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ACTION WHA-01

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	AMAD-01	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	INL-01
	DINT-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	FBIE-00	UTED-00
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	JUSE-00	LAB-01	L-00
	ADS-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01
	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00
	STR-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-01	DRL-02
	G-00	FDIC-01	NEAT-00	SAS-00	/014W		

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1775  
INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
USCINCSO MIAMI FL

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LIMA 007735

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: DECL: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, PINR, PREL, PE  
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE CASTANEDA'S  
CONFRONTATION WITH THE POLICE

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: DRAMATICALLY LAUNCHING THE MOST  
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SERIOUS ALLEGATION OF GOVERNMENT HARASSMENT AGAINST  
OPPOSITION PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES TO DATE, NATIONAL  
SOLIDARITY PARTY LEADER LUIS CASTANEDA LOSSIO  
ANNOUNCED TO REPORTERS DECEMBER 5 THAT HE HAD MADE A  
"CITIZEN'S ARREST" OF AN INTELLIGENCE AGENT SURVEILING  
HIM AND HIS FAMILY. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS DENIED THE  
ALLEGATION AND ACCUSED CASTANEDA OF KIDNAPPING A  
NATIONAL POLICEMAN AND INTERFERING WITH THE CONDUCT OF  
HIS DUTIES. END SUMMARY

2. (SBU) IN A DECEMBER 5 PRESS CONFERENCE FROM THE  
OFFICES OF NEWLY CREATED OPPOSITION DAILY  
"LIBERACION," CASTANEDA DESCRIBED HIS CAPTURE AND

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J. OLSON  
DATE/CASE ID: 7 AUG 2001 200063849

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DETENTION OF AN ALLEGED INTELLIGENCE AGENT SUSPECTED OF CONDUCTING A SURVEILLANCE OPERATION NEAR CASTANEDA'S HOME. ACCORDING TO THIS ACCOUNT, THE CAPTURED OFFICIAL ADMITTED TO BEING A NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) OFFICIAL AND A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SIN) UNDER ORDERS TO REPORT ON THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE'S MOVEMENTS. CASTANEDA SAID HE TURNED OVER THE AGENT TO POLICE AUTHORITIES AND FILED A COMPLAINT. THE AGENT/POLICEMAN, DAVID PINEDO TORRES, PUBLICLY DENIED HE WAS WORKING FOR SIN, AND FILED A COUNTER COMPLAINT AGAINST CASTANEDA FOR KIDNAPPING AND INTERFERENCE WITH THE EXECUTION OF HIS OFFICIAL POLICE DUTIES. PROVINCIAL PROSECUTOR ANTONIO CORDOVA DIAZ CONFIRMED TO REPORTERS THAT HIS OFFICE WAS INVESTIGATING THE CASE.

3. (SBU) CASTANEDA'S VIGOROUS ASSERTION OF HIS RIGHT TO DEFEND HIMSELF AND HIS FAMILY FROM "GUN-WAVING"

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INTIMIDATION TACTICS BY THE SIN AND NATIONAL POLICE SPARKED A SERIES OF PUBLIC DENIALS BY GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES. PRESIDENT FUJIMORI, IN A DECEMBER 6 CEREMONY COMMEMORATING NATIONAL POLICE DAY, DENIED THE EXISTENCE OF ANY GOVERNMENT HARASSMENT OPERATIONS AND EMPHASIZED HIS GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO FREE, TRANSPARENT AND FAIR ELECTIONS WITH OBSERVERS. FUJIMORI COMMENTED THAT CASTANEDA ALREADY HAD ACHIEVED PUBLIC NOTORIETY AS A NATIONAL CANDIDATE AND SUGGESTED CASTANEDA WAS EXPLOITING THE INCIDENT FOR POLITICAL GAIN. PNP DIRECTOR FERNANDO DIANDERAS OTTONE DENIED THE EXISTENCE OF ANY PNP OR SIN SURVEILLANCE OPERATIONS OF POLITICAL CANDIDATES, OBSERVING THE POLICEMAN WAS OPERATING IN LIMA'S UPSCALE SUBURB OF LA MOLINA ON OTHER BUSINESS UNRELATED TO CASTANEDA.

4. (SBU) MAJORITY MEMBER CONGRESSWOMAN MARTA CHAVEZ ACCUSED CASTANEDA OF HAVING A PERSECUTION COMPLEX, ARGUING THAT HE HAD STAGED THE INCIDENT TO DISCREDIT THE GOVERNMENT AND BOOST HIS POLITICAL CAMPAIGN. SHE SAID CASTANEDA HAD ACTED ILLEGALLY BY DETAINING A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL AND INSTEAD SHOULD HAVE NOTIFIED THE PROPER AUTHORITIES TO INVESTIGATE. CHAVEZ INSISTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT NEEDED TO ENSURE THE SECURITY OF THE CANDIDATES AND REITERATED HER PROPOSAL TO TRANSFER THIS RESPONSIBILITY TO THE SIN. (NOTE: PRESIDENT FUJIMORI HAD EARLIER REJECTED THIS IDEA.)

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FORMER PRIME MINISTER JAVIER VALLE-RIESTRA, SUGGESTING CASTANEDA MAY HAVE SUFFERED AN "ATTACK OF NERVES," UNDERSCORED THE ABUSE OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL AND CALLED INTO QUESTION CASTANEDA'S MANIPULATION OF UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 LIMA 07735 01 OF 02 072009Z THE INCIDENT FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES.

5. (SBU) IN RESPONSE, CASTANEDA MADE DECEMBER 6 PRESS STATEMENTS CHARACTERIZING THE NATIONAL POLICE DIRECTOR, AND BY IMPLICATION, PRESIDENT FUJIMORI, AS A CHRONIC LIAR AND ACCUSING THE NATIONAL POLICE OF DEFENDING ITS EMPLOYEES INSTEAD OF THE TRUTH. CASTANEDA MAINTAINED HE AND HIS FAMILY REMAINED UNDER SIN SURVEILLANCE. SOMOS PERU PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE AND MAYOR OF LIMA ALBERTO ANDRADE EXPRESSED SOLIDARITY WITH CASTANEDA, NOTING THAT HE HAD BEEN HARASSED FREQUENTLY BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN A CAMPAIGN CONDUCTED "DIRECTLY BY THE PRESIDENT."

6. (SBU) COMMENT: IN DRAMATIC AND SOMEWHAT RISKY FASHION, CASTANEDA HAS MADE GOVERNMENT HARASSMENT OF POLITICAL CANDIDATES A CENTERPIECE OF HIS OTHERWISE UNDISTINGUISHED CAMPAIGN. IT IS TOO SOON TO TELL WHETHER THE EPISODE WILL TRANSLATE INTO AN ISSUE WITH TRACTION. UP TO NOW, HARASSMENT ALLEGATIONS BY OPPOSITION CANDIDATES HAVE HAD VIRTUALLY NO IMPACT ON FUJIMORI'S CLIMBING POPULARITY IN OPINION POLLS. (CASTANEDA'S CAMPAIGN MANAGER TOLD US HE HAD BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE NDI/CARTER CENTER PRE-ELECTION OBSERVERS LAST WEEK THE ISSUE OF GOP-SANCTIONED

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	FDIC-01	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/014W			

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O 072009Z DEC 99  
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HARASSMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES, BUT THE  
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NDI/CARTER CENTER'S REPORT FAILED TO MENTION  
HARASSMENT OF CANDIDATES AS A MAJOR CAMPAIGN ISSUE.)  
THAT SAID, CASTANEDA'S ACTIONS IN DEFENSE OF HIS  
FAMILY MIGHT GENERATE SOME PUBLIC SYMPATHY. QUASI-  
OFFICIAL STATEMENTS ABOUT CASTANEDA'S "OVER REACTION,"  
COMBINED WITH AN OFFICIAL PUBLIC COMMITMENT TO  
GUARANTEED FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS, THUS FAR HAVE  
TEMPERED THIS SYMPATHY FROM TRANSLATING INTO ANTI-  
GOVERNMENT SENTIMENT. THE DUST, HOWEVER, HAS YET TO  
SETTLE.

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