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MEET WITH OPPOSITION CANDIDATE PATRICIO AYLWIN.

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R 111900Z SEP 89 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1622 INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA AMEMBASSY CARACAS AMEMBASSY LA PAZ AMEMBASSY QUITO USAFSD HOWARD AFB P USCINCSO QUARRY HTS AMEMBASSY BRASILIA AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

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1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

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3. OVERVIEW MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS AND RELATED ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS SELECTION AND REGISTRATION OF CANDIDATES, POLITICAL ARN TWISTING, ELECTORAL CHALLENGES, MISSTATEMENTS AND REJOINDERS, OCCUPIED THE MONTH OF AUGUST. FIRST, THE DEMOCRATIC FRONT'S (FREDENO) MAYORAL CANDIDATE FOR LIMA AND THE FRONTRUNNER IN MOST POLLS, EDUARDO ORREGO, REFUSED TO RUN. THEN APRA'S MERCEDES CABAHILLAS WAS FORCED TO RUN AND SOCIALIST ACCORD (ASI) ENRIQUE BERNALES JUMPED IN THANKS TO A CHANGE IN THE LAW THAT WAS LATER CHALLENGED BY THE OPPOSITION. BUT, WHILE THE ESTABLISHED PARTIES REGROUPED, A BUSINESSMAN, RADIO TALKSHOW HOST AND TV STATION OWNER TURNED POLITICIAN -- RICARDO BELMONT -- TOOK THE LEAD IN THE LIMA POLLS.

4. THERE WERE ILLUSTRIOUS FOREIGN GUESTS IN COUNTRY: FORMER PREMIER OF CALCUTTA AND BANARSIAN OPPOSITION LEADERS GUILLERMO FORD AND RICARDO ARIAS CALDFORN. ALL WERE RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT GARCIA. THE PRESIDENT WENT TO BOLIVIA FOR PRESIDENT PACE ZAMORA'S INAUGURATION AND MARIO VARGAS LLOSA TO CHILE FOR THE THEATER OPENING OF ONE OF HIS WORKS AND TO

5. LABOR UNREST PEAKED IN AUGUST WHEN DOCTORS, NINERS, BANK TELLERS, ELECTRICAL COMPANY AND TELEPHONE WORKERS, NEWSPAPER SALESPEOPLE, STATE AND PRIVATE BUS COMPANY DRIVERS AND MECHANICS, PEASANTS, CIVIL SERVANTS AND TEACHERS WERE OR WENT OUT ON STRIKE. MOST STRIKES WERE DECLARED ILLEGAL, AND WORKERS REQUESTS FOR BETTER WAGES WENT UNHEARD. THE DRASTIC SITUATION BECAME EVIDENT WHEN ON AUGUST 29 TWO JAMMED-PACKED STATE COMPANY BUSES DRIVEN BY NEWLY HIRED (STRIKE-BREAKING) DRIVERS COLLIDED. TWENTY DIED ON THE SPOT. THE 70 INJURED PASSENGERS WERE RUSHED TO A NEARBY HOSPITAL; BUT DOCTORS WERE ON STRIKE AND THE INJURED WERE TURNED BACK. AT LEAST FIVE MORE HAVE DIED SINCE THEN.

6. THINGS WERE EQUALLY DISTRESSING ON THE TERRORISM FRONT. AFTER A YEAR OF REGULARLY SPACED (EVERY 45 DAYS) BLACKOUTS, SENDERO TERMINATED BLACKED OUT LIMA AND MANY INTERIOR DEPARTMENTS FOR 21 DAYS IN AUGUST. THE NUMBER OF TERRORISTS KILLED IN THE MONTH DROPPED. FROM JULY'S HIGH, BUT THE LOWER NUMBERS APPEAR RELATED TO RESTRAINED MILITARY REPORTS ON ANTI-SUBVERSION SUCCESSES. THOSE SUCCESSES HAVE NOT SLOWED THE SL'S ANTI-ELECTION CAMPAIGN, INCLUDING THE SELECTIVE ASSASSINATIONS OF MUNICIPAL CANDIDATES. IT IS INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT IN SOME AREAS TO FIND PEOPLE NOW WILLING TO RUN. FACING A HOSTILE ELECTORATE IS ONE THING; FACING SENDERO QUITE ANOTHER.

7. AUGUST WAS A DARK MONTH

IT IS NOT A SCIENTIFIC CONCLUSION, BUT SOME LIMENOS ARE CLAIMING THAT AUGUST, 1989 WAS THE CITY'S BLACKEST SINCE THE BEGINNING OF SENDERO LUMINOSO VIOLENCE IN 1980. THE BLACKOUTS ACTUALLY BEGAN IN JULY. SL TERRORISTS BLEW DOWN POWER LINES ON JULY 21 AND AGAIN ON JULY 26 (LIMA 12615). THE CITY WAS ON POWER RATIONING UNTIL AUGUST 12. AFTER ELECTROLIMA RESTORED SOME SEMBLANCE OF NORMALCY, SENDERO STRUCK AGAIN, DESTROYING FOUR TOWERS ON AUGUST 21.

8. THE HARDEST HITS WERE THE RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS, RICH AND POOR ALIKE. WEALTHY SUBURBS WERE WITHOUT POWER FOR 12 HOUR STRETCHES; SLUM AREAS WERE ALSO TURNED OFF, BUT OFTEN FOR LONGER THAN 12 HOURS. LINES FOR KEROSENE, THE COOKING AND LIGHTING ALTERNATIVE WHEN THERE IS NO POWER, STRETCHED FOR BLOCKS AT SERVICE STATIONS. BY THE END OF AUGUST, KEROSENE WAS IN SHORT SUPPLY, AND SO WAS PATIENCE IN SOME OF THE POOR NEIGHBORHOODS WE VISITED.

9. ON AUGUST 31 (21 DAYS OF THE MONTH WERE BROWIED OUT) ELECTROLIMA ANNOUNCED THAT THE BATTERED ELECTRICAL GRID HAD BEEN PATCHED AND THAT THE POWER RATIONING WOULD END. UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, OF COURSE. SENDERO'S CYCLE OF BLACKOUTS EVERY 40 TO 50 DAYS HAS BEEN ABANDONED. THESE THREE ATTACKS IN THREE WEEKS APPEAR TO BE PART OF THE SL'S PLANNED ELECTION STRATEGY. NOT ONLY HAS LIMA SUFFERED. MOST AREAS IN THE CENTRAL SIERRA HAVE ALSO UNDERGONE LENGTHY BLACK-OUTS, MANY CAUSED BY ADDITIONAL DESTRUCTION OF LOCAL TOWERS. NOT ON THE CENTRAL GRID SUPPLY TO LIMA. SENDERO HAS USED THE COVER OF DARKNESS CREATED BY THE DOWNED LINES TO ATTACK MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, POLICE STATIONS AND COOPERATIVE PROJECTS IN QUACONCO AND JUNIN DEPARTMENTS. EJECT ON DAY, NOVEMBER 12, WILL LIKELY BE A DARK ONE FOR LIMA AND FOR MANY CITIES IN SURROUNDING AREAS.

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SENDERO CHOOSES CANDIDATES

10. SENATOR ENRIQUE BERNALES TOLD US IN MARCH THAT SENDERO LUMINGOSO WOULD SECRETLY RUN SOME OF ITS OWN CANDIDATES IN THE NOVEMBER MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS. IN A SENSE, THE TERRORISTS ARE ALREADY "CHOOSING" CANDIDATES. BUT TO DATE THE SELECTION HAS BEEN SOLELY OF THOSE WHO WILL DIE. IN ADDITION TO THE INCUMBENT ELECTED OFFICIALS, THE TERRORISTS HAVE ALSO BEGUN TO KILL AND THREATEN CANDIDATES.

11. ON AUGUST 24 SUSPECTED SL TERRORISTS KILLED SAMUEL UMALIA, SOCIALIST ACCORD CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR OF CERRO DE PASCO, CAPITAL AND LARGEST CITY OF THE PASCO DEPARTMENT. CERRO DE PASCO IS ONE OF PERU'S MOST IMPORTANT SIERRA MINING TOWNS. UMALIA WAS SNATCHED FROM HIS HOME DURING THE NIGHT AND SHOT THREE TIMES IN THE HEAD.

12. ON AUGUST 27 SUSPECTED SL BOMBED THE HUANCAMELICA HOME OF RAFAEL AND EMMA BEHAVIDES. BOTH ARE ACTIVE IN THE FREDENO. MR. BEHAVIDES IS PPC SECRETARY GENERAL FOR THE HUANCAMELICA DEPARTMENT, HIS WIFE IS CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR OF THE CAPITAL CITY. BOTH WERE INJURED IN THE ATTEMPT.

TRYING TO FIND AN IU CHAIRMAN

13. IT IS A SUBJECT THE UNITED LEFT (IU) LEADERSHIP DOESN'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT. BUT THE FACT IS THAT THE IU NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAS NOT HAD A LEGAL CHAIRMAN SINCE JULY 26 WHEN JORGE DEL PRADO'S SIX-MONTH ROTATIONAL TERM OFFICIALLY EXPIRED. THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL ATTEMPTS SINCE TO NAME A NEW CHAIR FROM AMONG THE FOUR PARTIES (PCP, PUM, UHIR, FOCEP) AND TWO GROUPS (INDEPENDENT CHRISTIANS AND REGIONAL MARIATEGUIST COMMITTEES) REPRESENTED ON THE IU BOARD. NONE HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL.

14. OUR SOURCES TELL US THAT PUM WAS SUPPOSED TO GET THE NEXT SIX MONTHS IN THE CHAIR, BUT WITH THE CURRENT FISTICUFFS OVER ALFONSO BARRANTES' POSSIBLE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY, NO ONE (NOT EVEN PUM) WANTS THE RADICAL PUMISTAS, PRESIDING OVER THE IU. TO IU SENATOR GUSTAVO HOMME THE PROBLEM IS A MINOR TECHNICALITY: THE BOARD IS HERELY TRYING TO DECIDE WHETHER THE NEXT CHAIR SHOULD BE ASSIGNED ALPHABETICALLY ACCORDING TO PARTY NAME OR BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE BOARD.

15. OF COURSE NO ONE BELIEVES THAT LANE EXPLANATION. THE PROBLEM IS BARRANTES: THERE ARE THOSE IN THE IU WHO WANT HIM TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT AND THOSE WHO DON'T. AND THE FURTHER PROBLEM AMONG THOSE WHO WANT HIM: UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS. THE NATIONAL BOARD BEGAN A SERIES OF DAILY MEETINGS AUGUST 30 AND PROMISES US A NEW CHAIRMAN, AND A FINAL LIST OF IU PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES, BY EARLY SEPTEMBER. PERU PREPARES FOR THE 6-8 SUMMIT MEETING

16. FOREIGN MINISTER LARCO COX ANNOUNCED AUGUST 16 THAT EVERYTHING WAS READY FOR THE 6-8 (MINUS PANAMA) SUMMIT IN PERU, OCTOBER 7-13. MFA WORKER BEES ARE STILL BUSY MAKING PREPARATIONS THAT HAVE EVEN INCLUDED BUYING NEW BEDDING FOR THE MILITARY BEACH RESORT IN ANCON, NORTH OF LIMA, WHERE THE PRESIDENTS

WILL BE STAYING. THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEES WILL MEET IN LIMA, OCTOBER 7-8; FOREIGN MINISTERS WILL GO TO TRUJILLO, OCTOBER 9-10; AND ALL, PLUS THE PRESIDENTS, TO AJCON OCTOBER 11-13. LARCO ANNOUNCED THAT THE MAIN TOPICS OF THE MEETING WILL BE FOREIGN DEBT, ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT, NARCOTRAFFICKING AND SUBVERSION. ACCORDING TO MFA SOURCES, PERU HAS ALREADY CIRCULATED A DRAFT FINAL DECLARATION ADDRESSING THOSE ISSUES PLUS CENTRAL AMERICA. THE PLANNED INITIATIVES ARE PROPOSALS FOR LATIN AMERICAN INTEGRATION THROUGH INCREASED TRADE AND WAYS OF DEALING WITH INTRA-LATIN AMERICAN DEBT. THE PLANNING FOR THE MEETING IS BEING COORDINATED BY PERU'S AMBASSADOR TO CANADA WHO WAS SUMMONED BACK TO LIMA FOR THE JOB. THE BIGGEST JOB OF ALL, HOWEVER, WILL BE PROVIDING SECURITY FOR THE MANY OFFICIAL GUESTS.

FREDENO AND LIBERTAD MAKE IT OFFICIAL

17. THE DEMOCRATIC FRONT (FREDENO) OFFICIALLY REGISTERED AS AN ELECTORAL COALITION BEFORE THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS BOARD (JNE) IN EARLY AUGUST. IT WILL NOW BE ABLE TO LEGALLY FIELD ITS CANDIDATES FOR THE MUNICIPAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL ELECTIONS. THE FIVE POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS FORMALLY INSCRIBED IN THE COALITION ARE: MARIO VARGAS LLOSA'S MOVIMIENTO LIBERTAD, ACCION POPULAR (AP), PARTIDO POPULAR CRISTIANO (PPC), SOLIDARIDAD Y DEMOCRACIA (SODE), AND UNION CIVICA INDEPENDIENTE (UCI). ITS OFFICIAL ELECTORAL SYMBOL WAS ALSO UNVEILED. RATHER THAN SIMPLY COMBINING THE ELECTORAL SYMBOLS OF THE MEMBER PARTIES (AS SOME FEARED), AN ALL NEW FIGURE WAS CREATED. IN WHAT IS DESCRIBED AS A MOTIF CHARACTERISTIC OF THE ANCIENT HAZCA CULTURE, THE SYMBOL IS A SPARTAN DRAWING OF A FIVE-STEP ASCENDING STAIRCASE WITHIN A BOX:



18. FORMALIZING ITS OWN STATUS, MOVIMIENTO LIBERTAD CONCLUDED ITS SIGNATURE COLLECTION DRIVE, PRESENTED MORE THAN 400,000 SIGNATURES TO THE JNE AND WAS INSCRIBED AS AN "INDEPENDENT GROUP" (GRUPACION DE INDEPENDIENTES). VARGAS LLOSA ANNOUNCED THAT LIBERTAD'S INSCRIPTION - SHORT OF FORMAL POLITICAL PARTY STATUS - WOULD NOT CHANGE "AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER" NEXT JULY 28, INAUGURATION DAY.

ANOTHER BIRTHDAY FOR LIBERTAD

19. MARIO VARGAS LLOSA'S LIBERTAD MOVEMENT CELEBRATED ITS SECOND ANNIVERSARY WITH A COME ONE, COME ALL PEP RALLY AT LIMA'S AHUATA COLISEUM THE EVENING OF AUGUST 29TH. ALTHOUGH LIBERTAD ORGANIZERS WERE ANGRY OF DISCOVERING NEW PARTY MEMBERS PAYING SLUM RESIDENTS NOT TO BOARD THE FREE LIBERTAD BUSES TO THE EVENT, THE COLISEUM NONETHELESS FILLED

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CLOSE TO CAPACITY WITH A BROAD CROSS-SECTION OF
LINEHOS. RICH AND POOR ALIKE APPLAUDED THE
PROCESSION OF PERUVIAN REGIONAL FOLKLORE DANCES AND
SONGS (THE BIGGEST HIT CLEARLY BEING THE VERY
UNPERUVIAN, OH-SO-BARELY CLAD SAMBA DANCERS).

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20. NEITHER LIMA'S "UPPER CRUST" NOR WORKING CLASS
GAVE MORE THAN PRO-FORMA APPLAUSE TO LIBERTAD
SECRETARY GENERAL MIGUEL CRUCHAGA'S LENGTHY, ACADEMIC
DISCOURSE ON THE PERUVIAN CONDITION, REplete WITH
PONDEROUS QUOTES FROM MARCEL PROUST. WHEN VARGAS
LLOSA FINALLY APPEARFD AND BEGAN TO SPEAK -- ALMOST 4
HOURS AFTER THE "OFFICIAL" STARTING TIME OF THE EVENT.
-- THE CROWD WAS ALREADY STARTING TO FADE,
LITERALLY. BY THE TIME HE FINISHED SPEAKING AN HOUR
LATER, FOUR-FIFTHS OF THE CROWD HAD WALKED OUT ON
HIM. ALTHOUGH PUBLICLY LIBERTAD IS CALLING THE RALLY
A SUCCESS, IT WILL SOON ANNOUNCE THE APPOINTMENT OF A
NEW DIRECTOR OF ORGANIZATION.
GHERSI'S AX

21. LIBERTAD'S SECRETARY FOR CULTURE AND IDEOLOGY,
ENRIQUE GHERSI, GOT HIMSELF IN A TIGHT SPOT WHEN
LOCAL NEWSPAPERS REPORTED THAT WHILE IN CHILE, GHERSI
HAD PROPOSED THE FIRING OF 500,000 BUREAUCRATS IN A
FREDEMO ADMINISTRATION. GHERSI HAD TO REINTERPRET
HIS STATEMENT IN LIMA BY SAYING THAT TO
"DE-BUREAUCRATIZE" WAS NOT THE SAME THINGS AS FIRING
BUREAUCRATS. HULL ALSO CAME TO HIS RESCUE SAYING THE
500,000 WOULD BE TRANSFERED TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR.
IT IS NECESSARY TO "LIGHTEN" THE STATE'S UNPRODUCTIVE
BUREAUCRACY BUT NOT FIRE PUBLIC SECTOR PERSONNEL IN A
CRUEL AND INHUMAN WAY. THE CANDIDATE STATED. MANY
WHO CONSIDER THE STATE'S BLOATED BUREAUCRACY A MAJOR
PROBLEM WERE DISAPPOINTED BY THIS RE-INTERPRETATION.
PRESIDENT GARCIA JUSTIFIED THE INCREASE IN THE SIZE
OF THE BUREAUCRACY BY BLAMING THE PRIVATE SECTOR FOR
"NOT KNOWING HOW OR WANTING" TO CREATE NEW JOBS.

INTERNATIONAL ELECTION OBSERVERS

22. LIBERTY MOVEMENT WAS AGAIN ASKED THAT FOREIGN
ELECTION OBSERVERS BE INVITED TO WITNESS APRIL'S
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. THIS IS THE SECOND TIME
LIBERTAD HAS BROUGHT UP THE ISSUE SINCE THE CAMPAIGN
STARTED. THIS TIME, THE REASON OFFERED WAS LACK OF
CONFIDENCE IN THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL
ELECTIONS BOARD, CARLOS CASTANEDA LA FONTAINE.
APPARENTLY, CASTANEDA'S TIES TO APRA IN HIS YOUTH AND
TO THE MILITARY GOVERNMENTS ARE NOT TO LIBERTAD'S
LIKING. CASTANEDA AND SEVERAL TOP GOVERNMENT FIGURES
CAME OUT (AGAIN) AGAINST THE IDEA OF OBSERVERS,
PROMISING THAT ELECTIONS WOULD BE ORDERLY, OPEN AND
CLEAN.

PAPER BOYS (AND GIRLS) GO ON STRIKE

23. BILLED AS A CRASS POLITICAL ATTEMPT TO FORCE THE
CLOSING OF "OJO", LIMA'S LARGEST CIRCULATION AND
PRO-FREDEMO DAILY, NEWSPAPER SALESPEOPLE ALL OVER
LIMA AND SOME MAJOR CITIES WENT ON STRIKE AUGUST
23-27. IT ALL STARTED WHEN THE NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES AND LOTTERY SELLERS
REQUESTED AN INCREASE IN THE PERCENTAGE OF THE SALE
PRICE THE SELLER GETS. STANDING AT 35 PERCENT FOR
DAILY AND 40 PERCENT FOR SUNDAYS, THE BID AGAINST
"OJO" WAS TO KEEP 35 AND 60 PERCENT RESPECTIVELY.

THE FEDERATION'S REQUEST WAS CONSIDERED UNFAIR BY
MANY BECAUSE (1) EARNING PERCENTAGES OF THE PRICE OF
PAPERS IS A FORM OF INCOME INDEXATION AND THUS
PROTECTION AGAINST INFLATION; AND (2) NEWSPAPERS
SALES HAVE DROPPED DRAMATICALLY IN RECENT MONTHS AND
MANY PAPERS ARE ON THE VERGE OF BANKRUPTCY. THE
BOYCOTT WAS THEN EXTENDED TO OTHER NEWSPAPERS.
JOURNALISTS AND NEWSPAPER WORKERS WENT TO THE STREETS
TO SELL THEIR PAPERS AND IN SEVERAL INSTANCES WERE
BEATEN AND THEIR PAPERS DESTROYED BY MEMBERS OF THE
FEDERATION. MANY OTHERS ATTEMPTING TO DISTRIBUTE
PAPERS WERE THREATENED BY PEOPLE WITH STICKS AND
STONES TO ABIDE BY THE STRIKE.

24. PRESIDENT GARCIA WAS ENERGETIC IN HIS
CONDEMNATION OF THE STRIKE BECAUSE IT INTERFERED WITH
FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND DENIED ALLEGATIONS THAT
THERE WERE POLITICAL FORCES BEHIND THE STRIKE. THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NEWSPAPERS SIDED WITH "OJO"
AND WARNED THAT WHAT WAS AT STAKE WAS DEMOCRATIC
STABILITY. THE COLLEGE OF JOURNALISTS PRESENTED A
LEGAL COMPLAINT AGAINST FEDERATION LEADERS FOR
"ATTEMPTING" AGAINST FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION. THEN,
JUST AS QUICKLY AS THEY HAD DISAPPEARED, PAPERS
APPEARED AGAIN.

UPCOMING EVENTS

25. IN SEPTEMBER, PERU WILL SUFFER THROUGH MORE
BLACKOUTS AND OTHER SENDERO VIOLENCE AS THE
TERRORISTS WAGE THEIR ANTI-ELECTION CAMPAIGN.
LEGITIMATE ELECTION FEVER WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO RISE
AS THE MUNICIPAL CANDIDATES VIE FOR FIRST PLACE IN
THE POLLS. APRA CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES AND LUIS
ALVA CASTRO'S RUNNING MATES WILL BE REVEALED
(FINALLY) SEPTEMBER 22 AT A MASS MEETING IN THE HUGE
PLAZA SAN MARTIN. BOTH PRESIDENT GARCIA AND MARIO
VARGAS LLOSA WILL TRAVEL TO THE US, GARCIA TO DELIVER
A SPEECH AT THE UNGA AND HULL TO GATHER SUPPORT FOR
HIS CAMPAIGN. WE ALSO EXPECT ALFONSO BARRANTES TO
ANNOUNCE HIS PRESIDENTIAL PLANS. WE THINK HE WILL
RUN. THE DECISION WILL SPARK IU COALITION SCRAMBLING
AS MOST IU MUNICIPAL CANDIDATES LOOK FOR WAYS TO TIE
THEIR POLITICAL FORTUNES TO BARRANTES' POPULARITY.

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