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| INFO | LOG-00 | ACDA-10 | ACDE-00 | INLB-01 | ACQ-01 | CIAE-00 | INL-01 |
| | OAS-00 | DINT-00 | DODE-00 | DOEE-00 | SRPP-00 | DS-00 | OIGO-01 |
| | FBIE-00 | H-01 | TEDE-00 | INR-00 | IO-00 | LAB-01 | L-01 |
| | ADS-00 | M-00 | NSAE-00 | OMB-01 | OPIC-01 | PA-00 | PM-00 |
| | PRS-00 | P-00 | CIO-00 | SP-00 | TRSE-00 | USIE-00 | ASDS-01 |
| | PMB-00 | DSGC-00 | DRL-09 | G-00 | /030W | | |
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P 232127Z APR 97
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7143
INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO
DIA WASHDC
DOJ WASHDC
DIRONDCP WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
DEAHQS WASHDC
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

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SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: 04/23/07

TAGS: PGOV PINS PREL SNAR ASEC PE

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SUBJECT: PERU NAMES NEW INTERIOR MINISTER AND CHIEF OF POLICE

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY DCM JAMES MACK, REASON 1.5 (D).

2. (C) SUMMARY: PRESIDENT FUJIMORI NAMED ARMY GENERAL CESAR SAUCEDO AND PERUVIAN NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) GENERAL FERNANDO DIANDERAS TO BE THE NEW INTERIOR MINISTER AND DIRECTOR GENERAL (CHIEF) OF THE NATIONAL POLICE, RESPECTIVELY. WE EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO WORK COOPERATIVELY WITH BOTH SAUCEDO AND DIANDERAS,

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: DONALD A. JOHNSTON
DATE/CASE ID: 17 OCT 2001 200102083

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ALTHOUGH THEY WILL REQUIRE TIME TO GET UP TO SPEED ON BILATERAL COUNTERNARCOTICS COOPERATION. THE OUTGOING INTERIOR MINISTER AND POLICE CHIEF WERE EXPECTED TO TAKE THE BLAME FOR THE MRTA HOSTAGE TAKING, BUT NOT BEFORE THE CRISIS WAS OVER. THEIR APRIL 19 OUSTER MAY BE RELATED TO THEIR RELATIVE CAUTION REGARDING ANY RESCUE OPERATIONS (A SUCCESSFUL RESCUE WAS LAUNCHED THREE DAYS LATER) AND/OR MAY BE AN EFFORT BY FUJIMORI TO GIVE NEW POLISH TO HIS SECURITY TEAM. END SUMMARY.

 FUJIMORI NAMES GENERAL SAUCEDO AS NEW INTERIOR MINISTER

3. (U) PRESIDENT ALBERTO FUJIMORI TAPPED ARMY GENERAL CESAR SAUCEDO ON APRIL 19 TO REPLACE ARMY GENERAL JUAN BRIONES AS INTERIOR MINISTER. BRIONES' SUDDEN RESIGNATION TOOK US AND THE PERUVIAN PUBLIC BY SURPRISE; ON APRIL 18 FUJIMORI DEFENDED HIS CABINET AGAINST OPPOSITION ATTACKS AND SAID NO CHANGES WERE NECESSARY. IN HIS LETTER OF RESIGNATION, BRIONES DID NOT SPECIFY THE REASON HE WAS STEPPING DOWN, BUT INDICATED THAT HIS DECISION WAS TAKEN TO GIVE THE PRESIDENT GREATER FLEXIBILITY TO RESPOND TO RECENT "CIRCUMSTANCES AND EVENTS."

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BRIONES' ANNOUNCEMENT CAME ONLY HOURS AFTER LIEUTENANT GENERAL ANTONIO KETIN VIDAL WAS RELIEVED OF HIS DUTIES AS CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL POLICE.

4. (U) GENERAL SAUCEDO HAD BEEN SERVING AS COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE SECOND MILITARY REGION HEADQUARTERED IN LIMA SINCE JANUARY 1996. PRIOR TO THAT, HE SERVED AS COMMANDER OF THE 18TH ARMORED DIVISION (1992-1995) AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE CHORILLOS MILITARY ACADEMY (1987-88). THE 56-YEAR OLD ARMY GENERAL HAILS FROM LA LIBERTAD DEPARTMENT AND GRADUATED FROM THE CHORILLOS MILITARY ACADEMY IN 1964. SAUCEDO STUDIED AT THE INTERAMERICAN DEFENSE COLLEGE. HE IS A WIDOWER AND FATHER OF FIVE CHILDREN.

5. (C) SAUCEDO IS WIDELY REGARDED IN MILITARY CIRCLES AS A LOYALIST TO PRESIDENT OF THE ARMED FORCES JOINT COMMAND GENERAL NICOLAS DE BARI HERMOZA RIOS. SAUCEDO ORDERED TANKS UNDER HIS COMMAND TO MOVE INTO LIMA'S STREETS IN 1994. THE BRIEF TANK MANEUVERS WERE INTERPRETED AT THE TIME TO BE A MILITARY MESSAGE TO CONGRESS WHICH WAS THEN DEBATING WHETHER TO PASS A LAW TO TRANSFER JUDICIAL AUTHORITY TO REVIEW THE "LA

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CANTUTA" FROM MILITARY TO CIVILIAN COURTS.

GENERAL FERNANDO DIANDERAS HEADS UP NATIONAL POLICE

6. (U) JUST PRIOR TO THE INTERIOR MINISTER'S RESIGNATION, THE GOP TAPPED PNP GENERAL FERNANDO DIANDERAS TO RELIEVE LT. GENERAL ANTONIO KETIN VIDAL AS CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL POLICE. KETIN VIDAL MADE ONLY VAGUE REFERENCE TO THE REASONS FOR HIS

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DEPARTURE IN THE APRIL 19 POLICE CEREMONY IN WHICH DIANDERAS ASSUMED COMMAND OF THE POLICE. "DIVERSE CIRCUMSTANCES AND QUESTIONING OF THE POLICE," THE OUTGOING POLICE CHIEF SAID, "CREATED THE MORAL IMPERATIVE" TO STEP DOWN. WE UNDERSTAND THAT KETIN VIDAL WILL BE NAMED AS THE POLICE ATTACHE TO PERU'S EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. HE WILL STILL BE IN A POSITION TO RETURN TO PERU AT SOME POINT TO TAKE ON NEW HIGH LEVEL RESPONSIBILITIES.

7. (U) DIANDERAS WAS SERVING IN THE POLICE'S FOURTH HIGHEST POSITION AS DIRECTOR OF POLICE INSTRUCTION AND DOCTRINE. IN 1995, HE WAS HEAD OF A POLICE PROGRAM WHICH PROVIDES HOUSING AND MEDICAL SERVICES TO POLICE PERSONNEL. THE NEW POLICE CHIEF ALSO HAD PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS CHIEF OF HIGHWAY SAFETY AND CHIEF OF THE IX POLICE REGION HEADQUARTERED IN ICA. HE IS IN HIS EARLY 50'S.

8. (C) THE PROLIFERATION OF MEDIA ACCOLADES FOR THE INTEGRITY AND PROFESSIONALISM OF KETIN VIDAL WILL NOT MAKE DIANDERAS' JOB ANY EASIER. DIANDERAS INHERITS AN UNDERPAID AND ILL-EQUIPPED POLICE FORCE THAT CONFRONTS INCREASINGLY BETTER ORGANIZED CRIMINAL GANGS AND LINGERING TERRORIST THREATS FROM SENDERO LUMINOSO (SHINING PATH - SL), AND TO A

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P 232127Z APR 97
 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7144
 INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO
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C U N E L I M A SECTION 02 OF 02 LIMA 003526

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 SUBJECT: PERU NAMES NEW INTERIOR MINISTER AND CHIEF OF POLICE

LESSER EXTENT, THE TUPAC AMARU REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT (MRTA).
 MOREOVER, WITHIN THE GOP, THE POLICE REMAIN THE LEAST POWERFUL
 INSTITUTION IN A SECURITY APPARATUS DOMINATED BY THE NATIONAL
 INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SIN) AND THE ARMED FORCES.

 IMPLICATIONS FOR USG INTERESTS

9. (C) WE EXPECT THAT THE NEW HEADS OF THE INTERIOR MINISTRY
 AND IN THE NATIONAL POLICE, LIKE THEIR PREDECESSORS, WILL WORK
 COOPERATIVELY WITH US ON OUR SHARED COUNTERNARCOTICS,
 ANTITERRORISM, AND SECURITY GOALS. NEVERTHELESS, WE HIGHLIGHT
 SOME OF THE SHORT TERM IMPLICATIONS OF THE CHANGES:

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--- WE WILL NEED TO EDUCATE SAUCEDO AND DIANDERAS, ENGAGING BOTH ON OUR PROGRAMS OF COUNTERNARCOTICS COOPERATION, INCLUDING ON RIVERINE DRUG ENFORCEMENT PLANNING. THE TIME NECESSARY TO GET BOTH UP TO SPEED MAY DELAY SOME DECISION-MAKING ON OUR COUNTERNARCOTICS OBJECTIVES.

--- UNLIKE KETIN VIDAL, WHO HEADED PERU'S COUNTERTERRORISM DIRECTORATE (DINCOTE) WHEN IT CAPTURED SL LEADER ABIMAE GUZMAN IN 1992, DIANDERAS DOES NOT POSSESS STRONG COUNTERTERRORISM CREDENTIALS. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT HE WILL RESPECT THE COUNTERTERRORIST VISION VIDAL PUT IN PLACE AT DINCOTE.

--- BRIONES AND KETIN VIDAL PLAYED A KEY ROLE LAST YEAR IN

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SCUTTling CONGRESSIONAL REFORM OF THE CRIMINAL CODES PROCEDURE, WHICH AMONG OTHER THINGS, WOULD HAVE STRENGTHENED DUE PROCESS PROTECTIONS. UNDER NEW LEADERSHIP, THE PROPOSED REFORMS WILL LIKELY GET A FRESH LOOK.

--- KETIN VIDAL HAD STARTED A POLICE DECENTRALIZATION PROGRAM IN LIMA TO TRY TO ADDRESS THE PERUVIAN CAPITAL'S GROWING PROBLEM OF VIOLENT CRIME. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER DIANDERAS WILL CONTINUE THESE WORTHY REFORMS.

COMMENT

10. (C) THE TIMING OF THE CHANGES AT THE TOP OF THE INTERIOR MINISTRY AND THE NATIONAL POLICE WAS MORE MYSTERIOUS THAN THE DISMISSALS THEMSELVES. WE EXPECTED KETIN VIDAL, AND POSSIBLY BRIONES, TO TAKE THE BLAME FOR THE HOSTAGE CRISIS, BUT FUJIMORI DID NOT EXPLAIN WHY BOTH WERE REPLACED BEFORE THE HOSTAGE STANDOFF WAS ENDED. WE UNDERSTAND THAT KETIN OPPOSED ENDING THE HOSTAGE CRISIS WITH A VIOLENT RESCUE OPERATION. UNLIKE THEIR CAUTIOUS PREDECESSORS, SAUCEDO AND DIANDERAS WERE NOT IN A POSITION TO TAKE STRONG STANDS REGARDING ANY PLANNING TO END THE HOSTAGE CRISIS TACTICALLY. PRESIDENT FUJIMORI RELIED HEAVILY ON THE MORE HARDLINE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE AND ARMED FORCES WHEN HE ORDERED THE SUCCESSFUL APRIL 22 HOSTAGE RESCUE OPERATION..

11. (C) PRESS SPECULATION HAS LINKED THE CHANGES TO THE

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DECLINING PUBLIC CREDIBILITY OF THE GOP'S SECURITY APPARATUS
IN THE WAKE OF THE HOSTAGE CRISIS, A PERCEIVED RISE IN VIOLENT

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CRIME, AND WIDELY-REPORTED CASES OF ALLEGED GOP HARASSMENT OF
OPPOSITION POLITICIANS AND PRESS. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT
FUJIMORI WANTED TO SHOW SOME RESPONSIVENESS TO GROWING
CONCERNS ABOUT THE GOP'S COMMITMENT TO THE RULE OF LAW, AND
BRIONES AND KETIN VIDAL WERE THE EASIEST OFFICIALS TO SHED.
THE PERUVIAN PRESIDENT CONTINUES TO DEFEND ADAMANTLY THE DE
FACTO SIN HEAD MONTESINOS AND PRESIDENT OF THE JOINT COMMAND
GENERAL HERMOZA RIOS.

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