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TEXT
TAGS: PHUM, PTER, SNAR, PE
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR MAC LEAN ON
HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE NARCOTICS UMBRELLA AGREEMENT
REF: LIMA 4107

- ENTIRE TEXT.
- SUMMARY. AMBASSADOR ROBERTO MAC LEAN MET APRIL 4 WITH DAS MCLEAN AND THEN LATER WITH A/S ARONSON. ALSO ATTENDING WAS DESKOFF KAREN KRUEGERNOTETAKE. ARONSON ASKED THE AMBASSADOR TO IMPRESS UPON PRESIDENT FUJIMORI THE IMPORTANCE OF ESTABLISHING AN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE THE COMISEDH LETTER BOMBING. CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF POLICE COMPLICITY, ONLY AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION WOULD BE CREDIBLE. ARONSON EXPRESSED U.S. CONCERN THAT THE ISSUE COULD BECOME A TEST CASE USED BY THOSE WHO WISHED TO STOP ASSISTANCE TO PERU. DAS MCLEAN AND THE AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED THE DE SOTO CHANGES TO THE UMBRELLA AGREEMENT, RECEIVED JUST THAT DAY. MCLEAN ALSO REPEATED OUR NEED TO HAVE SPECIFIC HUMAN RIGHTS IMPROVEMENTS TO POINT TO WHEN MAKING OUR INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTING DETERMINATION AND REPEATED OUR SUGGESTIONS THAT THE GOP GUARANTEE ICRC ACCESS TO

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POLICE AND MILITARY DETENTION CENTERS IN THE EMERGENCY ZONES AND ESTABLISH A NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. HE ALSO EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN OVER THE MILITARY'S USE OF NAPALM AGAINST SUSPECTED SENDERO TARGETS. END SUMMARY.

3. THE PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR AND DAS MCLEAN FIRST DISCUSSED THE DE SOTO CHANGES TO THE LASTEST VERSION OF THE UMBRELLA AGREEMENT TEXT. THE AMBASSADOR HAD THE SAME VERSION THAT THE EMBASSY HAD FAXED EARLIER THAT DAY TO ARA/AND. MCLEAN COMMENTED THAT CHANGES IN LANGUAGE ARE CERTAINLY POSSIBLE. BUT OTHER ITEMS MUST REMAIN. HE ADDED THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO NEGOTIATE IN PUBLIC, REFERRING TO THE PUBLICATION OF EARLIER VERSIONS OF THE AGREEMENT IN THE PERUVIAN PRESS. DAS MCLEAN PROMISED A REACTION BY MONDAY. APRIL 8.

4. THE MEETING THEN MOVED TO A/S ARONSON'S OFFICE AND A DISCUSSION OF THE COMISEDH BOMBING AND HUMAN RIGHTS. ARONSON BEGAN BY POINTING OUT THAT THE MORE WE LEARN ABOUT THE COMISEDH BOMBING, THE MORE WE THINK IT WILL BECOME A TEST CASE FOR THE GOP ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES IN THE EYES OF THE PUBLIC AND CONGRESS. OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS ARE MAKING PROGRESS ON NARCOTICS AND WORKING HARD ON PERU'S RESERTION INTO THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL COMMUNITY, BUT IN THE AREA OF HUMAN RIGHTS WE STILL LACK PROGRESS.

5. A STRONG ATMOSPHERE OF SUSPICION SURROUNDS THIS PARTICULAR CASE, ARONSON CONTINUED. ARONSON EMPHASIZED THAT WE ARE NOT PREJUDGING THE CASE BUT. CONSIDERING THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE HAVE SERIOUS DOUBTS THAT THE POLICE WILL INVESTIGATE FULLY. DR. ZUNIGA IS A HIGHLY RESPECTED HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER, WITH NO TIES TO SENDERO OR MRTA. HE WAS PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLICATING POLICE COMMANDANTE JUAN CARLOS MEJIA LEON IN THE DISAPPEARANCE OF CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY STUDENT ERNESTO CASTILLO PAEZ. THE CASE HAD BEEN UPHELD BY THE COURTS AND CRIMINAL PROSECUTION HAD BEEN ORDERED. MEJIA CLEARLY HAD BOTH MOTIVE AND THE NEEDED TECHNICAL SKILLS. FAILURE TO THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATE THIS CASE WILL SEND A DANGEROUS SIGNAL TO PERUVIAN POLICE AND MILITARY -- THAT THEY CAN ACT WITH IMPUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OF PROSECUTION.

6. ARONSON STATED THAT WE STRONGLY HOPE THAT THE GOP APPOINTS A HIGH LEVEL COMMISSION TO CONDUCT A COMPLETE INVESTIGATION. WE WILL PROVIDE ANY ASSISTANCE, INVESTIGATIVE OR FORENSIC, THAT WE CAN. IF THE INVESTIGATION IS NOT THOROUGH AND DOUBTS REMAIN, WE FEAR

THAT CONGRESS COULD USE THIS CASE TO STOP ASSISTANCE TO PERU MUCH AS THEY DID IN EL SALVADOR BECAUSE OF APPARENT MILITARY COMPLICITY IN THE MURDER OF THE JESUITS. A CREDIBLE INVESTIGATION WOULD ALSO PROVIDE THE GOP WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEND A MESSAGE TO THE WORLD THAT IT WILL ACT ON CASES INVOLVING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS WHENEVER THE CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANT. ARONSON SPECIFICALLY ASKED THAT THE AMBASSADOR RAISE THE ISSUE WITH FUJIMORI UPON HIS

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RETURN FROM JAPAN. THE AMBASSADOR ASSURED ARONSON THAT HE WOULD AND, IN THE MEANTIME, WOULD RAISE THE ISSUE IMMEDIATELY WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICES IN LIMA.

7. THE AMBASSADOR. ACKNOWLEDGING THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE CASE, EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN THAT AN INVESTIGATION, HOWEVER THOROUGH, MAY NEVER BE ABLE TO PRODUCE THE TYPE OF EVIDENCE REQUIRED TO PROSECUTE IN A COURT OF LAW. ARONSON QUICKLY POINTED TO THE INVESTIGATION LAST YEAR INTO THE CASE OF THE LETTER BOMBING OF A DISTRICT JUDGE IN THE STATE OF VIRGINIA AND THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THAT INVESTIGATION. HE ALSO ADDED THAT THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THERE WOULD BE SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO PROSECUTE COULD BE DECIDED AFTER THE INVESTIGATION AND SHOULD NOT IMPEDE SUCH INVESTIGATION. THE AMBASSADOR AGREED. IN ADDITION. ARONSON POINTED OUT THAT IN CASES AS SERIOUS AS THIS, WE WOULD NOT ASK THE POLICE, FBI OR ANY OTHER UNIT TO INVESTIGATE ITSELF.

8. FOLLOWING THE MEETING WITH ARONSON, DAS MCLEAN FURTHER EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN OVER REPORTS OF THE MILITARY'S USE OF NAPALM AGAINST SUSPECTED SENDERO TARGETS ADDING THAT THIS WOULD ONLY INCREASE CHARGES OF GOVERNMENT SANCTIONED HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES. HE ALSO REPEATED OUR HOPE THAT THE GOP WOULD WORK TO GRANT THE ICRCRED CROSS) ACCESS TO BOTH POLICE AND MILITARY DETENTION CENTERS IN THE EMERGENCY ZONES AND TO ALSO ESTABLISH THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS THAT FUJIMORI HAD PROMISED IN HIS INAUGURAL ADDRESS. BOTH OF THESE WOULD PROVIDE US WITH FURTHER EVIDENCE OF GOP IMPROVEMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS. KIMMITT

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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