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Case Number: 200102877

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ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-08	ACDE-00	INLB-01	ACQ-01	CIAE-00	INL-01
	DEAE-00	OASY-00	DINT-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00
	OIGO-01	FBIE-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	JUSE-00	LAB-01
	L-01	ADS-00	M-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01	OPIC-01
	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00	CIO-00	SP-00	SSO-00
	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-09	G-00

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O 182138Z JUL 97
 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8628
 INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
 AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
 AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
 AMEMBASSY QUITO
 USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
 AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD:

E.O. 12958: 07/18/07
 TAGS: PREL, PGOV, SNAR, PBTS, PINR, PE
 SUBJECT: FUJIMORI LAUNCHES CABINET SHAKE-UP

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(U) CLASSIFIED BY DENNIS JETT, AMBASSADOR, EMBASSY LIMA.
REASON: 1.5 (D)

REFS: A) LIMA 6163 B) LIMA 6032 C) LIMA 5660

1. (C) SUMMARY. ON THE HEELS OF FOREIGN MINISTER FRANCISCO TUDELA'S RESIGNATION, PRESIDENT FUJIMORI NAMED NEW

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MINISTERS OF DEFENSE, INTERIOR, JUSTICE AND FISHERIES. WHILE THE FACES HAVE CHANGED, WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE POLICY SHIFTS AS FUJIMORI'S CABINET SHAKE-UP CLOSES RANKS WITH TRUSTED MILITARY OFFICIALS OR DEPENDENT CIVILIANS. PRIOR TO SWEARING IN THE NEW MINISTERS, FUJIMORI HOSTED A WELL-PUBLICIZED CEREMONY IN WHICH THE MOST SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE ARMED FORCES REITERATED THEIR ALLEGIANCE TO THE PERUVIAN PRESIDENT. WE EXPECT THE EXCELLENT LEVEL OF COOPERATION WITH THE DEFENSE AND INTERIOR MINISTERS ON SHARED COUNTERNARCOTICS GOALS WILL CONTINUE. END SUMMARY.

FUJIMORI SWEARS IN FIVE NEW MINISTERS

2. (U) PRESIDENT ALBERTO FUJIMORI SWORE IN THE FOLLOWING NEW MINISTERS ON JULY 17:

FOREIGN MINISTER EDUARDO FERRERO COSTA
DEFENSE MINISTER GEN. CESAR SAUCEDO SANCHEZ
INTERIOR MINISTER GEN. JOSE VILLANUEVA RUESTA
JUSTICE MINISTER ALFREDO QUISPE CORREA
FISHERIES MINISTER LUDWIG MEIER CORNEJO
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FERRERO COSTA REPLACED FRANCISCO TUDELA WHO CITED "PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES" WHICH PREVENTED HIM FROM CONTINUING IN HIS JOB (REF A). THE OTHER PERSONNEL CHANGES APPEAR TO BE FUJIMORI'S REACTION TO CONSIDERABLE CRITICISM OF THE GOP RELATED TO THE STRIPPING OF A TELEVISION STATION OWNER OF HIS PERUVIAN CITIZENSHIP (REF B) AND TO REVELATIONS THAT A PERUVIAN INTELLIGENCE AGENCY WAS WIRETAPPING PROMINENT CITIZENS' PHONES (SEPTTEL).

3. (C) THE CABINET CHANGE REPRESENTS A SHUFFLING OF ALMOST ONE THIRD OF THE SIXTEEN-MEMBER CABINET. THE RUN-UP TO THE PERUVIAN PRESIDENT'S JULY 28 NATIONAL DAY SPEECH IS TRADITIONALLY A TIME OF CABINET CHANGES, BUT THE TIMING OF THE BELEAGUERED PRESIDENT'S CABINET CHANGES APPEARS TO BE AN EFFORT TO PAPER OVER THE GOP'S POLITICAL TROUBLES. THE MANNER IN WHICH A JULY 17 LABOR UNION MARCH, WHICH WAS PLANNED WELL BEFORE THE MINISTERIAL SHUFFLE, TURNED INTO AN ANTI-FUJIMORI SPECTACLE REFLECTS THE DIMINISHING POPULARITY AND DEFENSIVENESS OF THE PERUVIAN PRESIDENT AS WELL AS

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OPPORTUNISM ON THE PART OF MARCH ORGANIZERS. FUJIMORI MAY MAKE FURTHER CABINET CHANGES IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS. FUJIMORI'S LAST BIG CABINET SHUFFLE OCCURRED IN APRIL 1996 WHEN HE ALSO NAMED FIVE NEW MINISTERS.

SAUCEDO SHIFTS FROM INTERIOR TO DEFENSE

4. (C) WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE MAJOR CHANGES IN THE DEFENSE MINISTRY; SAUCEDO, LIKE HIS PREDECESSOR, IS WIDELY PERCEIVED TO BE A LOYALIST TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE JOINT COMMAND, ARMY

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GENERAL NICOLAS DE BARI HERMOZA RIOS. HE ALSO HAS A GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH DE FACTO NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE CHIEF (SIN) VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS. SAUCEDO SIMPLY SHIFTS FROM THE INTERIOR MINISTRY, WHICH HE WAS TAPPED TO HEAD ON APRIL 19. IN HIS SHORT TENURE AT INTERIOR, HE PLAYED LOYAL SOLDIER FOR A SERIES OF UNPOPULAR FUNCTIONS. HE DID NOT OPPOSE NEGLIGENCE CHARGES BEING BROUGHT AGAINST 25 MEMBERS OF THE PERUVIAN NATIONAL POLICE; NO SIMILAR CHARGES WERE LEVIED AGAINST MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SIN) OR ARMED FORCES. MORE RECENTLY, THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION, WHO ANSWERS TO THE INTERIOR MINISTER, STRIPPED TELEVISION STATION OWNER BARUCH IVCHER OF HIS PERUVIAN CITIZENSHIP (REF B).

VILLANUEVA STEPS IN AT INTERIOR

5. (C) VILLANUEVA HAD BEEN GENERAL OF THE FIFTH MILITARY REGION HEADQUARTERED IN IQUITOS, A SENSITIVE MILITARY REGION BORDERING ON ECUADOR. VILLANUEVA IS WIDELY REGARDED AS A FAVORITE OF DE FACTO SIN CHIEF VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS. THE NEW INTERIOR MINISTER WAS A CLASSMATE OF MONTESINOS IN THE ARMY ACADEMY (CLASS OF 1966); MONTESINOS WAS SUBSEQUENTLY

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CASHIERED FROM THE ARMY AS A CAPTAIN IN 1976 FOR ALLEGEDLY
 SPYING FOR THE UNITED STATES (REF C). MILITARY INSIDERS
 GRUMBLED THAT MONTESINOS INTERVENED TO ELEVATE VILLANUEVA TO
 THE COMMANDING GENERAL POSITION IN THE FIFTH MILITARY
 REGION.

 LAW PROFESSOR ELEVATED TO JUSTICE MINISTER

6. (C) FUJIMORI TAPPED ALFREDO QUISPE CORREA, A DEAN AT

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LIMA'S SAN MARTIN DE PORRES UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL, TO BE THE NEW JUSTICE MINISTER. THE JUSTICE MINISTER EXERCISES LITTLE INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY; BLANCA NELIDA COLAN, THE PRESIDENT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMISSION OF THE PUBLIC MINISTRY, ENJOYS FAR MORE POWERS, FOR EXAMPLE. QUISPE, HOWEVER, WILL BE ONE OF THREE MEMBERS OF THE AD HOC PARDON COMMISSION RECOMMENDING PRESIDENTIAL PARDONS FOR PERSONS FALSELY ACCUSED OF TERRORISM IF FUJIMORI BACKS CONGRESS'S DECISION TO EXTEND THE COMMISSION FOR SIX MORE MONTHS. THE ACADEMIC QUISPE HAS NO POLITICAL WEIGHT OF HIS OWN AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO TAKE HIS CUES FROM THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRESIDENT'S CLOSEST ADVISORS. SEPTELS WILL DISCUSS THE CHANGE AT THE FISHERIES MINISTRY AND PROVIDE BIOS OF THE NEW MINISTERS.

ARMED FORCES PLEDGE LOYALTY TO FUJIMORI

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7. (U) A FEW HOURS BEFORE HE SWORE IN THE FIVE NEW MINISTERS, FUJIMORI MET WITH 120 SENIOR MILITARY AND POLICE OFFICIALS IN THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. THE MILITARY AND POLICE OFFICIALS WERE OSTENSIBLY CONVOKED TO BRIEF THE PRESIDENT ON PERUVIAN MILITARY MANEUVERS ON THE ECUADORAN BORDER SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN SEPTEMBER. JOINT COMMAND PRESIDENT GENERAL HERMOZA RIOS OPENED THE CEREMONY BY ASSURING FUJIMORI THAT THE MILITARY AND POLICE ARE "FIRM SUPPORTERS AND DEFENDERS OF DEMOCRACY AND THE CONSTITUTION." READING FROM HIS TEXT, HERMOZA RIOS REITERATED THAT THE ARMED FORCES AND POLICE ARE LOYAL AND SUBORDINATE TO FUJIMORI, THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF. THE CEREMONY WAS COVERED AND WIDELY REPORTED BY THE LOCAL PRESS.

8. (C) COMMENT: FUJIMORI'S SUDDEN SUMMONING OF THE MOST SENIOR MILITARY AND POLICE OFFICERS LACKED CONTEXT OR ANTECEDENTS. THE MILITARY AND POLICE USUALLY USE THEIR OWN INSTITUTIONAL CEREMONIES AS VEHICLES TO REITERATE THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT AND CONSTITUTION. FUJIMORI WAS PROBABLY ENDEAVORING TO LAY TO REST PUBLISHED RUMORS OF A "PLAN VERDE" IN WHICH SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS IN THE LATE 1980'S ALLEGEDLY SKETCHED OUT A LONG-TERM STRATEGY OF USING CIVILIANS TO GOVERN FROM THE SHADOWS. FUJIMORI REMAINS EVER

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SENSITIVE TO THE CRITICISM THAT HE IS MANIPULATED BY THE ARMED FORCES. WHILE HE IS IN CHARGE, FUJIMORI NEEDS THE CONTINUING SUPPORT OF THE MILITARY, HOWEVER. IN ADDITION, THEIR AUTHORITARIAN TENDENCIES MATCH HIS. END COMMENT.

IMPLICATIONS FOR USG INTERESTS

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9. (C) WHILE HEADING THE INTERIOR MINISTRY, SAUCEDO WORKED COOPERATIVELY WITH US ON SHARED COUNTERNARCOTICS GOALS. WE EXPECT TO MAINTAIN SIMILARLY PRODUCTIVE WORKING RELATIONS WITH HIM ON COUNTERNARCOTICS ISSUES AT THE DEFENSE MINISTRY. REFLECTING THE PERUVIAN MILITARY'S INSTITUTIONAL RESISTANCE TO CHANGE, SAUCEDO IS NOT LIKELY TO BE RECEPTIVE TO REGIONAL ARMS CONTROL AND TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVES. WE ALSO ANTICIPATE THAT GENERAL VILLANUEVA RUESTA WILL WORK COOPERATIVELY WITH US ON OUR SHARED COUNTERNARCOTICS, ANTI-TERRORISM, AND SECURITY GOALS. VILLANUEVA RUESTA GAINED VALUABLE COUNTERNARCOTICS EXPERIENCE AS COMMANDING GENERAL IN IQUITOS WHERE HE COLLABORATED WITH THE USG. QUISPE IS A RELATIVE UNKNOWN, BUT BRINGS CONSIDERABLE LEGAL EXPERIENCE TO THE JUSTICE MINISTRY.

COMMENT

10. (C) FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE, FUJIMORI'S CABINET SHUFFLE REPRESENTS NEITHER A RETREAT NOR A MELT-DOWN, BUT RATHER AN ATTEMPT TO CHANGE PEOPLE INSTEAD OF POLICIES. WE EXPECT HIS GOALS TO REMAIN THE SAME, INCLUDING HIS CLUMSY AND STRONG-

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ARM EFFORTS TO PAVE HIS OWN WAY TO A THIRD TERM, AND LITTLE
 IMPROVEMENT IN HIS TACTICS. IN THE SHORT TERM, FUJIMORI
 ALSO REAPS THE BENEFIT OF SHIFTING PUBLIC ATTENTION FROM
 RECENT POLITICAL CONTROVERSIES TO HIS "NEW" TEAM.

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