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OFFICIAL INFORMAL

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FOR AMBASSADOR - DCM - POL - ECON
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(U) CLASSIFIED BY PHILLIP CHICOLA ARA/AND, DEPARTMENT OF
STATE REASON 1.5 D

FOLLOWING IS THE ASDAR FOR AUGUST 21, 1998

1. (C) PERU: NEW PRIME AND DEFENSE MINISTERS SWORN IN:
PERUVIAN PRESIDENT FUJIMORI SWORE IN HIS NEW PRIME
MINISTER, DEFENSE MINISTER, AND CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES
JOINT COMMAND/ARMY COMMANDER THIS MORNING. THE "NEW11 PM
IS ALBERTO PANDOLFI, A FORMER PM WHO WAS SUCCEEDED BY EX-

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J. OLSON
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PM JAVIER VALLE Riestra less than three months ago (Valle Riestra resigned last week after a series of missteps.) The new defense minister is General Julio Salazar Monroe,

until now head of the military intelligence service SIN. It is not known whether Salazar will retain both responsibilities. Former defense minister Saucedo has replaced ousted General Hermoza Rios as chief of the armed forces joint command/army commander. The embassy reports that Lima is calm, although several APCs belonging to the Peruvian Navy (marines) were deployed outside the presidential palace Thursday evening as a preemptive measure. Their interpretation is that these latest moves consolidated presidential intelligence advisor Vladimiro Montesinos' position even further and strengthened the public image of a Fujimori very much in control.

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2. (C) COLOMBIA: PARAMILITARIES CHANGE TACTICS: UNHCR/BOGOTA HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER RECENT PARAMILITARY HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES DIRECTED AGAINST CIVILIANS. THEY BELIEVE THAT PARAMILITARIES ARE LESS INTERESTED IN DIRECT CONFRONTATIONS WITH THE GUERRILLAS AND ARE NOW AIMING THEIR ACTIVITIES AT SUSPECTED CIVILIAN SUPPORTERS OF THE GUERRILLAS. THEY SEEK TO DISPLACE ALLEGED GUERRILLA SUPPORTERS FROM THEIR HOMES BY "HORRIFIC, HIGHLY VISIBLE" HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. UNHCR ALSO INDICATED THAT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF COLOMBIAN MILITARY SUPPORT FOR THE PARAMILITARIES BUT ALSO NOTED LITTLE EFFECTIVE ACTION AGAINST THEM BY THE GOC. EMBASSY COMMENTS THAT UNHCR CONCERNS REGARDING PARAMILITARIES "RING TRUE" BUT NOTES THAT UNHCR NEGLECTS TO ADDRESS ABUSES COMMITTED BY THE GUERRILLAS. ALBRIGHT

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