITE HOUSE)

-- STATUS OF THE 2000 MAJORS LIST --  
(THE ANNUAL LIST OF MAJOR DRUG PRODUCING AND/OR TRANSIT COUNTRIES)

Q: IS THE ADMINISTRATION SUPPOSED TO MAKE PUBLIC THIS WEEK ITS LIST OF MAJOR DRUG PRODUCING AND/OR TRANSIT COUNTRIES, A.K.A. THE "MAJORS LIST?" SHOULD COUNTRY X BE ADDED/TAKEN OFF THIS LIST?

A: THE MAJORS LIST IS CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW.  
WE CANNOT SPECULATE ON POSSIBLE OUTCOMES.

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THE PRESIDENT IS EXPECTED TO RELEASE HIS DECISIONS ON OR  
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ABOUT NOVEMBER 1.

Q: WHAT IS THE "MAJORS LIST?" IS IT A BLACKLIST?

A: FIRST, I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THIS LIST DOES NOT JUDGE THE PERFORMANCE OF MAJOR DRUG PRODUCING OR TRANSIT COUNTRIES, MANY OF WHICH ARE WORKING HARD TO STOP DRUG TRAFFICKING.

THE LAW (THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961, AS AMENDED) AT THIS STAGE REQUIRES THE PRESIDENT TO IDENTIFY BY NOVEMBER 1 OF EACH YEAR THOSE COUNTRIES THAT ARE EITHER MAJOR DRUG PRODUCING AND/OR TRANSIT COUNTRIES.

SECTION 481 (E) OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961, AS AMENDED, DEFINES THE TERMS "MAJOR ILLICIT DRUG PRODUCING COUNTRY" AND "MAJOR DRUG-TRANSIT COUNTRY" AND, IF THE PRESIDENT DETERMINES THAT A COUNTRY MEETS EITHER DEFINITION, IT IS INCLUDED ON THIS LIST.

IN DESIGNATING A COUNTRY AS A MAJOR ILLICIT DRUG PRODUCING COUNTRY, FACTORS TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION INCLUDE ESTIMATES OF CROP SIZE IN INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES AND IN CERTAIN CASES, INFORMATION ON WHETHER DRUG CULTIVATION OR HARVESTS SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT THE UNITED STATES.

IN DESIGNATING A COUNTRY AS A MAJOR DRUG-TRANSIT COUNTRY, FACTORS TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION INCLUDE WHETHER THE COUNTRY IS A SIGNIFICANT DIRECT SOURCE OF ILLICIT NARCOTICS THAT SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT THE UNITED STATES.

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A COUNTRY'S COUNTER-DRUG PERFORMANCE IS EVALUATED IN THE SECOND STAGE OF THE PROCESS - CERTIFICATION. THOSE DETERMINATIONS ARE DUE TO CONGRESS NO LATER THAN MARCH 1 OF EACH YEAR.

(IF ASKED) THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT REQUIRES THAT HALF OF MOST FORMS OF U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE - NOT INCLUDING HUMANITARIAN AND COUNTERNARCOTICS ASSISTANCE - TO ANY COUNTRY ON THE MAJORS LIST BE WITHHELD UNTIL THE PRESIDENT

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DETERMINES WHETHER THE COUNTRY SHOULD BE "CERTIFIED."  
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