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

n/a
 Case Number: 200102877

PTQ4649

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 ACTION WHA-00

INFO LOG-00 NP-00 ACQ-00 INL-00 DS-00 FBIE-00 VC-00
 TEDE-00 INR-00 VCE-00 AC-01 NSAE-00 ACE-00 DSCC-00
 DRL-02 NEAT-00 SAS-00 /003W
 -----9650PE 242202Z /38

P 242204Z OCT 00
 FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1967
 INFO ALCA COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY
 CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
 DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
 NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
 SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
 USCINCSO MIAMI FL PRIORITY

SECTION 01 OF 02 PANAMA 004063

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/24/2010
 TAGS: PREL, PHUM, OAS, PE, PM
 SUBJECT: THE STORY BEHIND MONTESINOS' DEPARTURE FROM PANAMA

REF: PANAMA 3924 AND PREVIOUS

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY THE AMBASSADOR, REASONS 1.5 (B AND D).
2. (C) SUMMARY: FORMER PERUVIAN INTELLIGENCE CHIEF GOT TIRED

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 OF WAITING FOR A DECISION FROM THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT ON
 HIS REQUEST FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM AND LAST WEEK QUIETLY MADE
 PREPARATIONS TO DEPART HERE AND SKIP BACK INTO PERU
 UNANNOUNCED. HIS PLANS WERE FOILED WHEN PANAMANIAN OFFICIALS
 LEARNED OF HIS PLANE'S DEPARTURE AND CONTACTED THE EMBASSY.
 END SUMMARY

3. (C) SUNDAY EVENING'S ABRUPT AND UNANNOUNCED DEPARTURE OF
 FORMER PERUVIAN INTELLIGENCE CHIEF MONTESINOS FROM PANAMA,
 AND THE PLANNING AND MOTIVES BEHIND IT, IS NOW BECOMING
 CLEARER -- SORT OF. ACCORDING TO LOCAL REPORTS, EARLY LAST
 WEEK MONTESINOS INSTRUCTED ONE OF HIS INTERMEDIARIES TO PRESS

n/a

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: MELVIN E. SINN
 DATE/CASE ID: 19 JUN 2002 200102877

UNCLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]
n/a

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THE GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA ON WHETHER HE WOULD BE GRANTED ASYLUM OR NOT. HE RECEIVED A NONCOMMITTAL ANSWER, SETTING THE STAGE FOR HIS RETURN TO PERU: A RETURN IT NOW APPEARS HE COORDINATED SECRETLY IN ADVANCE WITH CONTACTS THERE.

4. (C) ALTHOUGH PANAMANIAN OFFICIALS HAD HELD HIS PASSPORT FOR SOME WEEKS AFTER HIS LATE SEPTEMBER ARRIVAL HERE, THEY RETURNED IT TO HIM LAST WEEK. NO DOUBT THEY HOPED HE WOULD USE IT TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY AND SOLVE THEIR POLITICAL DILEMMA. MONTESINOS' LACK OF A PASSPORT WAS NOT, THEREFORE, AN IMPEDIMENT TO AN OPEN, LEGAL DEPARTURE FROM PANAMA.

5. (U) STILL, MONTESINOS TRIED TO SLIP FURTIVELY OUT OF THE COUNTRY, EVIDENTLY SEEKING TO ARRIVE BY SURPRISE IN PERU. HE ARRIVED AT GELABERT AIRPORT ON SUNDAY EVENING -- THE QUIETEST TIME AT THE SMALL LOCAL AIRPORT, AND NEAR THE CLOSING HOUR. (THE PLANE CARRYING MONTESINOS AND HIS ESCORTS -- MAXIMILIANO HIDALGO, AMADIS JIMENEZ, AND MANUEL TULLENE -- TOOK OFF AT 1835 LOCAL TIME.) THEIR PLANS FOR A SECRETIVE DEPARTURE WERE

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FOILED WHEN AIRPORT AUTHORITIES CONTACTED PANAMANIAN OFFICIALS AFTER THEY PROCESSED HIS DEPARTURE.

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7. (U) MONTESINOS LEFT A LETTER TO BE DELIVERED TO PRESIDENT MOSCOSO ON MONDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 23, CLAIMING THAT HIS LIFE WAS THREATENED IF HE REMAINED IN PANAMA. HE PROVIDED NO FURTHER DETAILS ON THESE ALLEGED THREATS, BUT JOURNALISTS SPECULATE THAT NOTORIOUS DRUG TRAFFICKERS IMPRISONED IN PANAMA -- BASED ON INFORMATION PROVIDED BY MONTESINOS -- MAY HAVE ORDERED A "HIT" AGAINST HIM. IN HIS LETTER, MONTESINOS CLAIMED THAT THE DEATH THREATS HAD BEEN DEEMED "CREDIBLE" BY PERUVIAN INTELLIGENCE AUTHORITIES.

8. [REDACTED]

B1

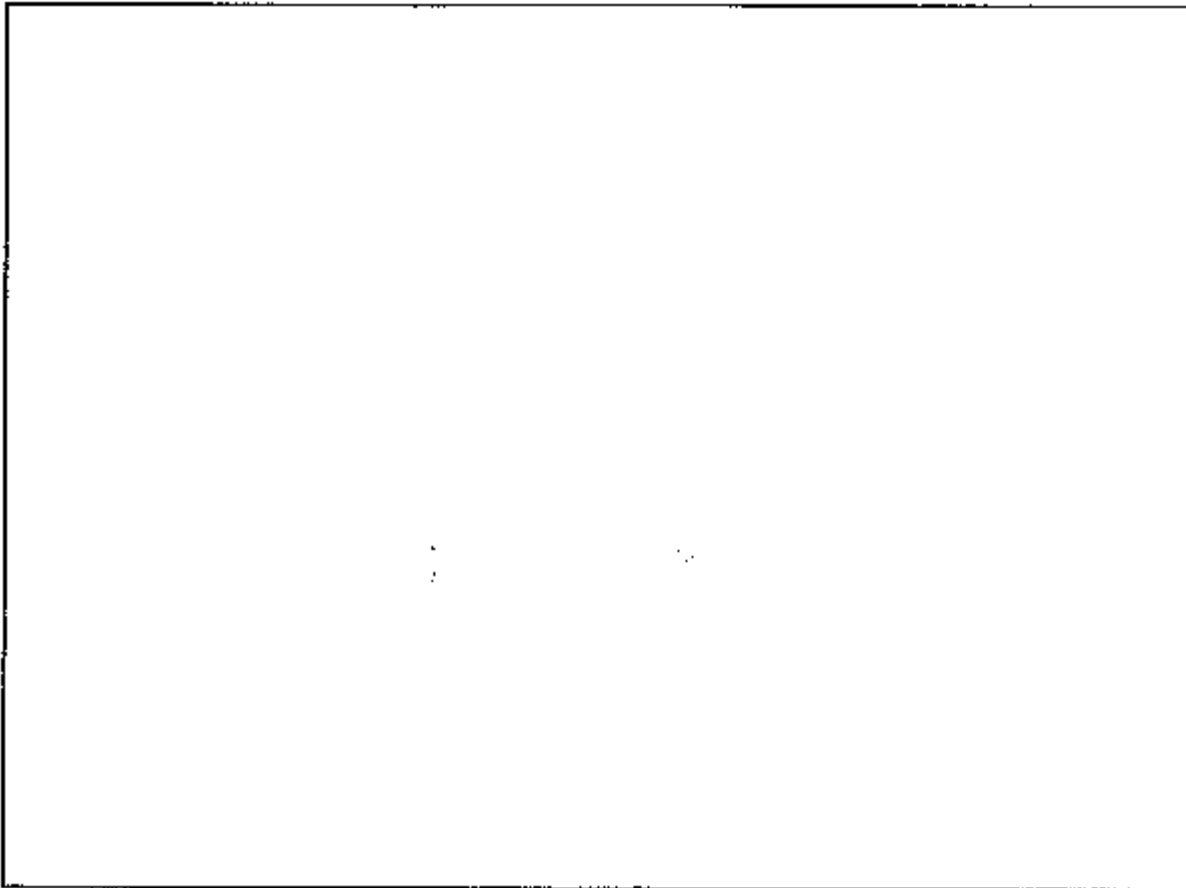
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ACTION WHA-00

INFO LOG-00 NE-00 ACQ-00 DS-00 FBIE-00 VC-00 TEDE-00
INR-00 VCE-00 AC-01 NSAE-00 ACE-00 DSCC-00 DRL-02
NFAT-00 SAS-00 /003W

-----965103 242202Z /38

P 242204Z OCT 00
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1968
INFO ALCA COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY
CIA WASHDC PRIORITY

n/a

[REDACTED]
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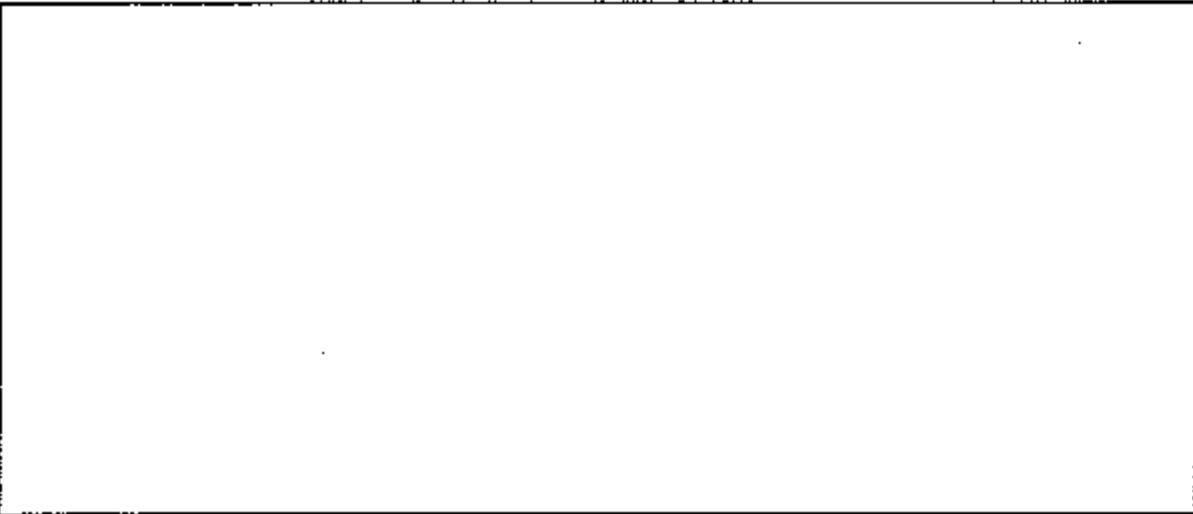
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DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
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