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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

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Dear Senator Kennedy:

On behalf of the President, I am replying to your letter of July 23 about Peru's compliance with the human rights standards in the International Narcotics Control Act (INCA). The Administration weighed your views carefully before deciding on July 30 that the Government of Peru had complied with the conditions contained in the INCA.

I agree that Peru's government has more to do to improve its human rights performance. However, President Fujimori has demonstrated his commitment to improving Peru's record on human rights and narcotics control and has made significant progress in both these areas. He has impressed upon the military and the police the need to respect human rights. We are now seeing the results of these efforts. I have enclosed a record of the steps President Fujimori has taken during his first year in office to improve his government's human rights record.

While I am aware that there is some sentiment in Congress for limiting US assistance to Peru to economic aid, such a course is ill-advised. With military assistance, the Fujimori Administration will have the resources it needs to continue the process of reform. Withholding our military assistance would only strengthen those in the police and the military who oppose President Fujimori's emphasis on human rights.

Moreover, disbursement of US military assistance must proceed hand-in-hand with disbursement of our economic aid. It will not be possible to implement a long-term economic development and crop substitution policy if the Government of Peru is not able to secure the coca-growing areas of the countryside from terrorist attack.

Finally, both our economic and military assistance are essential elements of the contribution we have pledged to the International Support Group being formed to clear Peru's debt arrears. If the Support Group is to proceed, and Peru's

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The Honorable  
Edward M. Kennedy,  
United States Senate.

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SEP 2 1991