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Case Number: 200102877

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RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.5(D)

PTQ4562

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO LOG-00 CCOE-00 SAS-00 /000W
-----FAF80E 221611Z /38

P 221605Z SEP 99
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0640

SECTION 01 OF 02 LIMA 006197

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/22/03
TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, PE
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS, 17 SEPTEMBER
1999

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR JOHN R. HAMILTON, EMBASSY
LIMA. REASON: 1.5 (D).

2. (S) SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR [REDACTED] HAD WIDE-
RANGING DISCUSSION SEPTEMBER 17 WITH GOP SECURITY CHIEF
MONTESINOS, COVERING HUMAN RIGHTS (IVCHER CASE IN
PARTICULAR), NARCOTICS AND REGIONAL SECURITY. END SUMMARY.

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3. (S) ON SEPTEMBER 17, 1999, AMBASSADOR [REDACTED] MET
WITH PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS AT THE
AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE. MONTESINOS BEGAN BY STATING THAT
HE HAD BEEN BRIEFED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER ON HIS SEPT 15
MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR AND THAT THE GOP WOULD LIKE TO

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COME QUICKLY TO AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. ON A NEW
EXTRADITION TREATY AS WELL AS A BILATERAL INVESTMENT TREATY
(BIT). IN THE ENSUING DISCUSSION, HE RESPONDED POSITIVELY
TO AMBASSADOR'S NOTING AG RENO'S INTEREST IN FINDING
RELIABLE MEANS OF SHARING DOCUMENTS NEEDED FOR CRIMINAL
PROSECUTION AND EXTRADITION ELECTRONICALLY.

4. (S) HUMAN RIGHTS FIGURED PROMINENTLY IN THE
CONVERSATION. MONTESINOS ADMITTED THERE HAD BEEN EXCESSES
IN THE EARLY 1990'S, BUT SAID THAT THE SITUATION HAD
CHANGED FOR THE BETTER. MOREOVER, HE ARGUED THAT MANY

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: MELVIN E. SINN
DATE/CASE ID: 20 NOV 2002 200102877

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ABUSES WERE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SIE (ARMY INTELLIGENCE) AND NOT THE SIN (NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE). AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS CURRENTLY ARE MORE FOCUSED ON ISSUES SUCH AS FREEDOM OF THE PRESS, CONCENTRATION OF POWER IN THE EXECUTIVE AND THE JUDICIARY. MONTESINOS NOTED THAT, FOLLOWING HIS PROMISE DURING THE VISIT OF GENERAL MCCAFFREY, HE HAS BEGUN A DIALOGUE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S HUMAN RIGHTS OMBUDSMAN AND WOULD SOON BEGIN A DIALOGUE WITH THE "COORDINADORA," A HUMAN RIGHTS UMBRELLA GROUP. HE ADDED THAT THE EMBASSY IS WELCOME TO ATTEND THE DIALOGUE. FINALLY, MONTESINOS STATED THAT, WHILE THE SECURITY SERVICES HAD CONCERNS ABOUT MANY OF THE 52 NAMES PRESENTED BY THE AD HOC PARDONS COMMISSION FOR CONSIDERATION FOR PARDONS FOR TERRORIST ACTIVITY, THE PRESIDENT WILL ANNOUNCE PARDONS FOR APPROXIMATELY 20 PEOPLE, PROBABLY THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 20. THIS WAS AN AGREEMENT REACHED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS OMBUDSMAN.

5. (S) AMBASSADOR BROUGHT UP THE BARUCH IVCHER CONTROVERSY
[REDACTED]

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AND THE NEED FOR THE GOP TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE, WHICH WILL OTHERWISE CONTINUE TO HAVE NEGATIVE REPERCUSSIONS FOR PERU'S STANDING ABROAD WITH RESPECT TO PRESS FREEDOM. MONTESINOS REPEATED THE OFFICIAL GOP POSITION THAT IVCHER'S PROBLEMS WITH HIS PARTNERS HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE REVOCATION OF HIS PERUVIAN CITIZENSHIP. IVCHER'S CITIZENSHIP WAS NOT IN FACT REVOKED BECAUSE HE NEVER LEGALLY OBTAINED THAT CITIZENSHIP, WHICH WAS CONTINGENT ON HIM RENOUNCING HIS ISRAELI CITIZENSHIP BEFOREHAND - A CONDITION WITH WHICH HE NEVER COMPLIED. MONTESINOS ADDED THAT IF IVCHER PRESENTS THE GOP WITH PROOF THAT HE HAS RENOUNCED HIS ISRAELI CITIZENSHIP, HIS PERUVIAN CITIZENSHIP WILL BE RESTORED. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE GOP HAD DEMONSTRATED ITS "GOOD FAITH" IN RENEWING IVCHER'S PASSPORT.

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] THE AMBASSADOR OBSERVED THAT, WHILE HE DID NOT DISPUTE MONTESINOS' VERSION, THE FACT THAT IVCHER MET WITH DIFFICULTIES AFTER RUNNING STORIES CRITICAL OF THE GOVERNMENT ON HIS TV CHANNEL CAST PERU IN A TERRIBLE LIGHT. MONTESINOS NOTED THE GOP WAS HIRING A WELL-KNOWN WASHINGTON LAW FIRM TO PRESENT ITS SIDE OF THE ISSUE TO THE U.S. PRESS AND CONGRESS.

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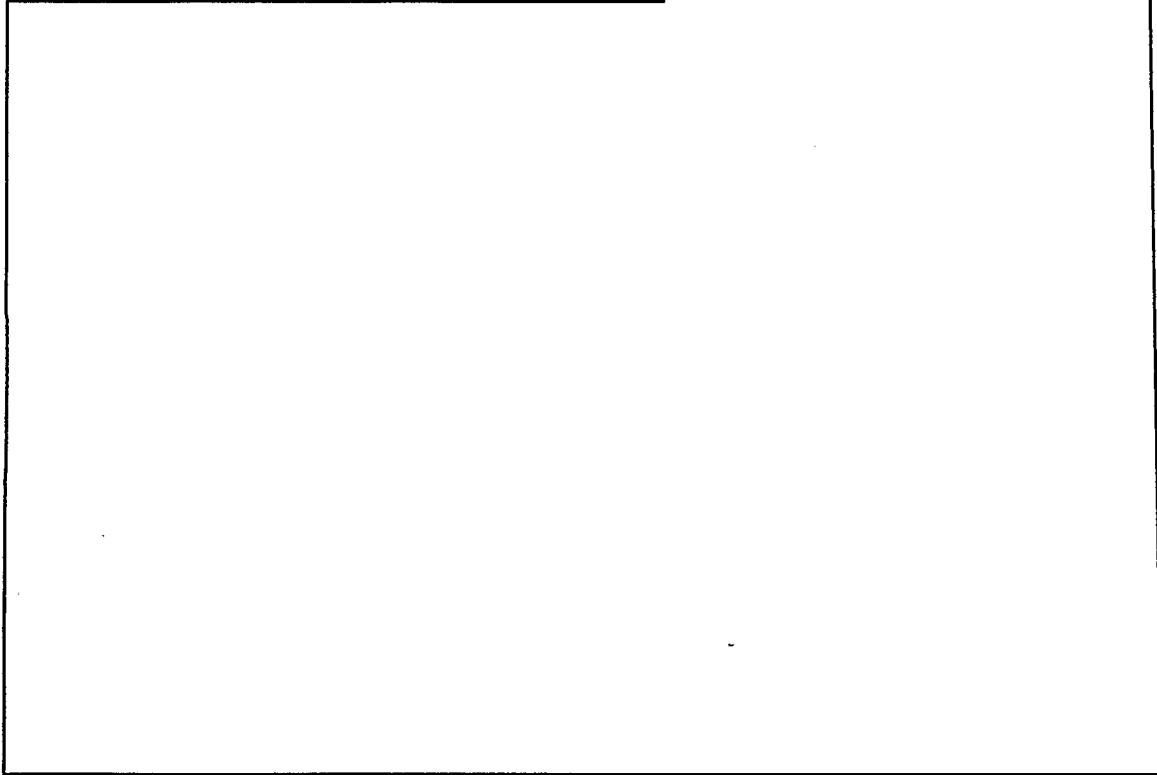
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6. (S) MONTESINOS ALSO SPOKE AT LENGTH, AND WITH MINIMAL PROMPTING, ABOUT REGIONAL ISSUES.

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0641

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8. (S) ON COUNTERNARCOTICS, MONTESINOS EXPLAINED HIS NEW PLAN FOR A BETTER COORDINATED GOP EFFORT AND THE ADVANCES HE HAD MADE IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION. HE EMPHASIZED THAT, ASIDE FROM HIS CONCENTRATION ON INTERDICTION, HE IS ALSO ORGANIZING A LARGE EFFORT AGAINST TRADE IN PRECURSOR CHEMICALS, CORRUPTION AND MONEY LAUNDERING. FINALLY, HE PRESENTED THE RESULTS OF HIS RECENT FORAY INTO ERADICATION AND SAID THAT, BY USING THE NEW POLICE CN BATALLION FOR

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SECURITY FOR CORAH (ERADICATION AGENCY) WORKERS INSTEAD OF ACTUAL ERADICATION, MORE ERADICATION WOULD RESULT. MONTESINOS ARGUED THAT IF WE BACKED HIS ERADICATION EFFORTS THE RESULTS WOULD INCREASE BY 30 PERCENT AND THAT WE COULD ELIMINATE ALL ILLICIT PRODUCTION IN FIVE YEARS OR LESS.

9. (S) FINALLY, DURING A PRIVATE CONVERSATION [REDACTED] AS HE LEFT THE RESIDENCE, MONTESINOS NOTED [REDACTED] THAT THE GOP WOULD RESOLVE THE LORI BERENSON CASE BY DECEMBER. HE SAID THAT SHE WOULD BE RETRIED BY A CIVILIAN COURT AND HER NEW SENTENCE WOULD BE FOR 15 TO 20 YEARS. AFTER THE TRIAL SHE WOULD BE ABLE TO RETURN TO THE U.S. WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE EXISTING PRISONER EXCHANGE AGREEMENT.

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10. (S) COMMENT: WE ARE ADDRESSING QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE BERENSON CASE COMPREHENSIVELY VIA SEPTTEL. AS WITH OTHER USG INTERLOCUTORS IN RECENT MEETINGS, MONTESINOS SEEMS ANXIOUS TO BE ACCEPTED IN RESPECTABLE COMPANY. WHILE THERE WAS NO GIVE ON THE IVCHER (PRESS FREEDOM) CASE, THE PROSPECT OF MOVEMENT ON THE BERENSON CASE IS ENCOURAGING, AS IS THE POSSIBILITY OF CONCLUDING BIT AND EXTRADITION TREATIES.

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