

n/a

Case Number: 200102877

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.5(B), 1.5(D)

PT01168

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ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	CIAE-00	DODR-00	SRPP-00	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	L-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01	PA-00
	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00
	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	FMB-00	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00

/005W

-----A58344 292105Z /21

O 291906Z NOV 00
 FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4193
 AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE
 INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
 AMEMBASSY QUITO
 AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
 AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
 AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
 USCINCSO MIAMI FL

ASUNCI 001804

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/28/10
 TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PA, PE
 SUBJECT: GOP DENIES THAT MONTESINOS IS IN PARAGUAY

CLASSIFIED BY POLCHIEF DAVID LINDWALL; REASON: 1.5(D)

1. (SBU) RUMORS BEGAN TO CIRCULATE IN ASUNCION ON NOVEMBER

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 22 THAT FORMER PERUVIAN INTELLIGENCE CHIEF VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS WAS IN HIDING IN PARAGUAY. THE MFA INFORMED US THAT THE RUMORS ORIGINATED FROM AN ECUADORIAN PRESS REPORT PICKED UP IN LIMA BY PARAGUAY'S AMBASSADOR TO PERU. THE MFA HAD NO FURTHER INFORMATION SUGGESTING THAT MONTESINOS MAY HAVE TRAVELED TO PARAGUAY. ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER RIGOBERTO GAUTO TOLD REPORTERS THAT THE MFA HAS CHECKED WITH THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND THE PRESIDENCY, AND WAS CONVINCED THAT THERE WAS NO SUBSTANCE TO THE RUMORS. MINISTER OF INTERIOR JULIO CESAR FANEKO SIMILARLY TOLD REPORTERS THAT MONTESINOS WAS NOT IN PARAGUAY, AFTER SEVERAL MEDIA SOURCES BEGAN REPORTING ON A "MYSTERIOUS PLANE" WHICH

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LANDED LATE ON THE NIGHT OF NOVEMBER 21 AT ASUNCION'S AIRPORT. CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES LATER CONFIRMED THAT THE FLIGHT WAS A LOCAL FLIGHT AND WAS NOT CARRYING THE FUGITIVE PERUVIAN.



B1

3. (C) COMMENT: PARAGUAY IS A LARGE COUNTRY WHOSE ISOLATED REGIONS FOR CENTURIES HAVE BEEN FAVORITE HAUNTS FOR INTERNATIONAL FUGITIVES. IT ALSO IS KNOWN FOR ITS POROUS BORDERS. WHILE WE HAVE NO/NO INFORMATION TO SUGGEST THAT MONTESINOS CAME TO PARAGUAY, IT WOULD NOT BE DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO ENTER PARAGUAY UNNOTICED OR HIDE HERE IF HE CHOSE TO.

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GREENLEE

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