

X73A

DEPARTMENT OF STATE _____ H/MS/CR/TS/MLC Date: 4/30/87
 RELEASE DECLASSIFY
 EXCISE DECLASSIFY EO Citations _____
 DENY IN PART

FOIA Exemptions _____ TS authority to
PA Exemptions _____ CLASSIFY as S or C Sec. _____
 DOWNGRADE TS to S or S



NEWS Congressman
CHARLES B. RANGEL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, APRIL 6, 1992

CONTACT: James Alexander
(202) 226-3040

U.S. House of Representatives • Washington, D.C. 20515

**RANGEL EXPRESSES OUTRAGE AT PERUVIAN MILITARY ACTION:
POLITICAL CHAOS THREATENS ANTI-DRUG EFFORTS**

"What we have here is a President leading a military campaign against the

immediately suspending our military and economic assistance to Peru until democracy has been restored."

Rep. Charles B. Rangel (D/NY)

Washington, D.C. Rep. Charles B. Rangel (D/NY), Chairman of the House Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control, reacted with great disappointment today to the news of Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori's drastic actions in Lima last night. With support of the military, Fujimori dissolved the Peruvian Congress and suspended the constitution, claiming that lawmakers were blocking his free-market reforms, were weakening the war on leftist guerrillas, and were riddled with drug corruption.

"What we have here is a President leading a military coup against the rest of his democratically elected government. We should consider immediately suspending our military and economic assistance to Peru until democracy has been restored. This is a tremendous setback. Peru has been plagued by a great deal of problems in every sphere, but it seems that for every step forward there are two steps back. I have been a great supporter of President Fujimori's reforms, but I believe that it is time now for the Congress and the Administration to review our policy toward Peru.

"The Select Committee held a hearing last week with top State Department and DEA officials to examine the situation in the Andean countries. Serious concerns were raised about the political and economic instability within Peru, which are greatly exacerbated by the proliferation of drug production and trafficking. We have heard numerous reports over the years about extensive corruption within the legislature, the judiciary, and especially the military. I find it shocking that the President would set aside democratic principals in the name of fighting corruption and instituting economic and political reforms. The fact that he has support from the military for this action is highly suspicious, as most of the reports I have heard concerning corruption have to do with the military.

"I am deeply concerned that this action, taken with military backing, will garner further support for the ruthless Sendero Luminoso insurgents, whose efforts are financed by drug trafficking and whose battle cry has been to fight the oppression of the Peruvian state.

"Another very troubling aspect of this assault on democracy has been the house arrest of a number of prominent political leaders and the 'disappearance' of Gustavo Gorriti, a noted author and expert on Sendero Luminoso and the military's campaign against that insurgency. Reportedly, he, his notes and computer were taken into custody by the military early this morning. Mr. Gorriti assisted the Committee in the past with information on drug trafficking in Sendero controlled areas. I am very troubled about the safety of Mr. Gorriti and urge the President to personally ensure his immediate release.

"Narcotics trafficking is a highly corruptive and destabilizing force. The drug production and trafficking problem in Peru has undoubtedly played a key role in creating the environment for this present crisis. All nations where drug production, traffic or abuse occurs should take note and commit themselves to international cooperation in eradicating this scourge from the planet. "

Congressional Correspondence

X73B

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 10, 1992

The Honorable President Alberto Fujimori
President
Republic of Peru
Palacio de Gobierno
Plaza de Armas
Lima 1, Peru

DEPARTMENT OF STATE HM/IPS/CR/IRA 1/6 Date: 4/30/87
 RELEASE DECLASSIFY
 EXCISE DECLASSIFY EO Citations: _____
 DENY IN PART

FOIA Exemptions _____ TS authority to
PA Exemptions _____ CLASSIFY as S or C Sec. _____
 DOWNGRADE TS to S or C

Dear Mr. President:

As members of the United States Senate, we are writing to express our concern regarding the safety and well-being of journalists, human rights activists, representatives of non-governmental organizations, and church groups in Peru.

According to press reports and reports we have received from international organizations, since the suspension of constitutional democracy in Peru on April 5, leaders of popular organizations, leading opposition politicians, and journalists have been arrested by members of the Peruvian security forces. We are deeply concerned by these violations of human rights and fear that the crisis in Peru may create a climate of repression in which the media, representatives of non-governmental organizations, and human rights groups may be particularly susceptible to harassment.

We strongly urge you to assure that members of human rights groups, popular organizations, church groups, and journalists be allowed to carry out their normal activities without interference. In addition, we urge you to ensure that the Peruvian armed forces and police respect the individual rights of these groups, including freedoms of speech, assembly, and the press, and the human rights of all Peruvians.

Most importantly, we urge you and members of the armed forces to restore the Peruvian Congress and judiciary and a full constitutional democracy in Peru as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Senator Edward M. Kennedy
Senator Harris Wofford
Senator Brock Adams
Senator Alan J. Dixon
Senator John F. Kerry
Senator Paul Simon