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n/a

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ORIGIN WHA-01

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	AMAD-01	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	INL-01
	DEAE-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	H-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	IO-00	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	IRM-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00
	T-00	USIE-00	SGHD-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	LBA-01	PRM-01
	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00	/015R			

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/07/04

TAGS: PHUM, PREL, AORC, PE

SUBJECT: TOUR D'HORIZON WITH PERU'S COORDINADORA DE
DERECHOS HUMANOS

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1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY WILLIAM R. BROWNFIELD, REASON
1.5(D).

2. (U) WHA DAS WILLIAM R. BROWNFIELD MET OCTOBER 5 WITH
SOFIA MACHER (DIRECTOR, PERU'S "COORDINADORA DE DERECHOS
HUMANOS"), FRANCISCO SOBERON, APRODEH (PRO-HUMAN RIGHTS
ASSOCIATION), PABLO ROJAS, COMISEDH (HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION), AND COLETTA YOUNGERS, WASHINGTON OFFICE ON
LATIN AMERICA (WOLA). TOPICS DISCUSSED WERE PERU'S
WITHDRAWAL FROM THE INTER-AMERICAN COURT ON HUMAN RIGHTS

n/a

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n/a

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(IACHR)'S CONTENTIOUS JURISDICTION; PERU'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN 2000; THE OVERALL STATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN PERU; AND RELATIONS BETWEEN GOP NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS AND THE NGO COMMUNITY.

IACHR

3. (C) MACHER STRESSED THE NEED FOR STRONG STATEMENTS FROM ALL OAS MEMBER STATES ON PERU'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE IACHR'S CONTENTIOUS JURISDICTION. THE COORDINADORA HAS BEEN CANVASSING VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS FOR SUPPORT: MACHER BELIEVES PARAGUAY AND COSTA RICA ARE READY TO CO-SPONSOR A RESOLUTION ON THE WITHDRAWAL; ARGENTINA, PANAMA, HONDURAS MAY SUPPORT A RESOLUTION; WHILE URUGUAY, MEXICO, BOLIVIA AND CHILE ARE UNLIKELY TO LEND THEIR SUPPORT. MACHER'S DELEGATION IS TRAVELING TO CANADA FOLLOWING THEIR STOP IN WASHINGTON TO ASK THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE THE NEXT OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY (TO BE HOSTED BY CANADA) CONTAINS

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AN AGENDA ITEM ON BOTH PERU AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S DECISION TO PARTIALLY WITHDRAW FROM THE IACHR.

4. (SBU) MACHER SUGGESTED THE USG CAN PLAY A KEY ROLE IN SUPPORTING AN OAS RESOLUTION, AND THAT WE COULD COUCH OUR SUPPORT IN TERMS OF DEFENDING THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM. SHE NOTED THAT MANY JUDICIAL SYSTEMS IN THE REGION ARE WEAK AND IN NEED OF A SUPRANATIONAL STRUCTURE AS A MEANS OF APPEAL. THE COORDINADORA IS ALSO WORKING WITH THE U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION IN GENEVA TO INTRODUCE AN ITEM ON NEXT YEAR'S COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AGENDA ON PERU, TRINIDAD AND JAMAICA. BROWNFIELD TOLD MACHER WE WILL LOOK AT A RESOLUTION WHEN ONE IS DRAFTED, AND SAID WE WOULD BE IN CONTACT WITH THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT. HE REMINDED HER THAT THE USG HAD ALREADY TAKEN A PUBLIC POSITION IN PERU AND IN THE OAS ON PERU'S WITHDRAWAL, EXPRESSING CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS IN PERU AND THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM.

ELECTIONS

5. (C) BROWNFIELD ASKED WHAT CONCRETE ACTIONS THE USG

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COULD TAKE TO SUPPORT A TRANSPARENT ELECTORAL PROCESS IN THE RUN-UP TO THE APRIL 2000 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. MACHER RESPONDED THAT INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATION OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS (V. DAY-OF BALLOTING) WOULD BE IMPORTANT, AS WOULD CLEAR USG STATEMENTS AGAINST ANY EGREGIOUS ACTS BY THE GOP TO MANIPULATE THE PROCESS.

SHE CITED THE U.S. HOUSE RESOLUTION 57 (SPONSORED BY REP. CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 189883 072015Z BENJAMIN GILMAN) WHICH HAD PASSED THE DAY BEFORE, ON PRESS FREEDOM AND THE IVCHER CASE, AS A GOOD EXAMPLE. BROWNFIELD WONDERED WHETHER THE GOP WOULD COMMIT ACTS SO BLATANT AS TO EXPOSE ITSELF TO THAT KIND OF CRITICISM.

6. (SBU) BROWNFIELD ASKED MACHER IF SHE EXPECTED FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS. SHE REPLIED THAT ALL IS NOT LOST YET, THE OPPOSITION COULD WIN IN A SECOND ROUND IF THE VARIOUS GROUPS ORGANIZED AND UNITED, BUT THERE MAY BE SOME BALLOT-BOX FRAUD IN THE RURAL AREAS.

GENERAL HUMAN RIGHTS

7. (U) THE GROUP ACKNOWLEDGED THE OVERALL HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN PERU HAD IMPROVED, BUT ONLY IN COMPARISON TO THE NADIR OF ABUSES COMMITTED DURING THE WAR ON TERRORISM SEVERAL YEARS AGO. WHILE POLITICALLY-DRIVEN ABUSES ARE DOWN AND THE NUMBER OF EMERGENCY ZONES (WHERE CIVIL LIBERTIES ARE REDUCED) HAS DECREASED, CASES ON IMPRISONED "INNOCENTS" ARE STILL PENDING, IMPUNITY FOR THE ARMED FORCES REMAINS PREVALENT, AND THE MILITARY MUST RECONCILE PAST ABUSES WITH CIVIL SOCIETY.

USG - GOP RELATIONSHIP

8. (SBU) BROWNFIELD POINTED OUT THAT A NEW U.S. AMBASSADOR TO PERU PROVIDES A WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY FOR

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PAGE 05 STATE 189883 072015Z BOTH GOVERNMENTSE USED BY THE GOP TO ITS ADVANTAGE.

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MONTESINOS AND DIALOGUE WITH NGOS

9. (C) BROWNFIELD ASKED WHETHER MACHER HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR MONTESINOS IN FOLLOW-UP TO HIS PROMISE TO ONDCP DIRECTOR MCCAFFREY OF INITIATING A DIALOGUE WITH HUMAN RIGHTS NGOS. MACHER TOLD US THERE HAS BEEN NO OVERTURE AND SEEMED SKEPTICAL THAT ONE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. SHE SAID THAT, WHILE SHE IS OPEN TO A DIALOGUE, IT WILL BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO HAVE ONE WITH SOMEONE SHE BELIEVES IS SO DIRECTLY LINKED TO TORTURE AND ABUSES, AND IS USING AN APPARATUS DESIGNED TO FIGHT THE INTERNAL WAR ON TERRORISM TO CONTROL CIVIL SOCIETY.

GENERAL ROBLES

10. (SBU) WOLA MENTIONED AS AN ASIDE THAT IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL IF WE WOULD PRIVATELY RAISE WITH THE GOP OUR CONCERN OVER THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF GENERAL ROBLES, A KEY WITNESS IN A HUMAN RIGHTS CASE AGAINST THE GOP. BROWNFIELD NOTED THIS REQUEST.
ALBRIGHT

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