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E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/15/10 TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PE SUBJECT: MONTESINOS VIDEO

REF: STATE 5011 (NODIS)

1. (S) SUMMARY: THE VIDEO RELEASED SEPTEMBER 14 PROVIDES INCONTROVERTIBLE, PUBLIC EVIDENCE OF MONTESINOS' ABUSE OF THE CONCENTRATION OF POWER IN THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE. WE SHOULD CALL PUBLICLY FOR A FULL INVESTIGATION AND, WHILE AN INVESTIGATION GOES FORWARD, "ACTIONS BY THE GOVERNMENT TO RESTORE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE." I.E., A CLEAR ALLUSION TO MONTESINOS' DEPARTURE.

END SUMMARY.

2. (S) T

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AUTHENTIC, MADE BY THE SIN ITSELF. WE KNOW THAT MONTESINOS TAPES MANY, IF NOT ALL OF HIS MEETINGS, AND WE CAN CONFIRM THAT THE OFFICE SHOWN IN THE TAPE IS THAT OF SIN TITULAR HEAD ADMIRAL ROSAS. WE DO NOT KNOW HOW THE OPPOSITION ACQUIRED THIS TAPE (AND POSSIBLY OTHERS), BUT ITS LEAK POINTS EITHER TO DISCONTENT OR VENALITY WITHIN THE SIN ITSELF.

3. (S) THERE WILL BE INTENSE INTEREST IN THE USG REACTION. WE SUGGEST A PUBLIC POSTURE OF THREE POINTS:

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J. OLSON DATE/CASE ID: 7 AUG 2001 200003849

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- -- THE MATTER IS EXTREMELY SERIOUS;
- -- IT NEEDS TO BE INVESTIGATED FULLY, EXPEDITIOUSLY AND BY MEANS IN WHICH THE PUBLIC WILL HAVE FULL CONFIDENCE; AND
- -- WHILE AN INVESTIGATION GOES FORWARD, THE GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO RESTORE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE AND TO PRESERVE THE OAS DIALOGUE AS A MEANS OF STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY.

INCONTROVERTIBLE EVIDENCE OF MONTESINOS' CORRUPTION WOULD SUGGEST TO ALL OUTSIDERS AND MANY PERUVIANS THAT FUJIMORI MUST SACK HIM. YET, AS NOTED IN REFTEL, FUJIMORI MAY BE CONVINCED HE CANNOT GOVERN WITHOUT MONTESINOS AND/OR BE FEARFUL OF MOVING AGAINST HIM.

HAMILTON

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