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Case Number: 200102877

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ACTION INL-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-08 ACDE-00 INLB-01 ARA-01 CIAE-00 DEAE-00  
DODE-00 SRPP-00 OIGO-01 UTED-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 ADS-00  
DCP-01 NSAE-00 SP-00 SAS-00 /013W  
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P 182021Z MAY 98  
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 4411  
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3113  
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY QUITO

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LIMA 003183

USIA

USIA FOR R/MR, I/GAR, I/TGI (ROGENE WAITE), AR  
(PARKERSON), B/VOA/L, B/TVP

STATE FOR INL, ARA/AND, ARA/P

E.O.12958:N/A

TAGS: SNAR OPRC PE

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: GENERAL BARRY MCCAFFREY'S  
PRESS CONFERENCE

TWO MAY 15 EDITORIALS AND TWO COLUMNS COMMENT ON GENERAL  
BARRY MCCAFFREY'S REFERENCE TO PRESIDENT FUJIMORI'S  
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INTELLIGENCE ADVISOR VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS DURING  
MCCAFFREY'S MAY 14 PRESS CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON  
DETAILS FOLLOW:

1. PRO-GOVERNMENT DAILY "EXPRESO" HEADLINED ITS  
EDITORIAL "THE CONTENT AND THE FORMS." EXCERPTS FOLLOW:

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: MELVIN E. SINN  
DATE/CASE ID: 13 JUN 2002 200102877

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BOTH CHARACTERS (GENERAL MCCAFFREY AND U.S. AMBASSADOR DENNIS JETT) MAY HAVE DIFFERENT POINTS OF VIEW, WHICH IS NORMAL IN EVERY ADMINISTRATION, AND ALSO IN WASHINGTON. OF COURSE, THEY CAN HAVE OPINIONS WHICH DIFFER FROM THE PENTAGON, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, TO NAME ONLY THREE OF MANY U.S. EXECUTIVE AGENCIES WHICH WITH CONGRESS PARTICIPATE IN SHAPING U.S. POLICIES ON A VAST NUMBER OF ISSUES. HOWEVER, FOREIGN POLICY IS CONDUCTED BY THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

IT IS CLEAR THAT THE DISGUST EXPRESSED, WITHIN HIS RIGHTS, BY GENERAL MCCAFFREY, WHOSE FRIENDSHIP WITH PERU HAS BEEN PROVEN SEVERAL TIMES, HAPPENS IN THE EXERCISE OF HIS FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND DESERVES RESPECT, BUT IT EXPRESSES A PERSONAL POINT OF VIEW, AS HE HIMSELF CLARIFIED IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY. AND IT IS BETTER THIS WAY. PERU, THE U.S. AMBASSADOR UNDERSTANDS, WILL NOT ACCEPT THAT ANOTHER GOVERNMENT, COMMENTS ON WHO SHOULD BE A MEMBER OF ITS ANTI-DRUG TEAM OR BE PRESENT IN ANTI-DRUG MEETINGS.

WHETHER OR NOT THERE WAS MANIPULATION OF THE VIDEO FILMED DURING THE MEETING IS A MATTER OVER WHICH THE

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GENERAL HAS APPLIED HIS OWN JUDGEMENT.

WE ARE SURE THAT THIS ISSUE WILL ONLY BE A MINOR INCIDENT WITHIN THE GOOD FRIENDSHIP THAT LINKS GENERAL MCCAFFREY TO PERU. AND WE SINCERELY HOPE THAT IT DOES NOT LEAVE PERSONAL TRACES. BECAUSE POSSIBLY IT WAS ONLY A QUESTION OF FORMS. AND IF A LESSON OF FORM SHOULD ALWAYS BE WELL RECEIVED, ONE ON SOVEREIGN MATTERS SHOULD NOT, EVEN IF IT WAS ON A DEBATABLE DECISION OR CRITICIZED BY A MAJORITY.

2. MIRKO LAUER HEADLINED HIS COLUMN IN STRONGLY-OPPOSITION DAILY LA REPUBLICA "THE PARACHUTIST." EXCERPTS FOLLOW:

BARRY MCCAFFREY'S DISCOMFORT FOR BEING OBLIGED TO TALK TO MONTESINOS, APPARENTLY AS HIS POLITICAL GUARANTOR, CLOSES THE ADVISOR'S BACK DOOR HE WAS USING TO ENTER

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PERUVIAN POLITICS. IT SEEMS THAT THERE IS NO U.S. GRATITUDE TO MONTESINOS FOR HAVING DIRECTED A SUCCESSFUL ANTI-DRUG STRUGGLE.

MCCAFFREY HAD ALREADY TOLERATED DIPLOMATICALLY THE PRESENCE OF THE ADVISOR IN TWO MEETINGS, WHICH THE POLITICAL PARTY OF THE GOVERNMENT USED TO MAKE US BELIEVE THAT MONTESINOS HAD ALREADY OVERCOME HIS BLACK REPUTATION. BUT DISSEMINATING A VIDEO, WHICH WAS NOT A PART OF THE SECOND MEETING, WAS TOO MUCH, AND MCCAFFREY HAS ISSUED WHAT LOOKS LIKE A POLITICAL VETO.

BUT IF MONTESINOS LOOKS DISPENSABLE FOR MCCAFFREY, HE  
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CONTINUES TO BE INDISPENSABLE FOR ALBERTO FUJIMORI.

3. THE HEAD OF LA REPUBLICA INTERNATIONAL SECTION MAURICIO MULDER HEADLINED HIS COLUMN "MANIPULATION WITHOUT BORDERS." EXCERPTS FOLLOW:

THE FACT THAT THE FAN OF FUJIMORI AND FORMER FAN OF MONTESINOS FEELS 'OFFENDED' IS GRAVE, ESPECIALLY IF WE VIEW THE SITUATION WITHIN THE RECENT GOVERNMENT OFFENSIVE AGAINST AMBASSADOR JETT, WHOSE COMMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY ARE UNCOMFORTABLE FOR A GOVERNMENT THAT DOES NOT PRACTICE HUMAN RIGHTS AND DOES NOT RECOGNIZE DEMOCRACY.  
AND IF PRESIDENT FUJIMORI SUPPORTS MONTESINOS, HE WOULD HAVE CALLED GENERAL MCCAFFREY A LIAR, WHICH WOULD BE AT LEAST FOR HIM, A SECOND OFFENSE.

4. RELIABLE BUSINESS DAILY "GESTION" HEADLINED ITS EDITORIAL "BACKFIR." EXCERPTS FOLLOW:  
THE RECENT INCIDENTS SURROUNDING MONTESINOS, FROM WHOM

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GENERAL MCCAFFREY HAS DISTANCED HIMSELF, ARE  
REGRETTABLE.

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THIS TIME, THE APPEARANCE BACKFIRED ON MONTESINOS,  
BECAUSE OF A VERY WRONG CALCULATION ON HOW MUCH ONE CAN  
'PLAY' WITH THE IMAGE OF FOREIGN OFFICIALS FOR ONE'S OWN  
BENEFIT.

THE FACTS ARE OFFENSIVE TO MCCAFFREY AND SHAMEFUL FOR  
THE ADULTERATOR. BUT WE SHOULD NOT LEAVE ASIDE THE  
DAMAGE THAT THIS CAUSES TO PERU'S IMAGE, OR AT LEAST FOR  
ITS GOVERNMENT.

NOW IT WILL BE SAID THAT U.S. OPINION IS NOT RELEVANT.  
BUT, FOR GOOD OR FOR BAD, IT IS. DICKSON

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