

[REDACTED]
n/a

Case Number: 200102877

Page: 1
RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.5(D), 1.5(C)

[REDACTED]

PTQ4784

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ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	VC-00	H-01
	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01
	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00
	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DRL-02	G-00
	SAS-00	/005W					

-----7CAE14 222008Z /69

O 221904Z AUG 00
 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6003
 INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
 AMEMBASSY QUITO
 AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
 AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
 AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
 AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
 AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 AMEMBASSY AMMAN
 USCINCSO MIAMI FL

[REDACTED] SECTION 01 OF 02 LIMA 004973

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/22/05
 TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PINS, CO, PE
 SUBJECT: FUJIMORI ANNOUNCES CRACKING OF ARMS SMUGGLING RING --
 RATIFIES CONTROVERSIAL ADVISOR MONTESINOS

1. (U) CLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL BY AMBASSADOR JOHN R. HAMILTON,
[REDACTED]

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REASON 1.5B AND 1.5D.

2. (C) SUMMARY: PRESIDENT ALBERTO FUJIMORI USED A PRESS
 CONFERENCE ANNOUNCING THE DISMANTLING OF AN ARMS SMUGGLING RING
 TO UNDERSCORE HIS SUPPORT FOR DE FACTO INTELLIGENCE CHIEF
 VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS (WHO MADE A RARE PUBLIC APPEARANCE) AND TO
 SNIPE AT U.S. POLICY IN THE REGION. THE PRESS CONFERENCE
 COINCIDED WITH THE BEGINNING OF THE OAS-SPONSORED TALKS IN WHICH
 RESTRUCTURING OF THE PERUVIAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES FIGURES
 PROMINENTLY. END SUMMARY.

10K RIFLES AIR-DROPPED TO FARC

n/a
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[REDACTED]
n/a

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3. (C) ON AUGUST 21, PRESIDENT ALBERTO FUJIMORI ANNOUNCED THAT THE GOP HAD CRACKED A CRIMINAL RING WHICH SINCE 1999 HAD SMUGGLED APPROXIMATELY 10,000 AK-47 RIFLES TO REBEL FORCES IN COLOMBIA. SIX INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN DETAINED, INCLUDING TWO FORMER MEMBERS OF THE PERUVIAN ARMED FORCES, WHO HAD MASQUERADED AS AUTHORIZED AGENTS FOR THE PERUVIAN MILITARY. THE WEAPONS ORIGINATED IN JORDAN AND WERE TRANSPORTED BY A RUSSIAN CARGO PLANE VIA THE CANARY ISLANDS AND GUYANA. THE PLANE PROCEEDED TO PERU AND AIR-DROPPED THE WEAPONS FOR THE FARC AT A DESIGNATED POINT WHILE OVER-FLYING COLOMBIA. [REDACTED]

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4. (U) FUJIMORI TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE BOTH TO UNDERScore HIS CONTINUED SUPPORT OF CONTROVERSIAL PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR AND DE FACTO CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SIN) VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS AND TO SNIPE AT U.S. POLICY TOWARD PERU. MONTESINOS, ALONG WITH THE MINISTERS OF INTERIOR AND [REDACTED]

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DEFENSE AND THE TITULAR HEAD OF THE SIN, ACCOMPANIED FUJIMORI IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE. FUJIMORI NOT ONLY CREDITED MONTESINOS WITH THE OPERATION'S SUCCESS, BUT HAD HIM ANSWER SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ABOUT OPERATIONAL DETAILS AND DEFENDED HIM FROM POTENTIALLY EMBARRASSING PRESS QUESTIONS. IN PARTICULAR, FUJIMORI EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF MONTESINOS' WORK IN DEFENDING PERUVIAN NATIONAL INTERESTS.

5. (U) FUJIMORI WENT ON TO LAUD MONTESINOS, DECLARING THAT HE HAD CARRIED OUT AN EXTRAORDINARY WORK THAT HAD RESULTED IN A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION OF NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING THAT EVEN THE USG HAD RECOGNIZED. FUJIMORI ADDED THAT MONTESINOS' WORK WAS TYPIFIED BY CONCRETE SUCCESSES, AS OPPOSED TO THE UNSUBSTANTIATED QUALITY OF THE ACCUSATIONS LAUNCHED AGAINST HIM. WHEN ASKED IF HE PLANNED TO ANNOUNCE A NEW POSITION FOR MONTESINOS, FUJIMORI RESPONDED HE HAD NO ANNOUNCEMENT, BUT REMINDED JOURNALISTS OF HIS PREVIOUS STATEMENT THAT MONTESINOS WOULD BE ASSUMING A MORE PUBLIC ROLE, AS HE WAS NOW. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT MONTESINOS WAS NOT INDISPENSABLE, FUJIMORI INSISTED THAT HE HAD EXPERIENCE, KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION VITAL TO NATIONAL SECURITY, PLAINLY IMPLYING THAT MONTESINOS WOULD BE KEEPING HIS JOB FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

6. (U) ASKED ABOUT THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO THE REGION, FUJIMORI SUGGESTED IT WAS "ODD" THAT ALBRIGHT HAD NEGLECTED TO VISIT

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PERU, "AS IF IT WERE NOT DEFENDING DEMOCRACY," AND "TREATING PERU LIKE AN ISLAND." PERU, FUJIMORI INDICATED, WAS MAKING NOTEWORTHY CONTRIBUTIONS TO REGIONAL SECURITY AND DEMOCRACY BY MOVING AGAINST ARMS SMUGGLERS.

7. (U) FUJIMORI REITERATED THE GOP'S COMMITMENT TO THE WAR ON

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DRUGS. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN, HOWEVER, THAT THE \$1.3 BILLION PLAN COLOMBIA, WHICH HE "SUPPOSED" INVOLVED SUBSTANTIAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE COLOMBIAN ARMED

ARMS
N AND

B1

PROLONGATION OF ARMED CONFLICT THAT COULD EASILY SPILL INTO NEIGHBORING STATES. FUJIMORI ASSERTED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS TAKING MEASURES TO STOP THIS FROM HAPPENING AND THAT MONTESINOS WAS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THIS EFFORT.

COMMENT

8. (C) THIS PRESS CONFERENCE TOOK PLACE TWO HOURS BEFORE THE FORMAL COMMENCEMENT OF THE OAS-SPONSORED DEMOCRATIZATION TALKS, WHICH HAVE AS ONE OF THEIR MAIN POINTS THE REORGANIZATION OF THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICES AND, BY EXTENSION, THE ROLE OF MONTESINOS. ALTHOUGH IT WAS THE ARRESTS OF THE SUSPECTS (PARTICULARLY THE RUSSIAN) AND SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CASE THAT TRIGGERED THE PRESS CONFERENCE, ITS TIMING WAS HARDLY COINCIDENTAL. WE FIND IT HARD TO DISAGREE WITH COMMENTATORS HERE WHO HAVE ALREADY NOTED THAT, IF FUJIMORI HAD EVER CONSIDERED REMOVING MONTESINOS, HE NOW HAS NO INTENTION OF DOING SO.

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ACTION WHA-00

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[REDACTED] SECTION 02 [REDACTED]

B1

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9. (C) FUJIMORI'S COMMENTS ABOUT THE SECRETARY'S TRIP ALSO MAKE
IT CLEAR THAT OUR "NOT-BUSINESS-AS-USUAL" MESSAGE HAS NOT GONE
UNNOTICED. IN ALL THE AMBASSADOR'S CONVERSATIONS WITH GOP
OFFICIALS, HE IS MAKING IT CLEAR THAT THE ONLY WAY BACK TO A
NORMAL RELATIONSHIP IS THROUGH DEMOCRATIZATION.

HAMILTON

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