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Case Number: S200200010

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ACTION ARA-01

INFO LOG-00 CIAE-00 OASY-00 DODE-00 HA-09 TEDE-00 INR-00
ADS-00 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-00 /013W
-----BCF6BE 072106Z /38

P 072102Z MAY 93
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 8111
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8163
NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LIMA 05268

USIA

USIA FOR P/G, P/PFL, AR (BWHARTON)

STATE FOR ARA/AND, ARA/P

NSC FOR MORLEY

E.O.12356:N/A

TAGS: PREL, OPRC, PE, PGOV, PHUM

SUBJECT: BILATERAL ISSUES MEDIA REACTION: GENERAL
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ROBLES' ACCUSATIONS

1. THE DECISION OF PERUVIAN ARMY GENERAL RODOLFO ROBLES TO SEEK POLITICAL ASYLUM WAS THE FRONT PAGE STORY IN ALL MAJOR DAILIES ON MAY 7. IT HAD ALSO BEEN THE LEAD NEWS ITEM ON SIX OF SEVEN OF PERU'S NIGHTLY NEWSCASTS ON MAY 6. IN A LENGTHY LETTER SENT TO THE MEDIA, ROBLES ACCUSED ARMY CHIEF HERMOSA AND INTELLIGENCE DIRECTOR MONTESINOS OF DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN THE LA CANTUTA MASSACRES.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM E. LANDFAIR
DATE/CASE ID: 29 JUL 2002 S200200010

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2. WHILE NEITHER ROBLES NOR HIS WIFE (WHO HELD HER OWN PRESS CONFERENCE ON MAY 6) INDICATED THE GENERAL'S WHEREABOUTS, MOST MEDIA ASSUMED HE WAS AT THE U.S. EMBASSY. THIS SUPPOSITION WAS "CONFIRMED" IN AN AFP STORY WHICH QUOTED AN UNNAMED "STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL IN WASHINGTON" AS SAYING THAT ROBLES HAD BEEN IN THE EMBASSY SINCE WEDNESDAY.

3. IN ADDITION TO THE MULTI-PAGE NEWS COVERAGE OF THIS EVENT, THREE MAJOR DAILIES RAN EDITORIALS ON THE ROBLES CASE IN THEIR MAY 7 EDITIONS. ALL INDICATED THAT ROBLES' SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS COMBINED WITH UNUSUAL TROOP MOVEMENTS ON THE MORNING OF MAY 6 SHOWED THE UNDERLYING TENSIONS IN THE MILITARY AND THE FRAGILITY OF THE COUNTRY'S INSTITUTIONS. EXCERPTS FOLLOW:

4. CONSERVATIVE, INFLUENTIAL "EL COMERCIO" (READERSHIP ABOUT 691,000) IS THE PRESTIGIOUS PAPER OF RECORD FOR THE PERUVIAN ELITE. IT LEADS IN LIMA AND NATIONAL
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READERSHIP.

"EL COMERCIO" RAN A PAGE 2 EDITORIAL ON ROBLES TITLED "THE DELICATE EVENTS OF YESTERDAY."

"THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY EVENTS THAT OCCURRED YESTERDAY ARE DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND AND THE VERSIONS TOLD BY VARIOUS SOURCES ARE SOMEWHAT CONTRADICTORY."

"ACCORDING TO ROBLES' WIFE, THIS MILITARY OFFICER WAS NOT TRYING TO HEAD OR PROMOTE A COUP. A DOCUMENT GIVEN TO THE MEDIA BY GENERAL ROBLES CHRONICLES HIS PROBLEMS WITHIN THE MILITARY...ACCORDING TO THE SAME DOCUMENT, WHICH CONTAINS DETAILS IMPOSSIBLE TO CONFIRM AT THIS TIME, ROBLES' PROBLEMS BEGAN WHEN HE TRIED TO INVESTIGATE THE 'DISAPPEARANCES' AT LA CANTUTA AND OTHER VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS. HE NOW BLAMES THE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF AND THE PRESIDENT'S MUCH DISCUSSED INTELLIGENCE ADVISORS FOR THESE ACTIONS."

"THIS EVENT SHOULD SERVE AS A WARNING TO US ABOUT THE POLITICIZING OF THE ARMED FORCES: THIS SITUATION IS

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DANGEROUS AND HAS UNDESIRABLE CONSEQUENCES AS WE HAVE SEEN IN BOTH THE ATTEMPTED COUP OF NOVEMBER 13 AND THE 'DEMONSTRATION OF FORCE' ON APRIL 21-22."

"THE FUNDAMENTAL THING IS THAT THIS POLITICIZING OF THE MILITARY EXISTS BECAUSE OF MUCH-PUBLICIZED DISCONTENT IN A SECTION OF THE ARMY THAT IS UPSET OVER THE...UNORTHODOX CHANGES AND MODIFICATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED."

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"WITHOUT A DOUBT THESE EVENTS PROFOUNDLY AFFECT THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STABILITY THAT THE COUNTRY WAS BEGINNING TO DEVELOP. FOR THIS REASON IT IS URGENT THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND THE CONGRESS CLARIFY THE FACTS OF THE CURRENT CASE, STARTING WITH AN EXHAUSTIVE INVESTIGATION OF THE 'LA CANTUTA' INCIDENT..."

5. CENTER-RIGHT "EXPRESO" (READERSHIP ABOUT 260,000) IS SECOND IN ELITE INFLUENCE, BUT SIXTH IN LIMA AND

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NATIONAL READERSHIP. IT HAS BECOME SOMETHING OF A
PRESIDENT FUJIMORI MOUTHPIECE SINCE APRIL 5, 1992.

"EXPRESO" RAN A LEAD EDITORIAL TITLED "A SERIOUS
INVESTIGATION" THAT SPOKE ALMOST DIRECTLY TO THE ARMED
FORCES.

"NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION WAS CONVULSED
AGAIN YESTERDAY BY AN ACTION BY THE PERUVIAN HIGH
COMMAND. IT IS KNOWN THAT GENERAL ROBLES HAS BEEN GIVEN
REFUGE IN THE U.S. EMBASSY FOR THE PAST THREE DAYS.
FROM THERE HE SENT OUR EDITORIAL STAFF A LETTER THAT
SPELLS OUT A SERIES OF GRAVE ACCUSATIONS RELATED TO THE
EVENTS AT LA CANTUTA AND OTHER SIMILAR CASES."

"WE REPEAT THAT (THESE CHARGES) DO NOT COMPROMISE THE
ARMY AS AN INSTITUTION. THEY ARE ISOLATED INCIDENTS.
WE ARE IN A WAR, AND IN WAR EXCESSES AND CRIMES ARE
COMMITTED. WE KNOW THAT THE ANTI-SUBVERSIVE
STRATEGY...IS BASED ON AN ALLIANCE WITH THE PEOPLE AND
IS TIED TO A RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS...OBVIOUSLY THE
EVENTS AT LA CANTUTA CONSTITUTE NOT JUST EXCEPTIONS, BUT
ACTION INCOMPATIBLE AND CONTRADICTORY WITH A STRATEGY
BASED ON GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLE."

"FOR THIS REASON THE INVESTIGATION AND PUNISHMENT OF
THOSE RESPONSIBLE WILL HAVE A POSITIVE RATHER THAN A
NEGATIVE EFFECT ON THE ARMED FORCES. IT WILL BE
APPROVED OF. IT WILL IMPROVE THE IMAGE OF THE ARMY AND

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GIVE IT AN INVINCIBLE MORAL AUTHORITY."

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6. PRO-BUSINESS "GESTION" (READERSHIP ABOUT 24,000) IS
THE PERUVIAN "WALL STREET JOURNAL" FOR A TINY BUT ELITE
READERSHIP.

"GESTION" TITLED ITS LEAD EDITORIAL "CAREFUL WITH OUR
DEMOCRACY|"

"IN WHAT COULD BE A NEW ATTEMPT TO DESTABILIZE THE
GOVERNMENT, GENERAL RODOLFO ROBLES ESPINOZA...HAS BECOME
THE PROTAGONIST IN AN EVENT THAT CLEARLY SHOWS THE
DISCONTENT OF THOSE MILITARY MEN WHOSE CAREERS HAVE BEEN
PUT ON HOLD."

"THIS ABORTIVE UPRISING SHOWS THE FRAGILITY OF OUR
INSTITUTIONS IN RELATION TO THE INDIVIDUAL INTERESTS OF
THOSE WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR REPRESENTING AND DEFENDING
US..."

"THE ACTIONS OF GENERAL ROBLES HAVE RECEIVED THE SUPPORT
OF THE ALLIES OF GENERAL SALINAS AND OTHER GROUPS
IDENTIFIED AS PARTICIPATING OR SHARING THE OBJECTIVES OF
THE ATTEMPTED COUP OF NOVEMBER 13, 1992."

"THIS NEW 'PUTSCH' COULD BE VERY PREJUDICIAL TO OUR
EFFORTS TO REINSERT PERU INTO THE INTERNATIONAL
FINANCIAL SYSTEM."

"THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO MINIMIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF
THIS GRAVE DOMESTIC CRISIS IGNORES THE REAL CAUSES OF
THIS INSTITUTIONAL DISCONTENT. THIS LACK OF OPEN
DISCUSSION CLOSES OFF THE POSSIBILITY OF CONFRONTING THE
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CURRENT CRISIS, AND LETS THE INTERNAL PROBLEMS OF THE
MILITARY AND THE COUNTRY CONTINUE TO BOIL..."
COREY-ARCHER

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