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ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CEA-01	CIAE-00	COME-00
	CTME-00	INL-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	ITCE-00	DOFE-00	SRPP-00
	DS-00	EB-00	EXME-00	OIGO-00	E-00	FAAE-00	UTED-00
	VC-00	FRB-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	ITC-01
	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OIG-03	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PC-05	PM-00	PRS-00
	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00	STR-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00
	USIE-00	ASDS-01	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	G-00	NEAT-00
	SAS-00	/018W					

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P 092236Z FEB 01
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8733
AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USCINCSO MIAMI FL

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SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, ECON, KCRM, PE
SUBJECT: PERU POLITICAL UPDATE - FEBRUARY 9

SUMMARY
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1. (SBU) TWO MORE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES -- LUIS CASTANEDA
(SOLIDARIDAD NACIONAL) AND JORGE SANTISTEVAN (SOMOS PERU-

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: MELVIN R. SINN
DATE/CASE ID: 20 JUN 2002 200102877

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CAUSA DEMOCRATICA) -- HAVE DROPPED OUT OF THE RACE, REDUCING THE FIELD TO EIGHT. OAS OBSERVERS MISSION CHIEF EDUARDO STEIN, WHO ARRIVED FEBRUARY 5 FOR A ONE-WEEK PREPARATORY VISIT, NOTED THE NEGATIVE EFFECT ON IMPORTANT ELECTION ISSUES OF THE PREOCCUPATION WITH THE "VLADIVIDEOS." THE MOST RECENT VLADIVIDEOS SHOW AN APRA LEGISLATOR ACCEPTING CASH FROM MONTESINOS AND MONTESINOS PLOTTING WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND THE JUDICIARY TO DERAIL A 1997 REFERENDUM ON FUJIMORI'S ABILITY TO SEEK A THIRD TERM IN OFFICE. WIDESPREAD COMPLAINTS OF PARTISANSHIP IN THE SELECTIVE RELEASE OF THE VIDEOS HAVE MOTIVATED THE APPOINTMENT OF A 6-MEMBER PANEL OF JUDGES TO REVIEW AND CATALOG THE VIDEOS IN TWO WEEKS. TWO SENIOR PERU POSSIBLE LEGISLATORS PUBLICLY DECRIED THE ALLEGED LACK OF USG ASSISTANCE REGARDING MONTESINOS, WHILE THE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR EMPHASIZED THE VALUABLE ASSISTANCE HE HAD RECEIVED AND PRIME MINISTER PEREZ DE CUELLAR STRESSED THE EXECUTIVE DOES NOT SHARE THE LEGISLATORS' NEGATIVE VIEWS. END SUMMARY.

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AND THEN THERE WERE EIGHT
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2. (U) TWO MORE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES, LUIS CASTANEDA (SOLIDARIDAD NACIONAL) AND JORGE SANTISTEVAN (SOMOS PERU CAUSA DEMOCRATICA), DROPPED OUT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE FEBRUARY 5-6. CASTANEDA, WHO RAN UNSUCCESSFULLY IN THE 2000 ELECTIONS, JOINED FORCES WITH CENTER-RIGHT CANDIDATE LOURDES FLORES (UNIDAD NACIONAL). HE BRINGS DESPERATELY NEEDED ORGANIZATION IN THE PROVINCES, A BOOST TO FLORES' MOMENTUM. SANTISTEVAN TOLD REPORTERS HIS MOVEMENT WOULD NOT THROW ITS SUPPORT TO ANY OTHER PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFUL AND INSTEAD WOULD FOCUS ENERGIES ON CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDACIES.

CROWDING THE ELECTORAL SPACE
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3. (U) FORMER GUATEMALAN FOREIGN MINISTER EDUARDO STEIN, WHO LED THE 2000 OAS OBSERVATION MISSION AND ARRIVED IN PERU TO LEAD 2001 MISSION, EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE DOMINANCE IN THE PUBLIC DEBATE OF THE VIDEO TAPES SEIZED FROM FUGITIVE FORMER INTELLIGENCE ADVISOR VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS IS "LEAVING LITTLE ROOM" FOR ELECTION THEMES. THERE REALLY IS NO SPACE FOR SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OF THE

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CANDIDATES' PROPOSALS, HE SAID. STEIN BEGAN THE MISSION'S WORK MEETING WITH PRESIDENT PANIAGUA AND PRIME MINISTER PEREZ DE CUELLAR AS WELL AS THE CHIEFS OF PERU'S ELECTION ORGANIZATIONS. THE AMBASSADOR HOSTED A WELL-ATTENDED RECEPTION FOR STEIN FEBRUARY 6. STEIN ALSO MET WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF PERU'S BISHOPS' CONFERENCE. HE HAS NOT YET MET WITH THE CANDIDATES.

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VLADIVIDEOS KEEP ON ROLLING

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4. (U) FORMER APRA LEGISLATOR AND MINISTER OF INTERIOR IN THE GARCIA PRESIDENCY AGUSTIN MANTILLA IS THE MOST RECENT PERUVIAN POLITICIAN TO GRACE PERUVIAN TELEVISION STUFFING MONTESINOS MONEY INTO HIS POCKETS. ATTORNEY GENERAL NELLY CALDERON SUBMITTED A COMPLAINT AGAINST MANTILLA TO CONGRESS FEBRUARY 5. THE COMPLAINT WAS BACKED UP BY TWO VIDEO TAPES FROM MARCH 13, 2000. DESPITE PROCEDURAL OBJECTIONS FROM SOME LEGISLATORS, CONGRESS' PERMANENT COMMISSION VOTED TO VIEW THE TAPES WITHOUT DELAY. THE COMMISSION'S SESSIONS ARE ROUTINELY CARRIED LIVE ON TELEVISION AND THE TAPES; THEREFORE, IMMEDIATELY BECAME PUBLIC.

5. (U) IN THE TAPE, MANTILLA TELLS MONTESINOS HE NEEDS "50 OR A 100,000 DOLLARS" FOR THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN BECAUSE THE PARTY IS SHORT OF FUNDS. (MANTILLA WAS NOT ELECTED TO CONGRESS IN 2000.) MONTESINOS AGREES TO SUPPORT HIM AND, AFTER FURTHER CONVERSATION, HANDS MANTILLA THREE BUNDLES, REPORTEDLY CONSISTING OF \$30,000. IN ADDITION TO DISCUSSING WHICH APRA OFFICIALS THEY CAN WORK WITH, MONTESINOS PROMISED TO OPEN DOORS FOR TELEVISION COVERAGE FOR APRA. THEY ALSO DISCUSSED THE NEED FOR APRA "TO

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	CTME-00	INL-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	ITCE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00
	DS-00	EB-00	EXME-00	OIGO-00	E-00	FAAE-00	UTED-00
	VC-00	FRB-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	ITC-01

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LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
OIG-03	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PC-05	PM-00	PRS-00
ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00	STR-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00
USIE-00	ASDS-01	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00
SAS-00	/018W					

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P 092236Z FEB 01
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COINCIDE" ON MATTERS RELATED TO THE MILITARY.

6. (SBU) IN ANOTHER VIDEO MADE PUBLIC FEBRUARY 8, MONTESINOS IS SHOWN PLOTTING IN 1998 WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS BOARD (JNE), AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL TRIBUNAL TO BLOCK A NATIONAL REFERENDUM QUESTIONING FUJIMORI'S RUNNING FOR A THIRD TERM. FERNANDO TUESTA, CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL OFFICE OF ELECTIONS (ONPE), TOLD THE AMBASSADOR FEBRUARY 9 THAT RECENT MONTESINOS VIDEOS OF ELECTION OFFICIALS WERE FEEDING THE NEGATIVE IMAGE MANY HAVE OF ONPE, WHEN IN FACT ONPE IS A COMPLETELY RENOVATED, RADICALLY DIFFERENT ORGANIZATION THAN IT WAS DURING THE 2000 ELECTIONS.

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EXAMINING VLADIVIDEOS

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7. (U) ON FEBRUARY 6, FIVE ADDITIONAL MAGISTRATES JOINED JUDGE SAUL PENA IN REVIEWING MORE THAN 1,000 VIDEO TAPES SEIZED FROM FUGITIVE FORMER INTELLIGENCE ADVISOR VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS. LIMA SUPERIOR COURT CHIEF JUDGE SERGIO SALAS APPOINTED THE TEAM IN RESPONSE TO GOVERNMENT SUGGESTIONS AND PUBLIC OUTCRY ABOUT HOW THE MATERIALS WERE BEING MADE PUBLIC. THE JUDGES WILL WORK IN SPECIALLY EQUIPPED OFFICES CONFIGURED TO SAFEGUARD THE POSSIBLE EVIDENCE FOR CRIMINAL

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PROCEEDINGS. THEY ARE EXPECTED TO CONCLUDE THEIR WORK IN TWO WEEKS.

8. (U) THE HANDLING OF THE VIDEOS, PARTICULARLY HOW SOME HAVE BEEN MADE PUBLIC, HAS BEEN CONTROVERSIAL. PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE CARLOS BOLONA (SOLUCION POPULAR) ALLEGED IT WAS "MORE THAN A COINCIDENCE" THAT TAPES FEATURING PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS CARLOS FERRERO (PERU POSIBLE) HAVE NOT YET BEEN MADE PUBLIC, WHILE THOSE FEATURING MEMBERS OF OTHER PARTIES HAVE. BOLONA AND APRA'S ALAN GARCIA ALSO CRITICIZED MINISTER OF JUSTICE DIEGO GARCIA SAYAN (PERU POSIBLE) FOR ALLEGEDLY INFLUENCING THE HANDLING OF THE VIDEOS. (NOTE: THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE PLAYS NO ROLE IN HOW JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES WORK WITH THE VIDEOS IN THEIR CUSTODY. THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICLY REFUTED BOLONA AND GARCIA'S CHARGES IN A FEBRUARY 7 PRESS CONFERENCE. THE VIDEOS HAVE BECOME PUBLIC WHEN CONGRESS, ACTING TO LIFT THE IMMUNITY ENJOYED BY PRESENT AND FORMER OFFICIALS, PLAYS THE VIDEOS IN OPEN SESSION. IT IS NECESSARY TO LIFT THE IMMUNITY FOR THEM TO BE SUBJECT TO INVESTIGATION BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES.) PERU POSIBLE LEADER ALEJANDRO TOLEDO HAS PUBLICLY CALLED FOR ANY VIDEOS OF HIM OR CONGRESSIONAL PRESIDENT CARLOS FERRERO TO BE RELEASED.

PERU POSIBLE LEGISLATORS TAKE SHOTS AT USG

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9. (U) LEGISLATOR DAVID WAISMAN, PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION INVESTIGATING MONTESINOS, TOLD REPORTERS FEBRUARY 5 THAT THE USG WAS NOT BEING RESPONSIVE TO HIS

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COMMITTEE'S REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION. (WAISMAN'S COMMITTEE
SUBMITTED A NUMBER OF FOIA REQUEST IN OCTOBER AND WERE TOLD
AT THAT TIME THAT THE TURNAROUND TIME COULD BE
CONSIDERABLE.) ON FEBRUARY 4, PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS CARLOS
FERRERO TOLD REPORTERS HE HAD NO DOUBT THAT THE CIA KNOWS
WHERE MONTESINOS HAS BEEN SINCE OCTOBER AND COULD PROVIDE
THAT INFORMATION IF IT SO CHOSE. FERRERO SPECULATED THAT
THE CIA WAS "OUT OF CONTROL" AND SEEKING TO AVOID
EMBARRASSING REVELATIONS SHOULD MONTESINOS FACE JUSTICE.
CONTRADICTING FERRERO, SPECIAL PROSECUTOR JOSE UGAZ
EMPHASIZED TO REPORTERS THAT HIS OFFICE IS RECEIVING
SPECIFIC AND CONCRETE COOPERATION FROM THE USG THAT HAS
SIGNIFICANTLY ADVANCED THE INVESTIGATION OF MONTESINOS. AT
THE FEBRUARY 7 PRESS CONFERENCE REFERRED TO IN PARAGRAPH 8,
PRIME MINISTER PEREZ DE CUELLAR SAID THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH
DID NOT SHARE FERRERO'S VIEWS. AMBASSADOR TOOK QUESTIONS
ON THESE ISSUES AT THIS FEBRUARY 9 ONPE ELECTIONS
ASSISTANCE ANNOUNCEMENT (SEE SEPTTEL).

CIA

HAMILTON

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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