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RELEASED IN FULL

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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	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/013W	
				-----412AEF 222205Z /38			

P 222204Z MAY 98
 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
 TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 4435
 SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3226
 AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
 AMEMBASSY QUITO

UNCLAS LIMA 003342

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 VS.
 PERU'S PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS

TWO MAY 22 EDITORIALS COMMENT ON PRESIDENT FUJIMORI'S
 STATEMENT LINKING PRESS FREEDOM WITH THE CASE OF GENERAL
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 BARRY MCCAFFREY AND INTELLIGENCE ADVISOR VLADIMIRO
 MONTESINOS.

1. STRAIGHTFORWARD, RESPECTED DAILY "EL COMERCIO"
 HEADLINED ITS EDITORIAL "THE SIN (NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE
 SERVICE) AND MCCAFFREY INCIDENT: HAS IT ALREADY BEEN
 OVERCOME?" 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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AFTER THE CLARIFICATIONS, AND ASIDE FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT REACTION -WHICH THROUGH ITS EMBASSY IN LIMA QUALIFIED THE INCIDENT AS 'OVERCOME' AT THE FORMAL DIPLOMATIC LEVEL-, IT IS EVIDENT THAT THERE IS A POLITICAL MANIPULATION THAT GREATLY EXCEEDS SIN'S FUNCTIONS.

THEREFORE, IT IS NECESSARY TO SAY THAT THE PRESIDENT'S PARTICIPATION IN THIS CASE IS WRONG: FIRST, ONE CANNOT PRETEND THAT DURING A SIMPLE AND INFORMAL MEETING BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND REPORTERS ONE COULD REACH THE CONCLUSION THAT THERE ARE NO SPECIFIC ACCUSATIONS OR PROOF SUPPLIED BY THE MEDIA AND BY THE CONGRESS ON POSSIBLE LINKS BETWEEN THE SIN AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS.... THERE IS SIGNIFICANT TESTIMONY (TO THIS EFFECT).

SECOND, IT CANNOT BE CONSIDERED NORMAL THAT SIN OFFICIALS ARE INVOLVED IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS WHICH DO NOT ENDANGER NATIONAL SECURITY. THERE ARE DELICATE QUESTIONS: IF THE SIN DARES TO FILM PRIVATE MEETINGS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES, WHAT LIMITS WILL THE SIN RESPECT WITH REGARD TO THE FILMING OF LOCAL POLITICIANS, AND EVEN OF LOCAL BUSINESSMEN? FOR WHOM OR

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WHY IS THE SIN DOING THIS?

WE HAVE TO SAY IT CLEARLY: THIS IS A SEVERE INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL POLITICS AND IN THE TASKS OF THE INDEPENDENT PRESS, AND CANNOT BE TOLERATED.

2. OFFICIAL GAZETTE "EL PERUANO" HEADLINED ITS EDITORIAL "FULL PRESS FREEDOM." EXCERPTS FOLLOW:

CONSIDERING THE FACTS, ONE WONDERS WHY, WHEN A PRESS ORGAN DISSEMINATES CERTAIN INFORMATION IN A SPECIFIC WAY IT IS PRESUMED TO BE MANIPULATED, AND WHEN ANOTHER DOES IT, IT IS AFFIRMED THAT IT DOES IT BACKED BY PRESS FREEDOM. THUS, WHEN TV CHANNEL FIVE BROADCAST THE VIDEO, IT IS ASSUMED THAT THE CHANNEL WAS BEING USED BY THE GOVERNMENT; AND WHEN THIS CHANNEL OR ANY OTHER PUBLISHES SOMETHING CRITICAL OF THE GOVERNMENT, IT IS DONE BACKED BY PRESS FREEDOM. THESE CUNNING ARGUMENTS DEMONSTRATE THAT SOMETHING IS GOING WRONG IN THE

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OPPOSITION THINKING.

THE PROBLEM OF SOME OF THOSE WHO DEFEND PRESS FREEDOM IS THAT THEY ONLY USE IT WHEN IT SUPPORTS THEIR POSITIONS, BUT NOT WHEN IT BENEFITS THEIR POLITICAL ADVERSARIES. PRESIDENT FUJIMORI HAS WELL SAID THAT IN PERU WE FULLY DEFEND PRESS FREEDOM. THEREFORE, GENERAL MCCAFFREY -- LIKE ANY OTHER OFFICIAL OF THE STRONGEST DEMOCRACY IN THE WORLD-- MUST RESPECT THE EXISTING PRESS FREEDOM IN PERU. DICKSON

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