

UNCLASSIFIED

E92

EXDIS

Case Number: 200102877

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.5(B), 1.5(D)

PTO1481

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ACTION SS-00

INFO LOG-00 SAS-00 /000W

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O 191645Z SEP 00
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6425

LIMA 005567

EXDIS

DECAPTIONED

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/19/10
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PE
SUBJECT: PM SALAS ON FUJIMORI'S DECISION: "EVOLVING FAVORABLY"

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR JOHN R. HAMILTON, EMBASSY LIMA, REASON: 1.5(D).
2. (C) PM SALAS TOLD THE AMBASSADOR EARLY SEPTEMBER 19 THAT MONTESINOS IS ON THE SIN COMPOUND "AT THE DISPOSITION OF JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES" AND THAT THE SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO MONTESINOS AND THE REST OF THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO CONVOKE ELECTIONS IS "EVOLVING FAVORABLY." HE ASSERTED CATEGORICALLY THAT THERE IS NOTHING TO RUMORS OF DISSENSION WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES OVER TREATMENT OF MONTESINOS AND THAT EVERYTHING IS "100%" ON TRACK TO IMPLEMENT THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION ANNOUNCED SEPTEMBER 16. SALAS DID CONFIRM WHAT WE WERE PICKING UP FROM INTELLIGENCE SOURCES

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SEPTEMBER 17 THAT THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO "DEACTIVATE" THE SIN DID NOT MEAN THAT HE WOULD BE ABOLISHING IT BY PRESIDENTIAL FIAT. RATHER, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE PROCEEDING WITH LEGISLATION TO REFORM THE SIN, AS CONTEMPLATED IN THE OAS DIALOGUE. SO WHAT DID THE PRESIDENT MEAN BY "DEACTIVATION OF THE SIN?" SALAS INDICATED THAT IT WAS A EUPHEMISM FOR MONTESINOS' OUSTER.

3. (C) JUSTICE (AND FORMER PM) MINISTER BUSTAMANTE UNDERScoreD TO THE AMBASSADOR A FEW MINUTES AFTER THE SALAS CONVERSATION THAT THERE IS NO PROBLEM WITH THE ARMED FORCES.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: MELVIN E. SINN
DATE/CASE ID: 26 SEP 2002 200102877

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HE SAID THE TWO MILITARY CABINET MEMBERS (DEFENSE AND INTERIOR) HAD BEEN FULLY SUPPORTIVE WHEN THE PRESIDENT INFORMED THE CABINET OF HIS DECISION SATURDAY NIGHT, SEPTEMBER 16. BUSTAMANTE LEARNED LATER DIRECTLY FROM FUJIMORI THAT HE HAD MET EARLIER THAT DAY (THE 16TH) WITH THE THREE MILITARY SERVICE CHIEFS AND OBTAINED THEIR BACKING. FUJIMORI RECONFIRMED TO BUSTAMANTE LAST NIGHT THAT THERE IS NO PROBLEM WITH THE MILITARY. BUSTAMANTE SAID HIS PRINCIPAL CONCERN AT THE MOMENT IS THAT THE PERUVIAN CONGRESS MAY BALK AT HAVING ITS TERM REDUCED FROM FIVE YEARS TO ONE, AS MANY OF THE NEWLY-ELECTED CONGRESSMEN/WOMEN WENT OUT AND BOUGHT HOUSES AND CARS IN THE EXPECTATION OF ASSURED INCOME FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

4. (C) FOREIGN MINISTER DE TRAZEGNIES TOLD THE AMBASSADOR EVENING SEPTEMBER 18 THAT THE GOP WOULD NOT BE ABOLISHING THE SIN, AS "WE HAVE TO HAVE A NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE." BUT MONTESINOS IS DEFINITELY OUT, NO LONGER AN ADVISER, HE SAID. DE TRAZEGNIES ADDED THAT, SPEAKING PERSONALLY AS A LAWYER, HE DOUBTED THAT MONTESINOS' APPARENT BRIBERY OF CONGRESSMAN-ELECT KOURI WAS A VIOLATION OF LAW

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(AS THE ALLEGED BRIBERY TOOK PLACE MAY 5, BEFORE KOURI WAS SWORN IN). BUT THAT WOULD BE UP TO JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES TO DETERMINE.

B1

[REDACTED]

6. (C) COMMENT: THE FOREGOING DOES NOT GIVE US A COMPLETE PICTURE BY ANY MEANS BUT IT SUGGESTS THAT (A) MONTESINOS IS OUT BUT UNLIKELY TO BE PROSECUTED BY THIS GOVERNMENT; (B) THE GOP WILL PROCEED TO REFORM (NOT ABOLISH) THE SIN; AND (C) IT DOES NOT HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THE MILITARY. WE WILL LIKELY GO THROUGH ANOTHER DAY OR TWO OF RUMORS AND CONTINUED UNCERTAINTY, BUT WE ARE SOMEWHAT REASSURED BY THESE COMMENTS THAT THERE IS NO PROBLEM OF INSUBORDINATION IN THE ARMED FORCES.

HAMILTON

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