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Case Number: S200200010

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ORIGIN ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	DODE-00	DS-00	EB-01
	HA-09	H-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	LAB-04	L-03
	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	PA-01	PRS-01	P-01
	RP-10	SCT-03	SIL-01	SP-01	SR-01	SS-01	STR-20
	TRSE-00	USIE-00	/083R				

1742
DRAFTED BY: ARA/AND: BWILLIAMSON
APPROVED BY: ARA/FO: JPMCLEAN
ARA/AND: AWPATTERSON
HA: MJJACOBSEN

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R 051424Z DEC 91
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LIMA

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PHUM PINS PTER PE
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PERU'S FATHER MACGREGOR

1. [REDACTED] -- ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY. IN A WIDE-RANGING AND FRIENDLY CONVERSATION, FATHER MACGREGOR AND ARA DAS PHIL MCLEAN DISCUSSED A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL ISSUES. OVERALL, FATHER MACGREGOR EMPHASIZED TWO POINTS: A) THAT [REDACTED]

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MORE NEEDED TO BE DONE TO ALLEVIATE POVERTY IN PERU, AND B) THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD WAS CHANGING FOR THE BETTER. IN A SEPARATE MEETING, HA A/S SCHIFTER URGED MACGREGOR TO WORK WITH THE US CATHOLIC BISHOP'S CONFERENCE TO PRESS FOR A BETTER UNDERSTANDING IN THE US CONGRESS OF PERU'S HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION. END SUMMARY.

3. ON NOVEMBER 26 FATHER MACGREGOR MET WITH PHIL MCLEAN, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SOUTH AMERICA. ALSO

n/a
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM E. LANDFAIR
DATE/CASE ID: 19 JUL 2002 S200200010

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PRESENT WERE PATRICIA NALVARTE FROM THE EMBASSY OF PERU AND ARA/AND'S BRUCE WILLIAMSON (NOTETAKER). THE DISCUSSION FOCUSED FIRST UPON THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, WITH FATHER MACGREGOR STATING THAT THE USG NEED TO CONSIDER THE FULL DIMENSIONS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM IN PERU. ONE SHOULD NOT MERELY LOOK AT CASES OF ABUSE INVOLVING THE SECURITY FORCES OR THE POLICE, HE ASSERTED. INSTEAD, ONE NEED TO LOOK ALSO AT WHAT THE ONGOING ECONOMIC RECESSION HAD DONE TO THE POPULACE: THE LACK OF JOBS, HOUSING, HEALTH CARE, AND POTABLE WATER CONSTITUTED A DENIAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS WELL, HE DECLARED.

4. THE LOW SALARIES IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR AND CONSTANT GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE STRIKES, MACGREGOR ADDED, ONLY LESSENED THE CAPACITY OF THE GOP TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO ITS CITIZENRY. WHILE MACGREGOR CONCEDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD SET UP A SOCIAL EMERGENCY FUND TO ASSIST THE POOR, HE QUESTIONED WHETHER THIS BODY WAS AT ALL ACTIVE. NOONE SEEMED TO KNOW WHAT IT WAS DOING OR TO WHOM IT WAS PROVIDING SERVICE, HE STATED. FUJIMORI'S PROGRAM OF ECONOMIC STABILIZATION AND REFORM SHOULD CONTINUE, HE SAID, BUT MORE NEEDED TO BE DONE TO ALLEVIATE THE SOCIAL

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MISERY CAUSED BY THE CURRENT ECONOMIC RECESSION.

5. DISCUSSION THEN TURNED TO THE ISSUE OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE SENDERO LUMINOSO WAS MAKING PROGRESS IN ITS CAMPAIGN TO OVERTHROW VIOLENTLY THE GOP. FATHER MACGREGOR NOTED THAT, IN HIS VIEW, THE SENDERO LUMINOSO WAS LOSING GROUND. SL LEADERS WERE QUITE WELL OFF, HE SAID, GIVEN THE REVENUES THE GROUP EARNED THROUGH EXTORTION OF LEGITIMATE BUSINESSES AND THE LEVY OF WAR TAXES ON COCA GROWERS AND THE NARCO-TRAFFICKERS. HOWEVER, YOUNG SL CADRES WERE DISSATISFIED, HE CONTINUED, BECAUSE THEY FOUND LITTLE ROOM FOR ADVANCEMENT IN EITHER THE PARTY HIERARCHY OR THE RANKS OF THE NARCO-TRAFFICKERS. FRUSTRATED, SL YOUTHS WERE FORMING ARMED BANDS WHICH ROVED THROUGH LIMA COMMITTING ACTS OF VIOLENCE. THESE ARMED BANDS WERE TRAINED BY SL AND USED SL SYMBOLS AND TECHNIQUES, BUT WERE NOT UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE SENDERO PARTY APPARATUS.

6. PHIL MCLEAN NOTED THAT IN THE PAST, BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN PERU AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE BEEN

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ANYTHING BUT SMOOTH. ALTHOUGH BOTH COUNTRIES WERE NOW TRYING TO IMPROVE THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP, WE NEEDED TO AGREE UPON A COMPLETE POLICY WHICH WOULD ADDRESS ALL THE ISSUES, HE SAID. ON THE GROUND IN PERU THE FUJIMORI ADMINISTRATION NEEDED TO CONTINUE WITH ITS PROGRAM OF ECONOMIC REFORM, WHILE STRENGTHENING THE COUNTRY'S DEMOCRACY AND INSTITUTIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE.

7. FATHER MACGREGOR AGREED, AND NOTED, IN ADDITION, THAT PERU NEEDED TO ADVANCE ON THREE FRONTS: IT NEEDED TO STAY THE COURSE WITH ITS ECONOMIC REFORM PROGRAM, IT NEEDED TO

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 INVIGORATE THE SOCIAL EMERGENCY FUND, AND IT NEEDED TO IMPROVE ITS EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM. THE USG COULD HELP ON THE LATTER ITEM, HE SAID, AS IT DID AFTER WORLD WAR II. SWITCHING BACK BRIEFLY TO THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, MACGREGOR CAUTIONED THE USG TO BE WARY IN ITS EFFORTS TO PROVIDE HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING TO THE PERUVIAN ARMY. OUR ATTEMPT TO HELP THE PERU REWRITE ITS CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE MIGHT PROVE FUTILE, HE SAID, IF WE WERE NOT COGNIZANT OF THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OUR TWO SYSTEMS AND THE CONFUSION THAT THIS MIGHT ENGENDER.

8. PERU'S HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION WAS CHANGING FOR THE BETTER, MACGREGOR DECLARED. PARTICULARLY HEARTENING, HE NOTED, WAS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S DECISION TO MONITOR THE HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE OF THE TERRORIST GROUPS AS WELL AS THAT OF THE GOVERNMENT. MACGREGOR STATED THAT WHILE THERE HAD BEEN SOME CONCERN IN THE UNITED STATES ABOUT PRESIDENT FUJIMORI'S RECENT REMARKS ABOUT CERTAIN HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS, FUJIMORI HAD CLEARLY BEEN REFERRING TO PERU'S ASSOCIATION OF DEMOCRATIC LAWYERS -- A WELL-KNOWN SL FRONT ORGANIZATION. FINALLY, ON THE ISSUE OF THE BARRIOS ALTOS MASSACRE, MACGREGOR SAW TWO POSSIBLE CULPRITS: EITHER THE SL OR THE APRA-CONNECTED PARAMILITARY GROUPS LIKE THE RODRIGO FRANCO COMMAND.

9. IN CLOSING, FATHER MACGREGOR HANDED PHIL MCLEAN A COPY OF A PROPOSED PROJECT TO STUDY VIOLENCE IN PERU. MACGREGOR ASKED THAT MCLEAN INVESTIGATE WHETHER ANY USG FUNDING FOR THE PROJECT MIGHT BE AVAILABLE.

10. IN A SEPARATE MEETING WITH HA A/S RICHARD SCHIFTER,

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MACGREGOR REVIEWED MANY OF THE ITEMS NOTED ABOVE.
SCHIFTER URGED MACGREGOR TO WORK WITH THE COMMITTEE FOR
INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE AND PEACE OF THE US CATHOLIC
BISHOP'S CONFERENCE, SPECIFICALLY, ARCHBISHOP TED
MCCARRICK (BOARD MEMBER) AND FATHER DREW CHRISTENSEN
(DIRECTOR). SCHIFTER OBSERVED THAT THE WORD OF THE
BISHOP'S CONFERENCE CARRIES WEIGHT ON CAPITOL HILL, AND
URGED THAT THE CHURCH IN PERU BECOME MORE ACTIVE AND WORK
WITH THE CONFERENCE TO IMPROVE THE HILL'S UNDERSTANDING OF
THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN PERU.

BAKER

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