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R 051508Z MAY 97
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
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AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
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OFFICIAL INFORMAL

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/31/99

TAGS: AMGT, BL, CO, PE, EC, VE

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL INFORMAL

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FOR AMBASSADOR - DCM - POL - ECON

CLASSIFIED BY DONNA DIPAOLO ARA/AND, DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
REASON 1.5 D

FOLLOWING IS THE ASDAR FOR MAY 2, 1997

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J. OLSON
DATE/CASE ID: 7 AUG 2001 200003849

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(C) PERU: HOSTAGE CRISIS AFTERMATH--SENIOR POLICE OFFICIALS CHARGED. NEW INTERIOR MINISTER CESAR SAUCEDO HAS TOLD PERU'S CONGRESS THAT CHARGES HAVE BEEN BROUGHT IN A MILITARY COURT AGAINST 19 SENIOR POLICE OFFICIALS FOR DISOBEDIENCE AND NEGLIGENCE THAT ALLOWED THE MRTA TO SEIZE THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE. IT THUS APPEARS THAT THE NATIONAL POLICE, FAR WEAKER THAN THE ARMED FORCES AND THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SIN), WILL BE FORCED TO TAKE THE FALL FOR THE SECURITY BREAKDOWN. SAUCEDO STATED THAT POLICE IGNORED AN INTELLIGENCE REPORT WARNING THAT AN ATTACK WAS POSSIBLE, AND DENIED THAT THE SIN BEARS ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INCIDENT. TWO OF THOSE CHARGED, FORMER ANTI-TERRORISM CHIEF MAXIMO RIVER AND FORMER STATE SECURITY HEAD GUILLERMO BOBBIO, WERE AMONG THE HOSTAGES HELD BY THE MRTA FOR 126 DAYS. GENERAL LUIS MALASQUEZ, ALSO CHARGED AND FORMER CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL POLICE IN LIMA, MADE A SURPRISE VISIT TO CONGRESS AT THE SAME TIME AS SAUCEDO TO REFUTE THE CHARGES AGAINST HIM. OTHER POLICE OFFICIALS ARE EXPECTED TO FOLLOW MAKASQUEZ'S EXAMPLE IN TRYING TO REBUT THE SERIOUS CHARGES LEVELED AGAINST THEM. TALBOTT

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