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Case Number: 200102877

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RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.5(D)

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PTQ7736

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ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DODE-00	DS-00
	VC-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	VCE-00	AC-01	DCP-01	NSAE-00
	ACE-00	IRM-00	DSCC-00	PRM-01	DRL-02	NFAT-00	SAS-00
	/005W						

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P 212237Z JUL 00
 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5494
 INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
 AMEMBASSY QUITO
 AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
 AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
 AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
 AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
 AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 USCINCSO MIAMI FL

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SECTION 01 OF 02 LIMA 004301

E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/20/05
 TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, PREL, PE
 SUBJECT: ENTER OAS MISSION LEADER LATORRE

1. (U) CLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL BY CDA ROBERTA JACOBSON FOR REASONS 1.5B AND 1.5D.
2. (C) SUMMARY: OAS SPECIAL MISSION PERMANENT SECRETARY

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 EDUARDO LATORRE'S JULY 18-19 VISIT TO LIMA GENERALLY RECEIVED POSITIVE APPRAISALS, BUT OPPOSITION, GOVERNMENT, AND CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS EXPRESSED COMPETING EXPECTATIONS AND A READINESS TO JUDGE THE OAS HARSHLY SHOULD LATORRE FAIL TO MEET THEM. STICKING CLOSELY TO A SCRIPT THAT SET OUT HIS ROLE AS A FACILITATOR VICE MEDIATOR, THE OAS MISSION CHIEF PROMISED A WORK PLAN BY AUGUST 7, WHEN HE WILL RETURN WITH OAS SECRETARY GENERAL CESAR GAVIRIA. WHILE HIS EMPHASIS ON HELPING PERUVIANS TO REACH THEIR OWN SOLUTIONS PLEASED GOP OFFICIALS, LATORRE LEFT MANY OPPOSITION LEADERS, CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS, AND DIPLOMATS WORRIED THAT HIS APPROACH IS TOO PASSIVE. END SUMMARY

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3. (SBU) ARRIVING EARLY JULY 18, DOMINICAN FM AND RECENTLY-NAMED OAS SPECIAL MISSION CHIEF LATORRE HELD INTRODUCTORY MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT FUJIMORI, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON STRENGTHENING DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS, SEVERAL HEADS OF CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS, AND OPPOSITION POLITICIANS. IN HIS INITIAL PRESS CONFERENCE, LATORRE SAID HE WOULD RETURN AUGUST 7 (NOT, AS PREVIOUSLY EXPECTED, ON JULY 28) WITH OAS SYG CESAR GAVIRIA TO PRESENT A PROPOSED WORK PLAN AND TIME LINE. LATORRE ANNOUNCED HE WOULD ARRIVE AGAIN IN LIMA AUGUST 16 AND GIVE FULL-TIME ATTENTION TO PROMOTING A DIALOGUE IN FIVE WORKING GROUPS CORRESPONDING TO THE OAS'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR JUDICIAL REFORM, PRESS FREEDOMS, STRENGTHENING CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT FUNCTIONS, ELECTORAL REFORMS, AND OTHER MEASURES (E.G., REFORMING THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICES).

4. (SBU) OPPOSITION POLITICIANS, INCLUDING PERU POSIBLE'S ALEJANDRO TOLEDO, PRESENTED LATORRE WITH AN AGREED LIST OF [REDACTED]

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PRIORITIES AND IMPLEMENTATION DATES, INCLUDING RETURN OF CHANNEL TWO TO BARUCH IVCHER, RETURN TO THE INTER-AMERICAN COURT, REESTABLISHING THE CONSTITUTIONAL TRIBUNAL, AND REORGANIZING THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICES, WHICH INCLUDED SACKING DE FACTO NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE CHIEF VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS. ON THE OPPOSITION'S DEMAND THAT THESE REFORMS EVENTUALLY RESULT IN NEW ELECTIONS, LATORRE STRESSED THIS SUBJECT FELL OUTSIDE THE OAS MANDATE, BUT THAT NOTHING LIMITED PERUVIANS FROM PURSUING THIS END. AFTER LATORRE DEPARTED, SOMOS PERU CONGRESSMAN-ELECT MANUEL MASIAS REACTED POSITIVELY TO LATORRE'S VISIT, BUT EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT OAS SYG GAVIRIA'S DESIRE TO WIN PERU'S SUPPORT FOR HIS CAMPAIGN TO BECOME PRESIDENT OF A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL FINANCE INSTITUTION MIGHT MAKE THE OAS TOO CAUTIOUS.

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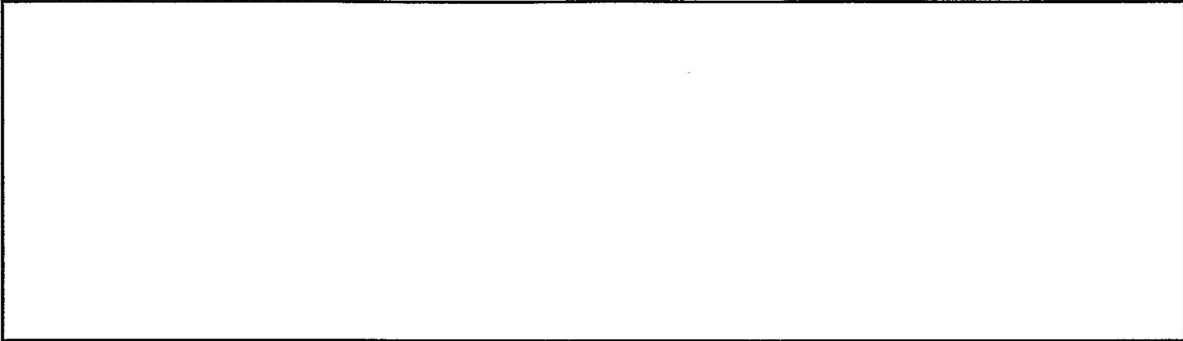
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6. (SBU) REACTIONS AMONG CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS WERE POSITIVE, BUT SOME PUBLIC COMMENTS WERE LACED WITH UNMISTAKABLE EXPECTATIONS THAT LATORRE BE MORE PRO-ACTIVE. SOFIA MACHER, COORDINATOR OF PERU'S HUMAN RIGHTS UMBRELLA GROUP, TOLD TV REPORTERS AFTER HER MEETING THAT SUFFICIENT TIME HAD PASSED SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE WINDSOR DOCUMENT, AND AGGRESSIVE STEPS WERE NEEDED TO CORRECT PERU'S DEMOCRATIC SHORTCOMINGS. SIMILAR COMMENTS WERE HEARD FROM PRESS GROUPS, THE LIMA BAR ASSOCIATION, AND OTHER CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS.

7. (SBU) THE GOP'S PUBLIC LINE WAS ALSO POSITIVE, BUT FM DE TRAZEGNIES USED AN AWARDS CEREMONY JULY 20 TO EMPHASIZE THE LEGITIMACY OF THE ELECTIONS AND PERU'S SOVEREIGNTY. PRO-GOVERNMENT CONGRESSWOMAN MARTA CHAVEZ PRAISED LATORRE BUT WARNED THE OAS AGAINST EXCEEDING ITS MANDATE AND TRYING TO IMPOSE COLONIALIST VALUES.

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ACTION WHA-00

INFO LOG-00 NP-00 ACQ-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DS-00 VC-00
TEDE-00 INR-00 VCE-00 AC-01 NSAE-00 ACE-00 DSCC-00
PRM-01 DRL-02 NFAT-00 SAS-00 /004W
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P 212237Z JUL 00
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5495
INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
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AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
USCINCSO MIAMI FL

[REDACTED] SECTION 02 OF 02 LIMA 004301

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8. (C) COMMENT: THE GOVERNMENT WAS PLEASED THAT LATORRE LIMITED HIS INITIAL FORAY TO GENERAL COURTESY EXCHANGES AND APPEARS CONTENT TO LET PRESIDENT FUJIMORI'S INAUGURATION SPEECH SET THE TONE FOR ITS APPROACH TO THE OAS MISSION.
CONFIDENTIAL

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THE OPPOSITION AND CIVIL SOCIETY, BY CONTRAST, EXPRESSED THINLY VEILED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT LATORRE DID NOT ARRIVE READY TO DO MORE, BUT HIS PROMISE TO RETURN WITH GAVIRIA AND AN ACTION PLAN BY AUGUST 7 HELPED SOMEWHAT TO ALLEVIATE THESE CONCERNS. THE OPPOSITION IS INCREASINGLY UPBEAT AT SIGNS OF NEWFOUND UNITY AND HOPES THREE DAYS OF PROTESTS COINCIDING WITH PERU'S NATIONAL DAY AND FUJIMORI'S INAUGURATION WILL CONVINCED THE GOP TO BE MORE FLEXIBLE. TO AVOID FURTHER DELAYS, SOLID OAS ADVANCE WORK BETWEEN NOW AND MID-AUGUST WILL BE CRUCIAL TO IDENTIFY AREAS WHERE PROGRESS IS POSSIBLE.

JACOBSON
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