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ORIGIN ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	C-01	DEAE-00	DODE-00
	EB-01	OIGO-01	HA-09	H-01	INM-01	INRE-00	INR-01
	IO-19	JUSE-00	LAB-04	L-03	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	RP-10
	SIL-01	SNP-01	SP-01	SR-01	SS-01	STR-20	TRSE-00
	T-01	USIE-00	/087R				

DRAFTED BY: ARA/AND:AWPATTERSON:AWP

APPROVED BY: ARA:BARONSON

ARA:PMCLEAN

INM:MLEVITSKY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY QUITO ROUTINE
INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: SNAR, PREL' PHUM. PE, PM
SUBJECT: ARONSON MEETS WITH PM/FM DE LA PUENTE

1. [REDACTED] ENTIRE TEXT
2. SUMMARY: IN JULY 7 MEETING WITH PM/FM DE LA PUENTE, AS ARONSON URGED THE GOP TO MOVE AHEAD RAPIDLY ON ITS [REDACTED]

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DIALOGUE WITH THE POLITICAL PARTIES. IF THE GOP DID SO, AND CONTINUED ITS RECENT PROGRESS ON COUNTERNARCOTICS. THE USG WOULD BE PREPARED TO OFFER MODEST ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE. DE LA PUENTE DEFENDED PERU'S DECISION TO HOLD THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS SEPARATE FROM THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS. HE WAS DETERMINED TO MAKE ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO BRING PERUVIAN POLITICAL PARTIES AP AND APRA INTO THE DIALOGUE. AS LEVITSKY SAID HE WAS PREPARED TO PROVIDE RESOURCES TO ENABLE THE FAP TO MAINTAIN AN OVERNIGHT PRESENCE AT UCHIZA, TOCACHE AND YURIMAGUAS. ARONSON URGED RAPID COMPLETION OF THE INVESTIGATION OF THE C-130 INCIDENT AND EXPRESSED OUR INTEREST IN DEVELOPING PROCEDURES TO AVOID SIMILAR INCIDENTS IN THE FUTURE. DE LA PUENTE SAID THE GOP WOULD REPORT ON THE INCIDENT BY THE

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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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END OF THE WEEK; HE AGREED OUR MUTUAL GOAL WAS TO PREVENT RECURRENCES. ARONSON PRESSED THE GOP TO INVESTIGATE THE

BARRIOS ALTOS MASSACRE IN NOVEMBER 1991. IN WHICH SECURITY FORCES WERE ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED. FINALLY, DE LA PUENTE INDICATED THAT PERU WAS TRYING TO IMPROVE ITS RELATIONS WITH ECUADOR THROUGH A SERIES OF HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS. END SUMMARY.

3. PERUVIAN PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER OSCAR DE LA PUENTE CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARONSON JULY 7. ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVITSKY PARTICIPATED. DE LA PUENTE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY PERUVIAN CHARGE VALDEZ AND JOSE ANTONIO BELLINA. DAS PHIL MCLEAN AND ARA/AND NOTETAKER SAT IN.

4. DIALOGUE WITH THE POLITICAL PARTIES: DE LA PUENTE SAID THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE GOP AND THE PARTIES HAD

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TAKEN A POSITIVE TURN. APRA, AP AND SOME OF THE SMALL LEFTIST PARTIES HAD NOT YET ACCEPTED THE GOVERNMENT'S INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE, BUT THE OTHER PARTIES HAD DONE SO. HE EXPECTED TO CONCLUDE THE FIRST ROUND OF THE DIALOGUE NEXT WEEK AND SUBMIT ITS RESULTS TO THE CABINET.

5. ARONSON ASKED WHY AP AND APRA WERE NOT PARTICIPATING. ACCORDING TO DE LA PUENTE, AP WAS BASING ITS OPPOSITION ON THE GOP'S POSTPONEMENT OF MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS. ALSO, DE LA PUENTE EXPLAINED, FORMER PRESIDENT BELAUNDE WAS TRYING TO POSITION HIMSELF TO BE THE PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION LEADER. (IN 1979, HE SAID, AP DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTIONS, THUS ALLOWING THE PARTY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF VOTER DISSATISFACTION IN THE NEXT ROUND.) APRA HAD REFUSED TO JOIN IN BECAUSE IT ALLEGED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD PERSECUTED FORMER PRESIDENT ALAN GARCIA AND FORMER INTERIOR MINISTER MANTILLA. DE LA PUENTE DENIED THIS VIGOROUSLY: THE GOP HAD GIVEN ALAN GARCIA A REPLACEMENT PASSPORT AND A SAFE CONDUCT IMMEDIATELY ON REQUEST; MANTILLA WAS IN JAIL ON WELL-FOUNDED CRIMINAL CHARGES.

6. ARONSON ASKED IF THE GOP WOULD NOT SAVE MONEY BY HOLDING BOTH ELECTIONS SIMULTANEOUSLY. DE LA PUENTE SAID THIS MIGHT CAUSE CONFUSION AMONG PERU'S ILLITERATE AND SEMI-LITERATE VOTERS. THE OAS CONCURRED, HE EXPLAINED IN HOLDING THE ELECTIONS SEPARATELY. (NOTE: THE OAS TELLS US THEY ARE AGNOSTIC ON THIS ISSUE). HE SAID THAT AFTER

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BASIC REFORMS IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS ARE MADE (NEW ELECTION LISTS, REDISTRICTING) IT WOULD ONLY BE marginally MORE EXPENSIVE TO HOLD TWO SETS OF ELECTIONS.

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7. DE LA PUENTE OBSERVED THAT AMBASSADOR QUANTON.S FOURTH OF JULY RECEPTION HAD PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY TO HOLD AN INFORMAL DIALOGUE, SINCE MANY OPPOSITION FIGURES

HAD TALKED TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE APRIL 5.

8. DE LA PUENTE ASSURED ARONSON HE WOULD MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO INCLUDE AP AND APRA; HE WOULD ISSUE BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INVITATIONS TO THEM AND PERSONALLY GET IN TOUCH WITH THEIR LEADERS. IT WAS THE PARTIES, AFTER ALL. WHO HAD COMPLAINED TO THE OAS ABOUT THE LACK OF A DIALOGUE, HE SAID. (DE LA PUENTE DID NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTION CONVOKING A GROUP MEETING OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES ON JULY 10.)

9. AS ARONSON STRESSED THAT THE USG WANTED THE RETURN OF DEMOCRACY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THERE MUST BE A CONSENSUS ABOUT THE ELECTIONS AND THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WHICH REFLECTS THE LEGITIMATE CONCERNS OF THE PARTIES. WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE A RESPECTABLE AMOUNT OF RESOURCES FOR THE ELECTIONS, IF THERE IS A DIALOGUE WITH THE PARTIES RESULTING IN FAIR, TRANSPARENT RULES. AND IF WE HAVE PROGRESS ON COUNTERNARCOTICS, ARONSON SUGGESTED.

10. COUNTERNARCOTICS ASSISTANCE: ARONSON STRESSED THAT ALL AID TO PERU IS BASED ON COUNTERNARCOTICS PERFORMANCE. THEREFORE, WE MUST POINT TO PROGRESS IN CLOSING DOWN THE MUNICIPAL AIRPORTS. ARONSON SAID THAT AIRPORT CONTROL IS A SIGN OF THE GOP'S GOOD FAITH, AND THE GOP'S CURRENT EFFORTS ARE GIVING US SOME AMMUNITION WITH CONGRESS TO

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MAINTAIN AID TO PERU.

11. ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVITSKY SAID THERE WAS NO CONFLICT BETWEEN PERFORMANCE ON COUNTERNARCOTICS AND RETURN TO DEMOCRACY. IN RECOGNITION OF THE GOP'S EFFORTS TO SHUT DOWN UCHIZA, TOCACHE, AND YURIMAGUAS TO

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TRAFFICKERS, HE WAS PREPARED TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO ENABLE THE FAP TO MAINTAIN A TWENTY-FOUR PRESENCE AT THESE AIRPORTS. THIS WOULD INCLUDE TENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT. LEVITSKY STRESSED OUR HOPE THAT THE RECENT PERUVIAN EFFORTS WOULD ONLY BE THE FIRST STEPS TOWARD TAKING BACK THE MUNICIPAL AIRPORTS FROM THE TRAFFICKERS. CONTROL OF THE CIVIL AIRPORTS WOULD BE THE MOST IMPORTANT STEP IN IMPROVING PERU'S IMAGE IN THE U.S. CONGRESS, ALTHOUGH IT IS JUST ONE OF THE ELEMENTS IN A SUCCESSFUL COUNTERNARCOTICS PROGRAMS. LEVITSKY EXPLAINED.

12. DE LA PUENTE AGREED IT WAS CRITICAL THAT THE GOP SHUT DOWN THE AIRPORTS TO TRAFFICKERS TO SHOW ITS ABILITY TO GOVERN. CONTROL OF THE AIRPORTS WAS SIMILAR, HE SAID. TO CONTROL OF THE PRISONS, WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAD JUST

TAKEN BACK FROM THE SENDERO LUMINOSO. DE LA PUENTE ADDED THAT PERU'S ABILITY TO FIGHT NARCOTICS HAD BEEN SERIOUSLY REDUCED BY THE REMOVAL OF THE USG RADARS. LEVITSKY AGREED THE PRESENCE OF RADARS WAS IMPORTANT BUT OBSERVED THAT NOW MOST FLIGHTS FROM COLOMBIA ENTER PERU AT NIGHT. THE FAP LACKED THE EQUIPMENT AND THE TRAINING TO INTERCEPT THESE FLIGHTS. THE PRESENCE OF RADARS WOULD NOT SOLVE THIS PROBLEM. ARONSON AND LEVITSKY AGREED THAT THE USG WOULD LOOK AT REDEPLOYING RADARS.

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13. THE C-130 INVESTIGATION: DE LA PUENTE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT A USAF GENERAL WOULD BE RETURNING TO PERU TO CONTINUE THE INVESTIGATION. DE LA PUENTE OBSERVED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO DEVELOP PROCEDURES SO THAT THESE INCIDENTS WILL NOT RECUR. ARONSON AGREED THAT OUR GOAL SHOULD BE TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT NO SUCH INCIDENTS TAKE PLACE IN THE FUTURE. WHEN THE INVESTIGATION IS COMPLETE. WE SHOULD ISSUE A JOINT COMMUNIQUE INDICATING THAT WE HAVE CHANGED OUR PROCEDURES, ARONSON SUGGESTED. SUCH A STATEMENT WOULD REFLECT OUR THOROUGH AGREEMENT ON CONCRETE PROCEDURES. WE ARE THINKING THE SAME WAY. DE LA PUENTE SAID. ARONSON ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT THE COMMUNIQUE WOULD HAVE TO CONTAIN THE GOP'S APOLOGY TO THE FAMILY OF THE AMERICAN SERVICEMAN.

14. ATPA: DE LA PUENTE SAID THAT FUJIMORI WAS TRYING TO PRIVATIZE ONE COMPANY PER WEEK. THE GOVERNMENT HAD JUST PROMULGATED TAX REFORMS AND A NEW LABOR LAW. DE LA PUENTE

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ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING ANDEAN TRADE PREFERENCE ISSUE BENEFITS. ARONSON SAID HE BELIEVED THE PERSISTENCE OF THE AIG/BELCO INVESTMENT DISPUTE REPRESENTED A BARRIER TO PERU'S RECEIVING BENEFITS. DE LA PUENTE SAID IT WAS BEING RESOLVED, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS A PROBLEM ABOUT THE GUARANTEE OF THE PAYMENT BY PERU.S CENTRAL BANK. HE ADDED THAT OTHER INVESTMENT DISPUTES HAD BEEN RESOLVED; SOUTHERN PERU COPPER WAS IN FACT MAKING NEW INVESTMENTS IN PERU.

15. HUMAN RIGHTS: ARONSON SAID HE WAS PLEASED THAT THE ICRC HAD AGAIN BEEN GRANTED ACCESS TO ALL PRISONS,
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PARTICULARLY CASTRO CASTRO WHICH CONTAINED THE SENDERO PRISONERS. HE HAD ALSO NOTICED THE STATEMENTS OF PRESIDENT FUJIMORI WARNING THE ARMED FORCES ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. HE RECALLED THE CONGRESSIONAL CONDITIONS THAT NINE HUMAN RIGHTS CASES BE RESOLVED BEFORE THE SECOND AND THIRDS TRANCHES OF 91 FMF WERE RELEASED. WE REALIZED THAT MANY OF THESE CASES TOOK PLACE BEFORE PRESIDENT FUJIMORI TOOK OFFICE. HOWEVER. THAT MADE IT ALL

THE MORE IMPORTANT TO INVESTIGATE THE BARRIOS ALTOS MASSACRE. THERE HAD BEEN ALLEGATIONS THAT PERUVIAN SECURITY FORCES WERE INVOLVED. DE LA PUENTE AGREED ON THE IMPORTANCE OF FOLLOWING UP ON SUCH INCIDENTS. HE SAID HE WAS MEETING SOON WITH ICRC PRESIDENT SOMMARUGA IN GENEVA TO DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS CASES. ARONSON ALSO SAID THAT OUR EFFORTS TO HELP PERU DEVELOP A REGISTRY OF HUMAN RIGHTS DETAINEES HAD BEEN RESUMED.

16. ECUADOR-PERU RELATIONS: ARONSON RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF NEW DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES ON THE ECUADOR-PERU BORDER DISPUTE. PERHAPS, HE OBSERVED, WITH THE CHANGE OF ADMINISTRATION IN QUITO IT WAS TIME FOR SOME FRESH THINKING ON THIS ISSUE. DE LA PUENTE SAID HE HAD JUST HAD A TWENTY-SIX HOUR VISIT FROM ECUADORIAN FM DIEGO CORDOVEZ AND WOULD BE MEETING WITH HIM AGAIN JULY 22 IN MADRID. PRESIDENT FUJIMORI WOULD PROBABLY ATTEND THE INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT-ELECT DURAN. ECUADOR AND PERU WERE CONSIDERING NAMING SPECIAL AMBASSADORS TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS AND DEVELOP NEW INITIATIVES. ARONSON SAID THE GOP SHOULD KEEP US ADVISED OF ITS PROGRESS IN THIS REGARD AND TO ASK FOR OUR HELP, IF NECESSARY. KANTER
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