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INFO CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USAFSO HOWARD AFB PM
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, MOPS, PE
SUBJECT: UNUSUAL MILITARY MOVEMENTS IN LIMA

REF:

1. [REDACTED] - ENTIRE TEXT
2. SUMMARY: THE MEDIA, [REDACTED] HAVE PICKED UP REPORTS OF UNUSUAL MILITARY MOVEMENTS LATE NOVEMBER 12 AND EARLY NOVEMBER 13 AND UNCONFIRMED INFORMATION OF A POSSIBLE LOWER-RANKING ARMY COUP ATTEMPT. MISSION ELEMENTS ARE ATTEMPTING TO VERIFY THE ALLEGED SEQUENCE OF EVENTS AND TO INVESTIGATE MOTIVES FOR THE POSSIBLE UNREST IN CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF THE ARMY. AS OF 1200 LOCAL TIME NOVEMBER 13 THE SITUATION IN LIMA APPEARED CALM. BASED ON THE

SKETCHY INFORMATION AVAILABLE, WE BELIEVE THE MILITARY WAS TAKING PREVENTATIVE MEASURES RATHER THAN RESPONDING TO AN ACTUAL COUP ATTEMPT. END SUMMARY

3. EARLY ON NOVEMBER 13, LIMA'S PREMIER RADIO NEWS STATION REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT FUJIMORI HAD LEFT THE PALACE AT 0200 IN A MILITARY CONVOY OF 15 VEHICLES, WHILE ARMY UNITS TOOK UP POSITION AROUND THE PALACE. BY DAWN THE MILITARY PRESENCE IN CENTRAL LIMA WAS BACK TO NORMAL, BUT THE PRESIDENT'S WHEREABOUTS WERE NOT

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ANNOUNCED.

4. THERE ARE REPORTS THAT ARMY UNITS IN LIMA WENT ON PARTIAL ALERT EARLY NOVEMBER 13 AND THAT ARMORED UNITS WERE DEPLOYED AROUND THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO DAO SUGGESTS THAT SPECIAL FORCES UNITS WERE DEPLOYED AROUND THE CASA DE CHORRILLOS, A FACILITY AFFILIATED WITH ARMY COMMANDERS, BUT SOMETIMES USED AS A RESIDENCE BY PRESIDENT FUJIMORI. SENIOR ARMY COMMANDERS REPORTEDLY MET AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE UNTIL AROUND 0200 ON THE MORNING OF NOVEMBER 13.

6. PUBLIC AFFAIRS ELEMENTS OF THE MILITARY ANNOUNCED LATER ON THE MORNING OF THE 13TH THAT THE TROOP MOVEMENTS WERE PART OF A ROUTINE EXERCISE AND THAT THERE WAS NO CAUSE FOR ALARM. ARMORED UNITS DEPLOYED AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE HAVE ALLEGEDLY BEEN WITHDRAWN. LIMA APPEARS CALM.

7. COMMENT: WE HAVE RECEIVED NO REPORTS THAT ANY MILITARY UNITS ACTUALLY CHALLENGED THEIR SUPERIORS OR MUTINIED. WHAT LITTLE INFORMATION WE HAVE SUGGESTS THAT THE MILITARY TOOK PREVENTIVE MEASURES AGAINST A POTENTIAL COUP THREAT. OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE NEAR-TERM THREAT

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OF A COUP REMAINS LOW, DUE TO THE VIRTUAL ABSENCE OF ARMY GENERALS OPPOSED TO FUJIMORI AND WITH THE STATURE TO LEAD A COUP. BRAYSHAW##