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EXCISE

E-10

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ACTION ARA-01

LIMA 15019 01 OF 02 201810Z

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	A-01	CA-02	CCO-00	CIAE-00
	CTME-00	C-01	DODE-00	DS-00	FBO-01	HA-09	H-01
	IMMC-01	INM-02	INRE-00	INR-01	L-03	ADS-00	M-01
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-06	OMB-01	OPR-01	PA-01	PM-02
	PRS-01	P-01	SCT-03	SDEL-00	SNP-00	SP-00	SR-00
	SSC-01	SSO-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-01	USIE-00	USSS-00
	ASDS-01	RPE-00	/061W				

-----7D0A35 201811Z /38

P 201812Z NOV 92  
 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3596  
 INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
 AMEMBASSY QUITO  
 AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
 USAFSO HOWARD AFB PM  
 USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 RELEASE  
 EXCISE  
 DENY  
 IM/IPS/CF/IR  
 DECLASSIFY  
 DECLASSIFY  
 IN PART  
 Date: 7/2/92  
 EO Citations

FOIA Exemptions B1  
 PA Exemptions \_\_\_\_\_  
 TS authority to  
 CLASSIFY as ( ) S or ( ) C Sec.  
 DOWNGRADE TS to ( ) S or ( ) C

CONFIDENTIAL I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LIMA 15019

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
 TAGS: PGOV, MCPAP, PINR, PE  
 SUBJECT: EX-PRESIDENT ON ALLEGED COUP ATTEMPT

1. [REDACTED] - ENTIRE TEXT.

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2. SUMMARY: EX-PRESIDENT AND EX-ARMY COMMANDER FRANCISCO MORALES BERMUDEZ TOLD US PRESIDENT FUJIMORI HAD EXAGGERATED THE NOV. 12-13 COUP PLOT, BUT THAT PLOTTING HAD BEEN GOING ON. GEN. SALINAS HAD MISJUDGED INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL SUPPORT FOR THE COUP, WHICH MORALES BERMUDEZ SAID WOULD HAVE BEEN "DISASTROUS." HE CALLED SALINAS' APPARENT PLAN "INFANTILE." HE AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT CONCERN WAS GROWING IN THE ARMY OVER POOR WAGES AND OVER FUJIMORI'S AND MONTESINOS' MANIPULATION OF PROMOTIONS AND RETIREMENTS. THE PRESIDENT'S CAVALIER TREATMENT OF SENIOR ARMY OFFICERS IN THE WAKE OF THE COUP PRESAGED MORE TROUBLE, NOT LESS. END SUMMARY.

3. GEN. (RET.) FRANCISCO MORALES BERMUDEZ, WHO GOVERNED PERU 1975-80 AND RESTORED DEMOCRACY AFTER 12 YEARS OF MILITARY RULE, MET ON NOVEMBER

19 WITH CHARGE AND POLCOUNS TO REVIEW THE NOV. 12-13 COUP ATTEMPT. MORALES BERMUDEZ ADMITTED HE REMAINED PUZZLED ABOUT EVENTS. RETIRED GENERALS DID NOT LEAD COUPS; FOR THE PAST 30 YEARS, COUPS (INCLUDING HIS OWN AGAINST GEN. VELASCO) HAD BEEN DECIDED BY THE SENIOR ARMY LEADERSHIP. SALINAS APPARENTLY HAD CIRCUMVENTED THE SENIOR ACTIVE DUTY GENERALS (MANY OF WHOM OWE THEIR JOBS TO FUJIMORI AND HIS ADVISER MONTESINOS) AND DEALT DIRECTLY WITH MID-GRADE OFFICERS. HE SAW THIS AS A DANGEROUS THROWBACK TO "CUARTELAZOS" OF THE 1940'S AND BELEIVED THAT

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IT RAN COUNTER TO RECENT MILITARY INTERVENTIONISM IN WHICH THE HIGH COMMAND DECIDED THAT THE COUNTRY NEEDED TO BE RESCUED FROM A SERIOUS CRISIS.

4. MORALES BERMUDEZ SAID HE WAS NOT SURPRISED TO HEAR THAT SALINAS HAD LED THE COUP PLOTTING. HE WAS SURPRISED, HOWEVER, THAT SALINAS WOULD IMAGINE THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO OBTAIN THE APPROVAL OF THE ARMY AS AN INSTITUTION, LET ALONE THAT OF THE OTHER SERVICES AND THAT OF THE FOUR OTHER MILITARY REGIONS.

5. MORALES BERMUDEZ DISMISSED OUTRIGHT ANY POSSIBILITY THAT THE COUP PLOTTERS HAD PLANNED FUJIMORI'S DEATH. THAT SIMPLY HAD NO PRECEDENT, AND NO ATTRACTION FOR AN HONORABLE SENIOR OFFICER. FUJIMORI'S USE OF THE ALLEGED MURDER PLOT WAS AN EFFORT TO GENERATE SYMPATHY FOR HIS CONSTITUENT CONGRESS LIST IN THE NOV. 22 ELECTIONS. THE PRESIDENT'S FOUR LENGTHY PERSONAL APPEARANCES IN THE MEDIA WERE BENEATH THE DIGNITY OF HIS OFFICE.

6. A COUP WOULD HAVE BEEN DISASTROUS FOR PERU, MORALES BERMUDEZ SAID. IT WOULD HAVE RETURNED PERU NOT JUST TO COUP PLOTTING, BUT TO PLOTTING WITHIN THE ARMED SERVICES. MORALES BERMUDEZ SAID SALINAS APPARENTLY HAD NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE PRESIDENT'S ENORMOUS POPULARITY -- ALTHOUGH HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE WERE NO

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SPONTANEOUS DEMONSTRATIONS OF SUPPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT. A COUP WOULD HAVE BEEN REJECTED BY THE USG AND OTHER COUNTRIES; IT WOULD HAVE SET

BACK PERU'S INCIPIENT RETURN TO DEMOCRACY...  
CHARGE UNDERSCORED THE USG'S TOTAL OPPOSITION TO  
A COUP; WE WOULD VIEW SUCH A COUP AS A SERIOUS  
SETBACK FOR OUR GOALS IN PERU AND IT WOULD HAVE  
MADE DEALING WITH THE REGIME VIRTUALLY  
IMPOSSIBLE.

7. THAT SAID, MORALES BERMUDEZ REMAINED WORRIED  
THAT THE AUTOCRATIC PRESIDENT WOULD CONTINUE TO  
MISHANDLE HIS RELATIONS WITH THE ARMY. IT WAS  
NO SECRET THAT ARMY OFFICERS WERE UPSET WITH  
THEIR PITIFUL SALARIES, AND WITH THE

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MACHINATIONS OF THE PRESIDENT, THROUGH

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INTELLIGENCE ADVISER VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS, TO  
MANIPULATE THE ARMY MORE THAN ANY OTHER  
PRESIDENT HAD DONE. THE COUP PLOTTING SHOULD  
HAVE TAUGHT THE PRESIDENT A LESSON, BUT MORALES  
BERMUDEZ DOUBTED HE WOULD HEED IT. IF THE  
PRESIDENT CONTINUED TO PLAY FAVORITES THROUGH  
UPCOMING PROMOTIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS LISTS  
(ANNOUNCED AT THIS TIME EACH YEAR) THEN MATTERS  
WOULD WORSEN. TO THIS MUST BE ADDED FUJIMORI'S  
PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON THE COUP PLOTTING, IN WHICH  
HE DENIGRATED SENIOR ARMY OFFICERS (E.G.,  
VALDIVIA) AND THE ARMY AS AN INSTITUTION.

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a  
\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* UNCLASSIFIED