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Page: 1
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UNCLASSIFIED PTO8804

PAGE 01 LIMA 00388 201916Z
ACTION WHA-01

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	INL-01	DINT-00	DODE-00
	DOEE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	FBIE-00	UTED-00	H-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	LAB-01	L-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01
	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00
	TRSE-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	G-00	FDIC-01
	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/010W				

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P 201917Z JAN 00
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2456
INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
USCINCSO MIAMI FL

UNCLAS LIMA 000388

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PINS, PE
SUBJECT: OPPOSITION TRIES TO MAKE CAMPAIGN ISSUE OF
CONTROVERSIAL PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR MONTESINOS' FINANCES

SUMMARY

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LIMA 00388 201916Z
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1. (SBU) AS THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN GETS UNDERWAY, OPPOSITION AND PRESS FOCUS ON ILLICITLY OBTAINED BANK RECORDS RAISE QUESTIONS AS TO THE SOURCE OF PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR AND DE FACTO HEAD OF THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SIN) VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS'S SUBSTANTIAL INCOME. ALTHOUGH MONTESINOS' LAWYER IS SEEKING TO TURN THE TABLES ON THE APRA CONGRESSMAN AT THE CENTER OF THE CONTROVERSY, MONTESINOS REMAINS A POTENT CAMPAIGN ISSUE FOR OPPOSITION EFFORTS TO UNSEAT PRESIDENT FUJIMORI. END SUMMARY.

BANK RECORDS HINT AT MONTESINOS' MILLIONS
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UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 1

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

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 2

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2. (U) ON DECEMBER 15, SMALL OPPOSITION PAPER "LIBERACION" PUBLISHED WHAT APPEARED TO BE A COPY OF THE TRANSACTIONS -- JANUARY THROUGH NOVEMBER 1999 -- OF PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR AND DE FACTO HEAD OF THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SIN) VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS'S PERSONAL ACCOUNT AT PERU'S WIESE BANK. OVER THE 11 MONTH PERIOD, THE ACCOUNT EXPERIENCED DEPOSITS VALUING \$2,160,000. MONTHLY DEPOSITS OF \$100,000 FROM ABROAD AND REPEATED DEPOSITS OF \$17,000 WERE ALSO APPARENT. LIBERACION RAISED QUESTIONS AS TO THE SOURCE, FREQUENCY AND AMOUNT OF THE DEPOSITS.

3. (U) PUBLICLY, MONTESINOS SAID THAT HE HAD NOTHING TO HIDE AND INVITED THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE (FISCALIA DE LA NACION) TO INVESTIGATE HIS FINANCES. HE ALSO FILED A COMPLAINT WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ALLEGING THAT HIS BANK PRIVACY RIGHTS HAD BEEN VIOLATED. ATTORNEY GENERAL MIGUEL ALJOVIN, WHOSE TERM EXPIRES JANUARY 24, ANNOUNCED THAT HE

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 LIMA 00388 201916Z
WOULD INITIATE AN INVESTIGATION OF MONTESINOS' FINANCES AND REQUESTED THAT HE TURN OVER APPROPRIATE FINANCIAL RECORDS. ALJOVIN'S OFFICE ALSO CONTACTED WIESE BANK TO DETERMINE WHO HAD ACCESSED MONTESINOS ACCOUNT RECORDS.

4. (U) THE STORY STAYED OFF THE FRONT PAGES UNTIL JANUARY 18 WHEN THE PRO-GOVERNMENT DAILY "EXPRESO" PUBLISHED THE RESULTS OF WIESE BANK'S INVESTIGATION, RELEASED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, IMPLICATING APRA CONGRESSMAN JORGE DEL CASTILLO AND HIS SISTER-IN-LAW ROSANNA HAAS DEL CARPIO, AN EMPLOYEE OF WIESE BANK. BEFORE FLEEING TO THE U.S. ON A RECENTLY ACQUIRED VISA, HAAS REPORTEDLY WROTE OUT A CONFESSION -- WHICH WAS PART OF THE MATERIAL TURNED OVER TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL BY WIESE BANK AND SUBSEQUENTLY PUBLISHED BY EXPRESO -- IN WHICH SHE ALLEGED THAT DEL CASTILLO HAD USED HER TERMINAL WHILE HER BACK WAS TURNED. DEL CASTILLO PUBLICLY CORROBORATED HIS SISTER-IN-LAW'S VERSION. THE BANK, HOWEVER, REJECTED HAAS'S VERSION SINCE ACCESS TO ITS SYSTEM IS CONTROLLED BY THE USE OF PASSWORDS AND OTHER SECURITY FEATURES WHICH MAKE IT EXTREMELY UNLIKELY THAT DEL CASTILLO COULD HAVE GAINED ACCESS WITHOUT HAAS' DIRECT ASSISTANCE. THE BANK FILED A FORMAL COMPLAINT AND, PRESUMING HAAS DOES NOT RETURN TO PERU FROM THE U.S., THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WILL EVENTUALLY HAVE TO DECIDE WHETHER TO PRESS CHARGES AND REQUEST HER EXTRADITION. REGARDING DEL CASTILLO, ALJOVIN HAS OFFICIALLY REQUESTED THAT THE CONGRESS INVESTIGATE HIS ACTIONS TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEY ARE SUFFICIENTLY EGREGIOUS TO WARRANT LIFTING OF HIS PARLIAMENTARY IMMUNITY.

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UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 2

UNCLASSIFIED
n/a

5 (U) IN LIGHT OF HOW THE BANK RECORDS WERE ACQUIRED,
MONTESINO'S LEGAL TEAM HAS REQUESTED THAT THE ATTORNEY
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 LIMA 00388 201916Z
GENERAL'S INVESTIGATION INTO HIS FINANCES -- WHICH WAS
INITIATED AT MONTESINO'S OWN REQUEST -- BE ARCHIVED.

COMMENT
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6. (SBU) THE OPPOSITION CONTINUES TO VIEW ATTACKS ON
MONTESINOS, REGARDLESS OF THEIR SUBSTANCE, AS AN EFFECTIVE
VEHICLE TO UNDERMINE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN FUJIMORI AND THEREBY
PREVENT HIM FROM WINNING A THIRD TERM. DESPITE ENGAGING IN
THE SAME DIRTY TRICKS THAT MONTESINOS IS ACCUSED OF,
OPPOSITION EFFORTS TO PORTRAY HIM AS A VILLAIN RESONATE LOUDLY
AND BROADLY AMONG THE ELECTORATE. IN 1997, A SIMILAR BROUHAHA
OVER MONTESINOS' FINANCES AND ALLEGED LINKS TO MONEY-
LAUNDERING WAS FUELED BY OPPOSITION NEWSPAPERS. IT EVENTUALLY
FADED AWAY AFTER THE RESULTS OF AN INVESTIGATION BY THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL CLEARED MONTESINO'S INCOME AS COMPLETELY
LEGITIMATE, BUT THE DAMAGE TO MONTESINO'S PUBLIC IMAGE WAS
ALREADY DONE.

HAMILTON

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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