

EXDIS

Case Number: 200102877

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

PTQ9019

PAGE 01 LIMA 06375 01 OF 02 252234Z
ACTION SS-00INFO LOG-00 SAS-00 /000W
-----96D759 252234Z /38O 252234Z OCT 00
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7067
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
NSC WASHDC
USCINCSO MIAMI FL

SECTION 01 OF 02 LIMA 006375

EXDIS DECAPTIONED

DEPARTMENT PASS TO NSC ARTURO VALENZUELA

MILITARY ADDRESS HANDLE AS SPECAT

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/25/20
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PE
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT FUJIMORI ON MONTESINOS; OASPAGE 02 LIMA 06375 01 OF 02 252234Z
REF: STATE 205816 (NOTAL)1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR JOHN R. HAMILTON, EMBASSY
LIMA, REASON: 1.5(D).2. (S) SUMMARY: A NEWLY CONFIDENT PRESIDENT FUJIMORI TOLD
AMBASSADOR [REDACTED] OCTOBER 24 THAT HE WAS USING HIS
AUTHORITY AS COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES
PERSONALLY TO "RELOCATE" (NOT ARREST) OFFICERS CLOSE TO
MONTESINOS TO TAKE CONTROL OF THE SITUATION CREATED BY
MONTESINOS' UNDESIRABLE RETURN. FUJIMORI DOES NOT YET KNOW
MONTESINOS' EXACT WHEREABOUTS BUT APPARENTLY DOES NOT/NOT

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INTEND TO ARREST HIM WHEN HE FINDS HIM. FUJIMORI WAS DEEPLY OFFENDED BY OAS SECRETARY GENERAL'S OCTOBER 23 PRESS STATEMENT ON MONTESINOS' RETURN AND SAID HE WOULD NOT/NOT MAKE HIS MEETING WITH GAVIRIA OCTOBER 25 THE OCCASION FOR RECOMMITTING HIMSELF PUBLICLY TO THE OAS DIALOGUR. HE WAS CATEGORICAL, HOWEVER, IN SAYING THAT HE IS AS DETERMINED AS EVER TO HOLD CLEAN ELECTIONS AND TURN THE GOVERNMENT AND COUNTRY OVER TO HIS SUCCESSOR IN GOOD SHAPE. END SUMMARY.

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5. (S) FUJIMORI WAS OTHERWISE RELATIVELY FORTHCOMING ON EVENTS CONCERNING MONTESINOS. HE SAID HE HAD PERSONALLY TAKEN CHARGE OF EFFORTS TO LIMIT MONTESINOS' CAPACITY TO INFLUENCE EVENTS BY "RELOCATING" OFFICERS LOYAL TO MONTESINOS. HE HAD FIVE OF THEM IN THE PALACE ITSELF BUT HAD ALREADY DECIDED IT WAS NECESSARY TO KEEP ONLY TWO THERE. FUJIMORI SAID HE HAD ARRESTED NO ONE BUT, RATHER, HAD USED HIS AUTHORITY AS COMMANDER IN CHIEF TO "REASSIGN OFFICERS." (COMMENT: THIS IS MAKING AN ART FORM OF EUPHEMISM. THE OFFICERS WERE LED AWAY IN HANDCUFFS. END COMMENT.) HE HAD ALSO ORDERED A NUMBER OF OTHER PERSONNEL REASSIGNMENTS, WHICH WERE BEING CARRIED OUT. ASKED BY THE AMBASSADOR ABOUT THE LOYALTY OF SECOND MILITARY REGION COMMANDER CUBAS (MONTESINOS' BROTHER-IN-LAW), A SMILING FUJIMORI SAID CUBAS IS TOTALLY LOYAL AND PROFESSIONAL, THAT THE COMMON

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PERCEPTION THAT HE IS BEHOLDEN TO MONTESINOS IS DEAD WRONG. TO CLEAN OUT MONTESINOS' INFLUENCE IN THAT COMMAND, A PHONE CALL TO CUBAS HAD SUFFICED. (NOTE: THIS IS IN CONTRAST TO FUJIMORI'S COMMENT OF FOUR WEEKS AGO THAT IMPLIED HE COULD NOT COUNT ON CUBAS' LOYALTY.)

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 6. (S) THE AMBASSADOR TOLD THE PRESIDENT THAT THE USG WAS DEEPLY CONCERNED AT THE DISRUPTIVE EFFECT ON DEMOCRATIZATION THAT MONTESINOS HAD ALREADY ENGENDERED AND THAT WE WERE DELIGHTED THAT HE WAS NOW MOVING FORCEFULLY TO TAKE CHARGE. BUT COULDN'T THE PRESIDENT SPEAK TO THE ISSUE PUBLICLY OR TAKE EXECUTIVE ACTION TO MAKE HIS BREAK WITH MONTESINOS CLEARER? FOR EXAMPLE, THE PRESIDENT COULD PROHIBIT ANY CONTACT BY ARMED FORCES, INTELLIGENCE OR OTHER PUBLIC EMPLOYEE WITH MONTESINOS AND BAN MONTESINOS' ENTRY INTO ANY MILITARY OR INTELLIGENCE FACILITY. FUJIMORI SAID HE DID NOT WANT TO JEOPARDIZE THE ACTIONS UNDERWAY BY ACTING IN SUCH A PUBLIC MANNER. THE AMBASSADOR PERSISTED, NOTING THAT MONTESINOS WAS UNDOUBTEDLY WELL AWARE OF THE PRESIDENT'S ACTIONS; ONLY THE PERUVIAN PUBLIC WAS NOT. HOW WOULD PUBLIC ACTIONS PUT THE SECURITY OF THE PRESIDENT'S INTENTIONS AT RISK? FUJIMORI STILL DEMURED, OBSERVING THAT HE DID NOT GOVERN ONE DAY AT A TIME BUT ALWAYS LOOKING AHEAD. HE HAD ENDURED 120 DAYS OF HARSH CRITICISM DURING THE JAPANESE

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EMBASSY HOSTAGE CRISIS BUT HIS SILENCE WAS FOR A REASON.

7. (S) RESPONDING WITHOUT MUCH ELABORATION TO A SERIES OF QUESTIONS, FUJIMORI SAID HE DID NOT YET KNOW MONTESINOS' EXACT WHEREABOUTS, BUT SAID "WE KNOW THE AREA (OF LIMA) HE IS IN." DETERMINING MONTESINOS' WHEREABOUTS IS CLEARLY A PRIORITY BUT HE INDICATED HE WAS NOT THINKING OF HAVING MONTESINOS ARRESTED, AS HE KNEW OF NO LEGAL BASIS TO DO SO, OR OF REASSUMING A SEARCH FOR A COUNTRY THAT WOULD TAKE HIM. THE CURRENT EMPHASIS IS ON "LIMITING HIS CAPABILITY TO INFLUENCE." FUJIMORI VOLUNTEERED THAT THERE WAS PROBABLY NOTHING TO BE DONE ABOUT THE 4-5 CONGRESSMEN LOYAL TO MONTESINOS OR THE PERSONAL TIES HE HAD TO THE WINTER BROTHERS, THE FORMER BUSINESS PARTNERS OF BARUCH IVCHER, WHO NOW CONTROL TV CHANNEL TWO. BUT HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT HE WAS WELL ON HIS WAY TO GETTING MONTESINOS' CAPABILITY FOR GREATER MISCHIEF UNDER CONTROL.

8. (S) THE AMBASSADOR TURNED TO THE OAS DIALOGUE. HE TOLD THE PRESIDENT FLATLY THAT U.S. SUPPORT FOR HIS GOVERNMENT IS NOT UNCONDITIONAL. RATHER, IT IS SUPPORT FOR HIS DECLARED INTENTIONS TO HOLD NEW, CLEAN ELECTIONS, STAND DOWN THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE AND PROCEED AT AN ACCELERATED PACE WITH DEMOCRATIZATION. OUR WILLINGNESS TO WORK WITH HIM WOULD EVAPORATE IF WE CONCLUDED HE WAS NOT SERIOUS ABOUT FOLLOWING THROUGH TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS. THE AMBASSADOR SAID RECENT DIFFICULTIES IN THE TALKS, COMBINED WITH MONTESINOS' RETURN, HAD CREATED DOUBTS THAT HE NEEDED TO DISPEL AND THAT THE VISIT WITH OAS SECRETARY GENERAL GAVIRIA

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WAS AN IDEAL OPPORTUNITY TO RESTATE HIS COMMITMENT TO THE GOALS OF THE DIALOGUE. FUJIMORI RESPONDED THAT HE HAD BEEN

PAGE 03 LIMA 06375 02 OF 02 252234Z DEEPLY OFFENDED BY THE TONE AND CONTENT OF THE OAS PRESS STATEMENT ON MONTESINOS' RETURN IN DEPICTING HIM AS HAVING "AUTHORIZED" THE RETURN. HE SAID HE WOULD MEET WITH GAVIRIA AS REQUIRED BY PROTOCOL BUT INDICATED THE RECEPTION WOULD BE FROSTY. (UPDATE: [REDACTED])

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9. (S) THE AMBASSADOR URGED FUJIMORI TO MEET PERSONALLY WITH SOME MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION AS A WAY TO RE-ESTABLISH CONFIDENCE. FUJIMORI REJECTED THIS, TOO, RECALLING HOW THE BEST OF THE OPPOSITION LEADERS, RAFAEL REY, HAD COMPLETELY MISREPRESENTED A PRIVATE CONVERSATION THEY HAD TO THE PRESS. IF THAT HAPPENS WITH REY, FUJIMORI SAID, IT WILL BE WORSE WITH THE OTHERS. THE AMBASSADOR PERSISTED FOR A FEW MORE EXCHANGES ON THIS TOPIC WITHOUT GETTING ANY MOVEMENT. FUJIMORI DID POINT OUT, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS PUT A FORWARD-LEANING ELECTIONS PROPOSAL ON THE TABLE, NOTING THAT IT INCLUDED A TRUTH COMMISSION AND INDEMNIFICATION. THE AMBASSADOR AGREED BUT SAID THAT, IN THE ATMOSPHERE CREATED BY MONTESINOS' RETURN, THE PROPOSAL DOES NOT SPEAK ADEQUATELY FOR ITSELF. FUJIMORI ALSO STATED EMPHATICALLY (WHILE MAINTAINING THAT THE APRIL/MAY 2000 ELECTIONS HAD NOT INVOLVED "FRAUD") THAT HE WAS COMMITTED TO MAKING THE FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS IN THE CLEANEST IN PERUVIAN HISTORY. HE ALSO REPEATED WHAT HE HAS TOLD US BEFORE: THAT HIS GOAL IS TO TURN OVER THE GOVERNMENT AND COUNTRY TO HIS SUCCESSOR IN GOOD SHAPE. THIS MEANS STABILITY IN THE INTERIM, DEBT REDUCTION AND A STRONG RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MILITARY. HE DID NOT WANT HIS SUCCESSOR TO FACE A CRISIS WITH THE MILITARY HIS FIRST DAY IN OFFICE, AS HE HAD IN 1990.

PAGE 04 LIMA 06375 02 OF 02 252234Z 10. (S) COMMENT: FUJIMORI SEEMED REJUVENATED BY THE ACTION HE HAS TAKEN VIS-A-VIS MONTESINOS, BUT CONTINUES TO UNDERESTIMATE THE PROBLEMS HIS NEGOTIATORS FACE IN THE OAS DIALOGUE. HOWEVER, LIMA'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD, EL COMERCIO, HAS AN ESSENTIALLY ACCURATE FRONT PAGE STORY OCTOBER 25 ON THE "DETENTIONS" OF KEY MONTESINOS' ASSOCIATES. THIS WILL TEMPORARILY HELP KEEP THE LID ON THE "WHO'S IN CHARGE?" FUROR UNTIL THE WHOLE MONTESINOS SITUATION BECOMES CLEARER.

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