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ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-10	ACDE-00	AID-00	AMAD-01	ACQ-01	CIAE-00
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	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-01	MCO-01	ADS-00	MMP-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OPIC-01	PRS-00	P-00	SCT-00
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P 022214Z JAN 97
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5093
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

Release additional
RELEASED IN PART
1.5(D), B1

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 LIMA 000032

SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PHUM PINR PTER PE

SUBJECT: GENERAL ROBLES DISCUSSES ARREST WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS
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REF: A) 96 LIMA 10512; B) 96 LIMA 10249; C) 96 LIMA 10178

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT. CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR JETT.
REASON 1.5 (D). DELAY IN TRANSMISSION DUE TO THE HOSTAGE CRISIS
WHICH BEGAN DECEMBER 17, 1996.

2. SUMMARY: RETIRED GENERAL RODOLFO ROBLES, WHO WAS RELEASED FROM
DETENTION DECEMBER 7 AS A RESULT OF AN AMNESTY LAW PROPOSED BY

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Dept of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir. Page: 1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SAM A. MOSKOWITZ
DATE/CASE ID: 15 JUN 2001 200101053

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to
Date 5-28-07 Declassify on 1-2-07 Reason 1.5(a)

DEPT OF STATE APPEALS REVIEW PANEL (ARP)

FOIA/PA	Mandatory Review	Date
() Release	() Declassify	
() Excise	() Declassify in Part	
() Deny	() Class. Rev/Renew	
Exemptions	ARP Action Cert.	

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PRESIDENT FUJIMORI, MET WITH POLCOUNS AND POLOFF DECEMBER 10. ROBLES PLACED MOST OF THE BLAME FOR HIS ARREST WITH ARMED FORCES CHIEF GENERAL HERMOZA, WHO HE SAID DID NOT WANT HIM TO REVEAL FURTHER INFORMATION DAMAGING TO THE ARMED FORCES, SUCH AS DETAILS OF THE COLINA MILITARY DEATH SQUAD'S ACTIVITIES. ROBLES BELIEVES PRESIDENT FUJIMORI HAD PRIOR KNOWLEDGE THAT ROBLES WOULD BE DETAINED BECAUSE HE KEPT QUIET FOR THREE DAYS AND DID NOT EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT THE VIOLENT NATURE OF ROBLES'S ARREST UNTIL FORCED TO DO SO BY THE INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC UPROAR. ROBLES WILL NOW DEVOTE HIMSELF TO WORKING WITH HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS AND WILL LIKELY CONTINUE TO BE A FOCAL POINT FOR THE COMPLAINTS OF DISGRUNTLED MILITARY OFFICERS. HIS RECENT STATEMENTS TO THE CHILEAN PRESS REGARDING THE PERUVIAN MILITARY'S INVOLVEMENT IN DRUG TRAFFICKING AND THE "AUTOCRATIC" NATURE OF THE FUJIMORI GOVERNMENT REVEAL THAT ROBLES WILL CONTINUE TO BE A THORN IN THE SIDE OF THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY. END SUMMARY.

~~BI, 1.5(D)~~

release

ROBLES DISCUSSES ARREST

3. ON DECEMBER 10, RETIRED GENERAL RODOLFO ROBLES MET WITH
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~~BI, 1.5(D)~~

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POLCOUNS AND POLOFF TO DISCUSS HIS RECENT ARREST AND AMNESTY. ROBLES APPEARED TO BE IN GOOD CONDITION. ROBLES INDICATED THAT BEFORE HIS NOVEMBER 26 ARREST HE HAD AN IDEA THAT MAYBE SOME FALSE CHARGES MIGHT BE BROUGHT AGAINST HIM; HOWEVER, HE WAS NOT SURE WHAT THEY WOULD BE. HE HAD LEFT HIS WIFE THE NAMES OF PEOPLE TO CONTACT IMMEDIATELY SHOULD ANYTHING HAPPEN TO HIM. THESE INCLUDED TELEVISION JOURNALIST CESAR HILDEBRANDT, THE PRO-HUMAN RIGHTS SOCIETY (APRODEH), AND THE PERUVIAN NEWSMAGAZINE "CARETAS."

4. IN DESCRIBING HIS ARREST, ROBLES SAID HE HAD BEEN HIT HARD BY HIS CAPTORS WHO ALSO SPRAYED HIM IN THE FACE WITH AN AEROSOL SUBSTANCE BEFORE FORCING HIM INTO A VEHICLE. HIS CAPTORS DROVE AIMLESSLY FOR A WHILE BEFORE RECEIVING INSTRUCTIONS BY CELLULAR PHONE THAT HE BE TAKEN TO "REAL FELIPE" MILITARY PRISON. ONCE ROBLES ARRIVED AT REAL FELIPE, THE HEAD OF THE MILITARY POLICE WAS SURPRISED TO SEE HIM AND MAINTAINED TO ROBLES THAT HE HAD NOT KNOWN ABOUT THE ARREST. ROBLES EXPRESSED HIS STRONG BELIEF THAT THE QUICK RESPONSE BY INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS WAS A KEY FAVOR IN HIS NOT BEING KILLED.

5. ROBLES EXPLAINED THAT THE CHARGES AGAINST HIM FOR DISLOYALTY AND UNFAITHFULNESS TO THE ARMED FORCES DID NOT SPECIFICALLY RELATE TO HIS STATEMENT THAT THE COLINA DEATH SQUAD WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR

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THE OCTOBER 17 BOMBING OF A TELEVISION STATION IN PUNO BUT RATHER TO A STATEMENT HE MADE REGARDING PERU'S PERFORMANCE IN THE 1995 WAR WITH ECUADOR. IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN A 1996 HUMAN RIGHTS PUBLICATION, ROBLES RESPONDED TO A QUESTION ABOUT PERU'S INABILITY TO WIN A WAR WITH ECUADOR BY STATING THAT CORRUPTION HAD BEEN A FACTOR IN THE PERUVIAN MILITARY'S PERFORMANCE.

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ROBLES BLAMES GENERAL HERMOZA

6. ROBLES PLACED CONSIDERABLE BLAME ON ARMED FORCES CHIEF NICOLAS HERMOZA RIOS FOR HIS ARREST. HE NOTED THAT HERMOZA, WHO HE REFERRED TO AS CORRUPT, WOULD HAVE BEEN THE PERSON PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR ORDERING HIS ARREST. HE ALSO BELIEVED THAT PRESIDENT FUJIMORI MUST HAVE KNOWN SOMETHING IN ADVANCE. HE NOTED THAT FUJIMORI KEPT SILENT FOR THREE DAYS AND ONLY AFTER THE INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC OUTCRY DID FUJIMORI CRITICIZE THE MANNER IN WHICH THE ARREST WAS CARRIED OUT.

7. ROBLES EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT HERMOZA MAINTAINED THE SUPPORT OF HIS SUBORDINATES NOT BECAUSE OF LOYALTY, BUT OUT OF FEAR THAT THEY WOULD BE REPLACED IF HERMOZA LEFT THE SCENE. ROBLES SPECULATED THAT HERMOZA COULD BE REPLACED SOON, AND MIGHT BE NAMED AN AMBASSADOR, POSSIBLY TO ITALY WHERE HERMOZA HAD FAMILY ROOTS. (COMMENT: IN LATE DECEMBER, PRESIDENT FUJIMORI REAPPOINTED HERMOZA TO AN UNPRECEDENTED SIXTH YEAR AS ARMY CHIEF. END COMMENT.)

DEFMIN CASTILLO AND INTERIOR MINISTER BRIONES

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P 022214Z JAN 97
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5094
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 LIMA 000032

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8. ROBLES ADDED THAT AFTER HE WENT PUBLIC IN 1993 WITH CHARGES OF THE COLINA DEATH SQUAD'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE LA CANTUTA MASSACRE, DEFENSE MINISTER GENERAL TOMAS CASTILLO AND INTERIOR MINISTER GENERAL JUAN BRIONES, WHO WERE MEMBERS OF HIS "PROMOCION" (MILITARY ENTRY CLASS), TOOK THE LEAD IN HAVING HIM DISMISSED FROM BEING CONSIDERED A MEMBER OF THE PROMOCION. HE EXPLAINED THAT CASTILLO PRESSURED OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS PROMOCION TO SIGN A PETITION TO THIS EFFECT. ROBLES CLAIMED THAT ALTHOUGH NOT ALL SIGNED, CASTILLO TOOK IT TO HERMOZA TO SHOW HIM THAT THE PROMOCION SUPPORTED. HERMOZA AND HAD EXPELLED ROBLES.

ROBLES SAYS HIS FORCED RETIREMENT ILLEGAL

9. ROBLES CONSIDERS HIS 1993 FORCED RETIREMENT ILLEGAL, SAYING IT WAS NOT DONE IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPROPRIATE MILITARY PROCEDURES. ROBLES, WHO HAS BEEN RECEIVING HIS PENSION, IS STILL TRYING TO BE REINCORPORATED. SHOULD THIS HAPPEN, ROBLES SAID HE WOULD BE READY

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TO ACCEPT THE CONSEQUENCES, INCLUDING BEING SUBJECTED TO MILITARY JUSTICE. HOWEVER, IF HE WERE REINSTATED, HE SAID HE MIGHT THEN IMMEDIATELY REQUEST RETIREMENT, BUT THIS WOULD BE ON HIS TERMS.

THE PUNO BOMBING AND THE COLINA DEATH SQUAD

10. REGARDING THE OCTOBER 1996 BOMBING OF THE GLOBAL TELEVISION STATION IN PUNO, ROBLES DISCOUNTED PRESS STORIES THAT IT WAS AN
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ISOLATED EVENT RELATED TO LOCAL POLITICS. HE SAID THE BOMBING WAS PART OF A NATIONAL STRATEGY TO INTIMIDATE GOVERNMENT OPPONENTS. ROBLES EXPLAINED THAT ONCE HE HEARD THAT MILITARY INTELLIGENCE OFFICER ANGEL SAUNI POMAYA HAD BEEN ARRESTED FOR THE BOMBING, HE IMMEDIATELY RECOGNIZED THE NAME AS SOMEONE ON HIS LIST OF COLINA MILITARY DEATH SQUAD MEMBERS WHO HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE 1991 BARRIOS ALTOS MASSACRE.

*With 1/2
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ROBLES ADDED THAT THE COLINA DEATH SQUAD CONSISTED OF BETWEEN 25 AND 35 INDIVIDUALS, BUT THAT ONLY A SMALL NUMBER HAD BEEN PUBLICLY IDENTIFIED AS A RESULT OF PROSECUTIONS IN THE LA CANTUTA AND BARRIOS ALTOS MASSACRES.

B1, 1.5(D)

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

11. ROBLES INDICATED THAT OPPONENTS OF THE JUNE 1995 AMNESTY LAW HAD COLLECTED THE REQUIRED FIVE THOUSAND SIGNATURES AND OBTAINED THE SUPPORT OF 32 CONGRESSMEN IN ORDER TO PRESENT A CLAIM OF UNCONSTITUTIONALITY TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL TRIBUNAL. ROBLES EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD A LOT OF INFORMATION REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ALLEGEDLY COMMITTED BY THE MILITARY WHICH HE WAS COLLECTING FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION AND FOR THE EVENTUAL OVERTURNING OF THE JUNE 1995 AMNESTY OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSERS SO THAT THOSE RESPONSIBLE COULD BE TRIED.

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ROBLES PUBLICLY CRITICIZES FUJIMORI, MONTESINOS AND HERMOZA

12. IN A PRESS INTERVIEW PUBLISHED DECEMBER 15 IN THE SANTIAGO NEWSPAPER "MERCURIO," GENERAL ROBLES STATED THAT THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT HEADED BY PRESIDENT FUJIMORI IS AN "AUTOCRACY" ON ITS WAY TO BECOMING A LONG-TERM DICTATORSHIP. ROBLES ADDED THAT SHOULD FUJIMORI BE REELECTED IN 2000, THE PRESIDENT WOULD THEN TRY TO CHANGE THE CONSTITUTION TO PERMIT HIS REELECTION TO A FOURTH TERM. ROBLES ALSO CALLED THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT A TROIKA COMPOSED OF FUJIMORI, HIS INTEL ADVISOR VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS, AND GENERAL HERMOZA. HE SAID FUJIMORI GAVE IT A DEMOCRATIC FACE BECAUSE HE WAS ELECTED. HERMOZA CONTROLS THE ARMED FORCES, WHICH ARE OBEDIENT, AND THE DIRTY WORK IS UNDERTAKEN BY MONTESINOS AND HIS PEOPLE.

COMMENT

13. ROBLES'S COMMENTS IN SANTIAGO REVEAL THAT HE WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE STATEMENTS UPSETTING TO THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY COMMAND. HOWEVER, IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF THOSE ANGERED BY

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AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 03 LIMA 000032

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ROBLES'S PUBLIC REVELATIONS AND CRITICISMS ARE PLANNING SOME WAY OF
GETTING BACK AT HIM. THE HOSTAGE CRISIS HAS PUSHED ROBLES OUT OF
VIEW. AT THE SAME TIME IT HAS GIVEN A BLACK EYE TO THE MILITARY
AND INTELLIGENCE SERVICES FOR NOT PREVENTING THE MRTA ACTION. IN
THE NEAR TERM, THIS SHOULD MAKE ROBLES'S OPPONENTS MORE CIRCUMSPECT
IN GOING AFTER HIM.
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