

[REDACTED]

n/a

RELEASED IN PART

Case Number: 200102877

B1, 1.5(B), 1.5(C), 1.5(D), B6

[REDACTED]

PTQ9314

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ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	INL-01	DODE-00
	ANHR-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00
	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	DCP-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00
	SSO-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	IIP-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-01
	DRL-02	G-00	FDIC-01	SAS-00	/010W		

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O 232203Z MAY 00
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4496

[REDACTED]

SECTION 01 OF 02 LIMA 003062

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/09/10
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, OAS, PE
SUBJECT: PERU ELECTIONS: HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS MAY 16-18

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

2. (S) SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR MET MAY 16-18 SEPARATELY WITH
NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER MONTESINOS, PRIME MINISTER
BUSTAMANTE AND FOREIGN MINISTER DE TRAZEGNIES TO DELIVER
WHAT WE HOPED AT THAT POINT WOULD BE A LAST PRE-ELECTION
POLICY MESSAGE: THAT THE VOTE COUNT MAY 28 HAD TO BE
SCRUPULOUSLY HONEST. ALL THREE SAID THE GOP WAS ABSOLUTELY
COMMITTED TO A FREE/FAIR SECOND ROUND. EXCEPT FOR THE ONE
WITH DE TRAZEGNIES, THESE MEETINGS PRECEDED THE OAS ELECTION

[REDACTED]

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MISSION'S CALL ON THE POLITICAL PARTIES TO POSTPONE THE
ELECTIONS, TOLEDO'S MAY 18 DECISION NOT TO PARTICIPATE IF
ELECTIONS GO FORWARD MAY 28, AND SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS.
END SUMMARY.

3. (C) AFTER CONSULTATION WITH WHA, AMBASSADOR SET UP THE
THREE MEETINGS BEGINNING MAY 16 IN ORDER TO DELIVER WHAT WE
THOUGHT WOULD BE THE LAST PRE-ELECTION U.S. POLICY MESSAGE.
MESSAGE WAS THE SAME IN ALL THREE MEETINGS BUT, EVEN BY THE
TIME OF THE SECOND MEETING, WITH PRIME MINISTER BUSTAMANTE,
CIRCUMSTANCES HAD BEGUN TO EVOLVE QUICKLY. THIS CABLE GETS

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THESE NOW LARGELY OVERTAKEN-BY-EVENTS DEVELOPMENTS INTO THE RECORD.

4. (S) MONTESINOS MEETING, MAY 16: AMBASSADOR SAID WE RECOGNIZED HERE HAD BEEN MODEST IMPROVEMENTS IN CONDITIONS FOR THE SECOND ROUND. IF ELECTION CONDITIONS DID NOT DETERIORATE IN THE REMAINING TWO WEEKS AND IF THE VOTE COUNT WAS TOTALLY HONEST, WE BELIEVED OUTCOME WOULD BE ACCEPTED BY USG AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. AMBASSADOR REPEATED TWICE THAT VOTE COUNT MUST BE HONEST AND

B1

[REDACTED] MONTESIOS SAID HE UNDERSTOOD COMPLETELY AND ASSERTED THT THE GOP WAS ABSOLUTELY COMMITTED TO THE SAME GALS. [REDACTED] HOWEVER, HE CLAIMED THAT TOLEDO WAS A DRUG ABUSER AND THAT HE HAS ACCEPTED DRUG MONEY DURING HIS CAMPAIGN (BUT CITED ONLY THE NAME OF A DRUG TRAFFICKER BY WAY OF EVIDENCE). HE LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT THE GOP HAD DECIDED NOT TO MAKE THESE ALLEGATIONS PUBLICLY, HOWEVER, FOR FEAR OF A PUBLIC (AND INTERNATIONAL) BACKLASH OF "DIRTY WAR" CRITICISM AGAINST

B1

PAGE 03 LIMA 03062 01 OF 02 232208Z FUJIMORI. STILL SEEKING TO CONVINCING US THAT A TOLEDO VICTORY WOULD BE UNDESIRABLE, HE PREDICTED AN ECUADOR-LIKE POLITICAL CRISIS WITHIN MONTHS IF TOLEDO WERE TO WIN; HE ALSO SAID PRESIDENT FUJIMORI WAS COMMITTED TO A DEMOCRATIC OPENING (ENDING PROVISIONAL JUDGES IN THE JUDICIARY, FOR EXAMPLE, AND REFORMING INTELLIGENCE SERVICES WITH U.S.-LIKE CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT), IF HE WON A THIRD TERM. NOTING THAT "THE U.S. DOES NOT VOTE," AMBASSADOR TWICE BROUGHT DISCUSSION BACK TO OUR PRESENT CONCERN FOR INTEGRITY OF THE ELECTION PROCESS. COMMENT: WHETHER THE MESSAGE WILL BE HEHEDED IS ANOTHER ISSUE, BUT MONTESINOS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD.

5. (C) BUSTAMANTE: AMBASSADOR DELIVERED THE SAME MESSAGE TO PRIME MINISTER BUSTAMANTE MAY, 17, EMPHASIZING THAT WE WOULD NOT LOOK THE OTHER WAY IF THERE WERE INDICATIONS OF FRAUD DURING THE SECOND ROUND. AMBASSADOR ALSO NOTED THAT A DEBATE (WHICH STILL SEEMED A POSSIBILITY AT THAT POINT) WOULD BOLSTER THE IMPRESSION OF IMPROVING ELECTION CONDITIONS. BUSTAMANTE SAID HE WAS CONVINCED THE VOTE COUNT WOULD BE COMPLETELY HONEST AND SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO ACCEPT A DEBATE. HE NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S PRIVATE POLLSTER BELIEVES FUJIMORI STILL LEADS BY A 6-8 POINT MARGIN NATIONALLY, AS HE DID IN THE FIRST ROUND.

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6. (C) HAVING SPOKEN [REDACTED] EARLIER IN THE DAY, AMBASSADOR NOTED [REDACTED] CONCERN THAT OAS DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH TIME BEFORE MAY 28 TO VERIFY NEW SOFTWARE DEVELOPED BY ONPE (WHICH COUNTS THE VOTES).

B1, B6

B1

B1, B6

[REDACTED] THE OAS WAS THUS LIKELY TO GO INTO THE SECOND ROUND UNCERTAIN WHETHER THE SOFTWARE WAS TECHNICALLY ADEQUATE AND IF IT PROVIDED OBSERVERS SUFFICIENT, REAL TIME ACCESS TO [REDACTED]

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VERIFY THAT VOTES WERE BEING TABULATED HONESTLY. FROM THE GOP'S PERSPECTIVE, THAT WAS BAD NEWS, THE AMBASSADOR SAID. BUSTAMANTE AGREED [REDACTED] CONCERN, BUT ARGUED THAT A DELAY OF THE ELECTIONS AT THIS JUNCTURE SIMPLY WOULD NOT BE CONSTITUTIONALLY POSSIBLE. HE REJECTED AS UNDULY CYNICAL THE NOTION THAT "IF YOU HAD THE WILL, YOU WOULD FIND A WAY." BUSTAMANTE COULD ONLY SUGGEST THAT LOCAL BANKS HAVE COMPUTER EXPERTS WHO COULD BE LOANED TO THE OAS, TO SPEED UP ITS ASSESSMENT OF THE NEW SOFTWARE.

B1, B6

B1

7. (C) WHEN THE AMBASSADOR MET WITH FM DE TRAZEGNIES FOR LUNCH MAY 18, THE OAS HAD JUST ISSUED A PRESS STATEMENT CALLING ON THE "POLITICAL FORCES IN CONTENTION TO FIND A JURIDICAL-POLITICAL PATH (TO PERMIT A DELAY)." AMBASSADOR SAID WE WOULD BE EVALUATING THE OAS POSITION CAREFULLY AND URGED THAT THE GOP GIVE DELAY EVERY POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION. DE TRAZEGNIES MAINTAINED THAT THE CONSTITUTIONAL OBSTACLES TO A DELAY WERE INSUPERABLE. THE AMBASSADOR OBSERVED (MILDLY) THAT, COMING FROM THE GOVERNMENT THAT PRODUCED THE LAW OF "AUTHENTIC INTERPRETATION" (OF THE CONSTITUTION, THUS [REDACTED]

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ACTION WHA-00

INFO LOG-00 NP-00 AID-00 ACQ-00 CIAE-00 INL-01 DODE-00
ANHR-00 SRPP-00 DS-00 VC-00 H-01 TEDE-00 INR-00
LAB-01 L-00 VCE-00 AC-01 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OMB-01
PA-00 PM-00 PRS-00 ACE-00 P-00 SP-00 IRM-00
SSO-00 TRSE-00 USIE-00 IIP-00 PMB-00 DSCC-00 PRM-01
DRL-02 G-00 FDIC-01 SAS-00 /009W

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O 232203Z MAY 00
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4497

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OVERCOMING THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROHIBITION ON ANOTHER FUJIMORI TERM), SUCH ARGUMENTS WERE NOT COMPELLING. DE TRAZEGNIES BRISTLED, BUT THE AMBASSADOR SAID HE WAS NOT BEING ARGUMENTATIVE, SIMPLY NOTING THE REALITY THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WOULD NOT FIND THAT LINE OF REASONING CREDIBLE. HE URGED THE FM TO USE HIS INFLUENCE WITHIN GOVERNMENT COUNCILS TO GIVE POSTPONEMENT EVERY POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION. AMBASSADOR BRIEFED DE TRAZEGNIES ON HIS PRIOR MEETINGS, REPEATED WHAT HAD BEEN THE MESSAGE AND OBSERVED THAT, JUST AS THE KEY POINT FOR THE USG AT THIS STAGE WAS THE INTEGRITY OF THE ONPE VOTE COUNT, SO, TOO, THE

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OAS WAS FOCUSING ON THAT ISSUE. IT WOULD BE MUCH BETTER TO DELAY, FIX THE COMPUTER SOFTWARE PROBLEMS CAUSING THE OAS CONCERN AND GIVE THE ELECTIONS A FURTHER OPPORTUNITY TO BE JUDGED ACCEPTABLE. AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT, WERE HE TO COME OUT IN FAVOR OF A POSTPONEMENT, PRESIDENT FUJIMORI COULD CLAIM THE MORAL HIGH GROUND. DE TRAZEGNIES LISTENED BUT DID NOT SEEM TO FEEL THAT A POSTPONEMENT WAS IN THE CARDS.

8. (C) WHEN TOLEDO, TWO HOURS AFTER THE MEETING WITH DE TRAZEGNIES, ANNOUNCED HIS DECISION NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SECOND ROUND UNLESS IT WAS POSTPONED, DE TRAZEGNIES CALLED THE AMBASSADOR TO OPINE THAT WHATEVER POSSIBILITY MIGHT HAVE EXISTED FOR THE GOP TO CONSIDER A DELAY HAD BEEN EFFECTIVELY SCUTTLED BY TOLEDO'S ULTIMATUM.

9. (C) COMMENT: IN ALL THREE MEETINGS, AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED OUR CONCERN THAT THE VOTE COUNT BE HONEST. EVEN IN THE SWIRL OF CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES THAT SURROUNDED THE BUSTAMANTE AND DE TRAZEGNIES MEETINGS, WE BELIEVE THAT MESSAGE (WITH ITS IMPLICATION OF USG DOUBTS ABOUT THE INTEGRITY OF ONPE'S PAST PERFORMANCE) GOT THROUGH CLEARLY.

HAMILTON

[REDACTED]
n/a