

UNCLASSIFIED

E135

Page: 1

RELEASED IN FULL

n/a

Case Number: 200102877

PTO9932

PAGE 01 LIMA 06403 262358Z
ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	EB-00	VC-00
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-00	AC-01	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00
	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	T-00
	USIE-00	PMB-00	PRM-01	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00	/008W

-----975A32 262358Z /69
O 262222Z OCT 00
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7089
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
USCINCSO MIAMI FL

LIMA 006403

E.O. 12958: DECL 10/25/05
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PHUM, PE
SUBJECT: MONTESINOS RADIO INTERVIEW

PAGE 02 LIMA 06403 262358Z
REF: LIMA 6375 (EXDIS)

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR JOHN HAMILTON FOR REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D).

1. (C) SUMMARY: IN A SURPRISE RADIO INTERVIEW OCTOBER 24 FROM AN UNIDENTIFIED LOCATION, EX-NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE CHIEF VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS EXPLAINED HIS UNDESIRE RETURN TO PERU. EXUDING SINCERITY, HE PORTRAYED HIMSELF AS LAW-ABIDING, HUMBLE, PATRIOTIC AND RESPECTFUL OF LIFE. HE CLAIMED THE GOP HAD AUTHORIZED HIS RETURN, MADE NECESSARY BY MRTA AND SHINING PATH THREATS IN PANAMA. THE INTERVIEW CLOSELY FOLLOWED PUBLIC

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

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ALLEGATIONS BY A PRO-MONTESINOS LEGISLATOR THAT PRESIDENT FUJIMORI HAD ILLEGALLY DETAINED MILITARY OFFICERS LINKED TO THE FORMER DE FACTO INTELLIGENCE (RETEL). END SUMMARY.

2. (U) FORMER INTELLIGENCE CHIEF VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS PHONED PERUVIAN NATIONAL RADIO (RPP) OFFERING AN INTERVIEW OCTOBER 24. THE Q-AND-A WITH VETERAN MODERATOR JESUS CALDERON AIRED AN HOUR LATER AND WAS REPEATED THROUGHOUT THE AFTERNOON AND EVENING.

3. (SBU) MONTESINOS TOLD RADIO LISTENERS HE HAD LEFT PANAMA BECAUSE HIS 30-DAY TOURIST VISA HAD EXPIRED AND BECAUSE OF DEATH THREATS. HE CLAIMED HIS RETURN WAS NOT INTENDED TO DISRUPT PERUVIAN POLITICS AND THAT HIS DESIRE WAS TO LIVE IN PEACE, AWAY FROM POLITICS AND DEVOTED TO THE LEGAL PROFESSION. MONTESINOS ALSO CLAIMED HE COORDINATED HIS RETURN WITH THE GOP AND SPUN THE FACT THAT HE HAD SPOKEN TO PRESIDENT FUJIMORI FROM GUAYAQUIL INTO PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORIZATION OF HIS RETURN. TO ILLUSTRATE HIS RESPECT FOR LIFE, THE FORMER INTELLIGENCE CHIEF ASSERTED HE HAD CONVINCED FUJIMORI TO REMAND A DEATH WARRANT FOR CAPTURED

PAGE 03 LIMA 06403 262358Z
SENDERO LUMINOSO LEADER ABIMAEI GUZMAN. (NOTE: THIS WAS INTERPRETED LOCALLY AS AN IMPLICIT THREAT TO REVEAL INFORMATION EMBARRASSING TO PRESIDENT FUJIMORI.)

4. (SBU) MONTESINOS ALSO CLAIMED:

-- HE LEFT PERU BECAUSE HIS PRESENCE HAD BECOME AN OBSTACLE TO DEACTIVATING THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SIN). HE SOUGHT ASYLUM OUT OF CONCERN FOR HIS SAFETY.

-- THE PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR IN PANAMA HAD CONTRACTED HIS PLANE AND FILED FLIGHT PLANS. (THE PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR QUICKLY DENIED HE HAD ANY PART IN MONTESINOS'S TRAVEL AND THE PERUVIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY DENIED THAT THE GOP HAD PLAYED ANY ROLE.)

-- AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN, HE NO LONGER HAD A SECURITY DETAIL SINCE HE WAS NO LONGER A PUBLIC OFFICIAL, SIMPLY A COMMON CITIZEN WHO WANTED TO PRACTICE LAW.

-- HE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN PERU'S WAR AGAINST TERRORISM.

-- HIS RETURN WAS NOT INTENDED TO DISRUPT THE OAS DEMOCRATIZATION TALKS.

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5. (C) LESS THAN TWO HOURS BEFORE THE INTERVIEW, LEGISLATOR JORGE POLACK, CLOSELY LINKED TO MONTESINOS, CRITICIZED PRESIDENT FUJIMORI FOR ALLEGEDLY "ABDUCTING" SEVERAL MILITARY OFFICERS AND HOLDING THEM IN CUSTODY IN THE PRESIDENT'S PALACE. WE HAVE REPORTED ON THESE EVENTS IN CAPTIONED TRAFFIC.

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6. (C) COMMENT: THE RADIO INTERVIEW WAS CLASSIC MONTESINOS -- MELLIFLUOUS, INGRATIATING, AT PAINS TO PROJECT HIMSELF AS THE VERY SOUL OF REASONABLENESS. BUT AS STATED IN PARA 3, THERE WAS AN ELEMENT OF THREAT IN HIS COMMENTS, OBVIOUSLY INTENDED FOR PRESIDENT FUJIMORI.

HAMILTON

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PAGE 01 LIMA 06403 262243Z
ACTION SCAT-00

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-----97558D 262243Z /69

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NOTE BY DO/CC: DO NOT/NOT PROCESS. GIVE TO EAO FOR GUIDANCE.

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