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Cong. Q+A

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A/S GATI TESTIMONY BEFORE SSCI

HOSTAGE SITUATION IN PERU

Q. 7). What are prospects for resolution of the crisis?

A. The once relatively optimistic outlook for a peaceful resolution has diminished significantly. Nestor Cerpa, leader of the leftist MRTA hostage holders, continues to insist privately that the Fujimori Government release perhaps as many as 50 of the group's imprisoned members before he will free the 72 captives held at the residence of the Japanese Ambassador to Lima. We believe that Cerpa, overconfident from his spectacular takeover of the residence on December 17 of last year, has overplayed his hand in negotiations with the government. While President Fujimori wants to avoid a bloody assault on the residence, intelligence reporting suggests his patience is wearing thin as the crisis recently passed the 100-day mark.

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