

[REDACTED]
n/a
Case Number: 200102877

[REDACTED] PTO1289

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ACTION WHA-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	ACQ-01	CIAE-00	INL-01	DINT-00	DODE-00
	DOEE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	OIGO-01	FBIE-00	H-01
	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	JUSE-00	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00
	AC-01	DCP-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01
	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	STR-00
	TRSE-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-01	DRL-02	G-00
	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/016W				

-----E5F8BD 272308Z /38

P 272305Z JUL 99
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9723
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USCINCSO MIAMI FL

[REDACTED] LIMA 004656

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/26/09
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PINR, PHUM, PE

SUBJECT: FUJIMORI MOVES INTERIOR MINISTER GENERAL JOSE
VILLANUEVA RUESTA TO DEFENSE

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REF: (A) 99 LIMA 0128 (B) 98 LIMA 8131 AND PREVIOUS

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, HEATHER HODGES, US
EMBASSY LIMA FOR REASON 1.5 D.

2. (U) ON SATURDAY, JULY 24, PRESIDENT ALBERTO FUJIMORI NAMED
INTERIOR MINISTER AND ARMY GENERAL JOSE VILLANUEVA RUESTA TO THE
PRESIDENCY OF THE ARMED FORCES JOINT COMMAND. IN A MILITARY
CEREMONY PRESIDED BY MINISTER OF DEFENSE GENERAL CARLOS BERGAMINO
CRUZ, VILLANUEVA RUESTA THANKED AN ABSENT PRESIDENT FUJIMORI FOR
HIS NOMINATION, AND EMPHASIZED THE SPECIAL ROLE THE ARMED FORCES
MUST PLAY IN STRENGTHENING THE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN
ECUADOR AND PERU. PROMISING TO INSTITUTE JOINT TRAINING PROGRAMS

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AND OFFICIAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, VILLANUEVA RUESTA ALSO UNDERScoreD THE NEED TO "...ESTABLISH THE NEW PROFILE OF THE MILITARY OFFICIAL" IN ORDER TO SUCCESSFULLY FACE THE "CHALLENGE OF THE NEW CENTURY."

3. (C) VILLANUEVA RUESTA REPLACES GENERAL CESAR SAUCEDO SANCHEZ, NOMINATED ELEVEN MONTHS AGO, FOLLOWING THE SUDDEN DEPARTURE OF SEVEN-YEAR INCUMBENT, GENERAL NICOLAS DE BARI HERMOZA RIOS. GENERAL SAUCEDO SANCHEZ, WHO HAD JUST SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION LATE EVENING, JULY 24, WAS NEVER CONSIDERED A STRONG PLAYER WITHIN THE FUJIMORI CABINET. HE IS SCHEDULED TO RETIRE IN DECEMBER OF 1999 ALONG WITH THE CURRENT MINISTER OF DEFENSE, GENERAL CARLOS BERGAMINO CRUZ, AND PERU'S MILITARY ATTACHE TO THE UNITED STATES, GENERAL MARCO RODRIGUEZ HUERTA. VILLANUEVA'S REPLACEMENT AT THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR IS EXPECTED TO BE ANNOUNCED EARLY NEXT WEEK.

4. (C) IN ADDRESSING THE AUDIENCE, VILLANUEVA RUESTA

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ACKNOWLEDGED THE PRESENCE OF PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR AND DE FACTO HEAD OF PERU'S INTELLIGENCE SERVICE, VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS--THE ONLY CIVILIAN AMONG THE MILITARY MEN ON THE REVIEW STAND. NOT COINCIDENTALLY, VILLANUEVA RUESTA IS A MEMBER OF THE NOW FAMOUS MILITARY GRADUATING CLASS OF 1966--MONTESINOS' CLASS--AND IS EXPECTED TO BE A LOYAL, UNQUESTIONING SUPPORTER OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR.

5. (C) COMMENT: VILLANUEVA'S LONG RUMORED APPOINTMENT TO THIS POSITION BRINGS TO FOUR THE NUMBER OF GENERALS FROM MONTESINOS' CLASS FILLING THE ARMED FORCES TOP GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISIONS, AND FURTHER CONSOLIDATES MONTESINOS' CONTROL OVER THE MILITARY. (IRONICALLY, IT WAS THE MILITARY WHO DISHONORABLY DISCHARGED MONTESINOS YEARS AGO ON CHARGES OF PASSING SECRETS TO THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY). FOR PRESIDENT FUJIMORI, VILLANUEVA REPRESENTS GUARANTEED LOYALTY DURING A PRE-ELECTION PERIOD IN WHICH THE MILITARY MAY BE EXPECTED TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S CAMPAIGN STRATEGY. MOREOVER, VILLANUEVA'S JOB AS MINISTER OF INTERIOR HAS GIVEN HIM CONSIDERABLE FAMILIARITY WITH THE NATIONAL POLICE AS WELL AS WITH THE DRUG PROGRAM--ASSETS THAT WILL HELP IN WHAT FUJIMORI SEES AS THE FINAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST TERRORIST CELLS AND NARCO-TERRORIST ELEMENTS IN THE COUNTRY.

HODGES

n/a