

UNCLASSIFIED
n/a

E33
Page: 1
RELEASED IN FULL

PTQ1229

UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED
PTQ1229

PAGE 01 LIMA 10996 271558Z
ACTION SCT-00

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-10	ACDE-00	INLB-01	AID-00	ARA-01	A-00
	CA-02	CCO-00	CG-00	CIAE-00	COME-00	CTME-00	INL-01
	OASY-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00
	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	UTED-00	H-01	IMMC-01	TEDE-00	INR-00
	INSE-00	LAB-01	L-01	MCO-01	ADS-00	MMP-00	M-00
	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	OCS-03	OIS-01	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00
	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00	CIO-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00
	TRSE-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-01	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-09
	G-00	/036W					

-----8A7887 271558Z /38

R 271555Z DEC 96
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5036
INFO NSC WASHINGTON DC
WHITE HOUSE WASHDC

UNCLAS LIMA 010996

SENSITIVE

DEPT FOR CA/OCS/ARA AND ARA/AND
NSC FOR SODERBERG
WHITE HOUSE PLS PASS TO VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE FOR JORDAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: N/A
TAGS: PTER CASC PGOV PE
SUBJECT: THE HOSTAGE CRISIS - WHATEVER THE OUTCOME - IT WON'T BE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LIMA 10996 271558Z
GOOD FOR IMPRISONED AMCIT LORI BERENSON

1. (SBU) THE ONGOING HOSTAGE CRISIS IN LIMA IS LIKELY TO HAVE AN EFFECT ON THE SITUATION OF IMPRISONED AMCIT LORI BERENSON, BUT NOT THE ONE SHE WOULD LIKE. REGARDLESS OF THE ULTIMATE OUTCOME, IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW THE TAKING OF HOSTAGES BY THE MRTA COULD MEAN ANYTHING BUT A LONGER STAY IN PRISON FOR BERENSON. (NOTE: BERENSON'S LOCAL LAWYER HAS IN THE PAST PUBLICLY ADMITTED SHE COLLABORATED WITH THE MRTA.) PRESIDENT FUJIMORI WILL NOT YIELD TO

n/a
UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 1

UNCLASSIFIED

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

UNCLASSIFIED

n/a

Page: 2
RELEASED IN FULL

THE TERRORISTS' DEMANDS TO RELEASE ANY OF IMPRISONED MRTA MEMBERS UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. HE VIEWS THE HOSTAGE CRISIS AS A DIRECT AND PERSONAL CHALLENGE TO HIS AUTHORITY AND TO HIS STRATEGY IN PERU'S LONG RUNNING STRUGGLE TO DEFEAT TERRORISM. PRIOR TO THE HOSTAGE TAKING THERE HAD BEEN SOME HOPE, ALBEIT SMALL, THAT FUJIMORI WOULD EVENTUALLY SHOW LENIENCY TOWARD THE END OF HIS CURRENT TERM OF OFFICE IN THE YEAR 2000 AND REDUCE BERENSON'S LIFE SENTENCE THROUGH A GENERAL AMNESTY. THE LIKELIHOOD OF ANY SUCH LENIENCY IS NOW EVEN MORE REMOTE.

2. (SBU) IN THE AMBASSADOR'S DISCUSSIONS OF THE BERENSON CASE WITH DOZENS OF CONTACTS FROM ACROSS THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM IN RECENT MONTHS, HE HAS YET TO FIND ANY PERUVIAN WHO BELIEVES BERENSON WAS INNOCENT. SOME BELIEVE SHE SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN CHARGED WITH TREASON, EVEN UNDER THE PERUVIAN DEFINITION OF THE TERM, WHICH IS ESSENTIALLY AGGRAVATED TERRORISM. MANY FEEL HER LIFE SENTENCE EXCESSIVELY HARSH. MANY ADMIT THAT THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM IN PLACE TO DEAL WITH TERRORIST CASES DOES NOT PROVIDE DUE PROCESS; BUT MOST OF THOSE WOULD JUSTIFY THIS AS AN EMERGENCY MEASURE DESIGNED TO DEAL WITH A CONFLICT THAT HAS TAKEN BETWEEN 25,000 AND 30,000 PERUVIAN LIVES. EVEN SUCH VERY MODEST SYMPATHY THAT EXISTED FOR BERENSON'S FLIGHT WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY HAVE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 LIMA 10996 271558Z

EVAPORATED IN THE WAKE OF THE HOSTAGE TAKING. FOR NEARLY EVERY PERUVIAN, THIS ACT WILL BE THE REVALIDATION OF THE MRTA'S IMAGE AS TERRORISTS AND OF CONFIRMATION OF BERENSON'S GUILT FOR HER ALLEGED ROLE IN PLANNING THE MRTA'S FOILED PLOT TO UNDERTAKE JUST SUCH A MASS HOSTAGE TAKING IN THE PERUVIAN CONGRESS A YEAR AGO.

3. (SBU) IF THE PRESIDENT'S POSITION AND PERUVIAN PUBLIC OPINION HAVE BOTH HARDENED IN RESPONSE TO THE HOSTAGE CRISIS, THERE CAN BE LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE INCIDENT WILL RESULT IN ANYTHING BUT MORE TIME IN PRISON FOR BERENSON. IT DID NOT HELP HER THAT HER NAME WAS WIDELY REPORTED TO BE AMONG THE NAMES OF PERSONS FOR WHOM THE MRTA IS DEMANDING RELEASE. WHEN EARLY ON SHE ASKED TO BE MOVED FROM LIMA TO THE CLIMATICALLY MORE DIFFICULT ANDEAN HIGHLANDS TO BE NEAR IMPRISONED MRTA MEMBERS, SHE MAY HAVE BEEN COUNTING ON A PRISON TERM MUCH SHORTER THAN HER LIFE SENTENCE.

4. (SBU) IN SUM, NOW MORE THAN EVER, IF BERENSON'S CONDITIONS OF IMPRISONMENT ARE TO BE IMPROVED OR HER TIME SHORTENED, SHE WOULD BE BEST ADVISED TO REQUEST A TRANSFER TO A PRISON IN THE U.S. AND LET THE PAROLE COMMISSION CALCULATE WHAT SENTENCE SHE SHOULD SERVE. THIS ASSUMES THE GOP WOULD AGREE TO A TRANSFER, WHICH IT PROBABLY

n/a

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 2

DECONTROLLED/UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

n/a

Page: 3
RELEASED IN FULL

WOULD NOT IN THE IMMEDIATE WAKE OF THE HOSTAGE CRISIS, AND ONLY IF THEY HAVE A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF HOW THE SENTENCES ARE DETERMINED IN SUCH CASES SO THEY HAVE CONFIDENCE THAT BERENSON WOULD NOT SIMPLY BE RELEASED UPON RETURN TO THE U.S. IF AT SOME FUTURE DATE THE GOP DOES DECIDE TO GRANT AMNESTY, THE PAROLE COMMISSION WOULD BE OBLIGED TO HONOR THAT AND RELEASE BERENSON FROM HER U.S. PRISON.

JETT

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 LIMA 10996 271558Z

UNCLASSIFIED

NNNN

n/a

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 3

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DATE/CASE ID: 26 SEP 2001 200102083

DECONTROLLED/UNCLASSIFIED