

n/a

Case Number: 200102877

PTQ8437

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ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	INL-01
	DINT-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	ANHR-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00
	EUR-00	FBIE-00	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00
	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	DCP-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	SNIS-00	NISC-00
	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-01	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00

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O 092218Z JUN 00
 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4787
 INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO
 AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
 AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
 AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
 AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
 USCINCSO MIAMI FL

[REDACTED] LIMA 003418

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/09/2005
 TAGS: MARR, PHUM, PREL, PGOV, PINS, PE
 SUBJECT: UNUSUAL MILITARY CEREMONY

REF: LIMA 2896

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1. (U) CLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL BY AMBASSADOR JOHN R. HAMILTON,
REASONS 1.5B AND D.

SUMMARY
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2. (C) IN AN UNUSUAL PUBLIC CEREMONY ATTENDED BY SENIOR MILITARY
 AND POLICE LEADERS -- ORGANIZED BY DE FACTO CHIEF OF THE
 NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SIN) VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS -- THE
 ARMED FORCES RECOGNIZED PRESIDENT ALBERTO FUJIMORI AS COMMANDER
 IN CHIEF FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL TERM 2000-2005 IN FRONT OF A LARGE

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CROWD OF CIVILIAN LEADERS AND NOTABLY FEW DIPLOMATS. THE OPPOSITION CRITICIZED THE EVENT AS A FLAGRANT DISPLAY OF POWER, AND FOR THE MESSAGE OF DEFIANCE IT SUPPOSEDLY IS INTENDED TO SEND TO THE OPPOSITION AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. WE SEE THIS CEREMONY NOT ONLY AS THE MILITARY'S BACKING OF FUJIMORI, BUT AS A SYMPTOM OF GOP PARANOIA TO IMAGINED INTERNATIONAL COUP PLOTTERS. END SUMMARY.

3. (U) ON JUNE 8, IN AN UNUSUAL AND HASTILY ORGANIZED CEREMONY ATTENDED BY ALL SENIOR MILITARY AND POLICE OFFICERS, THE PERUVIAN ARMED FORCES SWORE FEALTY TO PRESIDENT ALBERTO FUJIMORI FOR THE 2000-2005 PERIOD. THE CEREMONY TOOK PLACE AT THE GENERAL HEADQUARTERS IN LIMA AND HAD UNITS AND BATTLE FLAGS FROM ALL OF THE REGIONAL MILITARY COMMANDS AND INCLUDED A FLY-BY OF FOUR MIG-29S. NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR AND DE FACTO CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SIN) VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS WAS PROMINENTLY SEATED ON STAGE. PRO-GOVERNMENT CONGRESSMAN-ELECT EDUARDO FARAH (REFTTEL) WAS THE ONLY OPPOSITION CONGRESSMAN INVITED TO ATTEND. THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS LARGELY BOYCOTTED THE

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EVENT. IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE, ONLY THE AMBASSADORS OF BRAZIL, BOLIVIA AND CUBA ATTENDED. THE AMBASSADORS OF CHINA AND RUSSIA WERE ALSO PRESENT. U.S. DEFENSE ATTACHES DID ATTEND AND WILL REPORT SEPTTEL.

4. (U) AFTER PINNING AN EMBLEM SYMBOLIZING AUTHORITY OVER THE ARMED FORCES ON FUJIMORI, COMMANDER OF THE ARMY AND JOINT COMMAND GENERAL JOSE VILLANUEVA RUESTA GAVE A BRIEF SPEECH IN WHICH HE UNEQUIVOCALLY DECLARED FUJIMORI THE LEGITIMATE WINNER OF THE RECENT ELECTIONS AND ASSERTED THAT THE ARMED FORCES WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT FUJIMORI AGAINST EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL THREATS, AND PROMISED TO MAINTAIN ORDER.

5. (U) FUJIMORI, IN HIS REMARKS, FORCEFULLY DECLARED THAT THE ONLY CONTINUITY HE SOUGHT THROUGH RE-ELECTION WAS THAT OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STABILITY. HE REFERRED TO HIS FIRST TERM AS A VICTORY AGAINST TERRORISM AND TO HIS SECOND TERM AS A CONSOLIDATION OF BORDERS. HE SAID THAT PERU WAS POISED FOR SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC GROWTH AND THAT HIS THIRD TERM WOULD FOCUS ON JOBS CREATION AND THE ECONOMIC HEALTH OF THE NATION.

6. (U) EXPRESSING OUTRAGE AND RIGHTEOUS INDIGNATION, THE OPPOSITION HAS PLAYED UP THE CEREMONY AS EVIDENCE THAT FUJIMORI'S POWER IS BASED ON MILITARY MIGHT RATHER THAN POPULAR SUPPORT. REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE TEN GROUPS WITHIN THE

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OPPOSITION HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE A FEW HOURS AFTER THE CEREMONY TO REJECT IT AS UNCONSTITUTIONAL -- SINCE PRESIDENTS ARE NOT SWORN IN UNTIL JULY 28 -- AND CHARACTERIZED IT AS ANOTHER "SELF-COUP" (REFERRING TO FUJIMORI'S DISMANTLING OF CONGRESS IN APRIL 1992). PLAYING UP OPPOSITION FRUSTRATION WITH WHAT IT REGARDS AS THE CAUTIOUS ATTITUDE OF THE INTERNATIONAL

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COMMUNITY, PARTICULARLY THE OAS, SMALL, RADICAL OPPOSITION DAILY LIBERACION'S BANNER HEADLINE ON JUNE 9 READ, "TANKS 1, OAS 0."

COMMENT

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7. (C) THE MILITARY IS CLEARLY SENDING A "DON'T TREAD ON ME" MESSAGE TO BOTH THE OPPOSITION AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. BUT WE KNOW FROM REPORTING IN OTHER CHANNELS THAT SOME IN THE GOP BELIEVE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WOULD SUPPORT AN ECUADOR-STYLE MILITARY COUP AGAINST FUJIMORI AND THAT THE CEREMONY WAS INTENDED TO SIGNIFY MILITARY UNITY AND OPPOSITION TO ANY SUCH INTENT. THE FEAR OF A COUP IN OUR VIEW IS BASELESS BUT MONTESINOS AND THE TOP MILITARY COMMANDERS MAY NOT BE SO SURE.

HAMILTON
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<<.END OF DOCUMENT >>

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