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Case Number: S200200010

RELEASED IN FULL

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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
-----BE2AD1 111810Z /38

P 111806Z MAY 93
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 8116
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8230
NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LIMA 05362

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, PHUM

SUBJECT: BILATERAL ISSUES MEDIA REACTION: GENERAL
ROBLES ASYLUM CASE

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1. THE ROBLES CASE DOMINATED THE HEADLINES OVER THE MAY
8-10 WEEKEND. WHILE THE GENERAL WOULD HAVE BEEN THE TOP
STORY UNDER JUST ABOUT ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, ROBLES' PHONE
INTERVIEWS WITH VARIOUS PUBLIC AFFAIRS TV PROGRAMS AND
HIS COMMENTS TO REPORTERS IN BUENOS AIRES MAXIMIZED THE
COVERAGE OF HIS ACTIVITIES DURING HIS FIFTEEN MINUTES OF
FAME.

2. IN ADDITION TO THE NEWS COVERAGE OF ROBLES'
ACTIVITIES, THE GENERAL WAS ALSO THE SUBJECT OF A

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM E. LANDFAIR
DATE/CASE ID: 12 AUG 2002 S200200010

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PLETHORA OF EDITORIALS AND OPINION PIECES. WHILE THESE ARTICLES EMPHASIZED DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF THIS INCIDENT, MOST INDICATED THAT ROBLES' ACTIONS DEMONSTRATED BOTH THE CONTINUING DISCONTENT WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES AND THE NEED TO HAVE OPEN INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE LA CANTUTA KILLINGS AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. MANY ARTICLES ALSO SPECULATED ABOUT THE EFFECT THESE MOST RECENT ACCUSATIONS WOULD HAVE ON THE POLITICAL FUTURES OF ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF HERMOSA AND INTELLIGENCE ADVISOR MONTESINOS.

3. NEITHER THE USG OR THE EMBASSY MERITED MUCH ATTENTION. HOWEVER, BURIED AMIDST THE BLIZZARD OF ARTICLES ON ROBLES WERE TWO COMMENTARIES IN THE PRO-FUJIMORI DAILY "EXPRESO" THAT MENTIONED THE U.S. ROLE IN THIS INCIDENT. IN HIS PAGE 2 COLUMN ON MAY 8 TITLED "HISTORY OF AN ASYLUM" MANAGING EDITOR MANUEL D'ORNELLAS GAVE A BLOW-BY-BLOW DESCRIPTION OF ROBLES' ENTRY INTO THE U.S. EMBASSY AND THE NEGOTIATIONS THAT LED TO HIS DEPARTURE. THE FOLLOWING DAY REGULAR CONTRIBUTOR PATRICIO RICKETTS CALLED ROBLES' DECISION TO

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GO TO THE U.S. EMBASSY A "PROVOCATION" IN A PAGE 4
COLUMN HEADLINED "HE SAYS THAT THEY TOLD HIM." EXCERPTS
FROM BOTH ARTICLES FOLLOW:

3. CENTER-RIGHT "EXPRESO" (READERSHIP ABOUT 210,000) IS SECOND IN ELITE INFLUENCE, BUT SIXTH IN LIMA AND NATIONAL READERSHIP. IT HAS BECOME SOMETHING OF A PRESIDENT FUJIMORI MOUTHPIECE SINCE APRIL 5, 1992.

4. FROM THE MANUEL D'ORNELLAS COLUMN "HISTORY OF AN ASYLUM:"

"HOW IS IT POSSIBLE THAT AN EMBASSY AS TIGHTLY GUARDED AS THE U.S. MISSION IN LIMA COULD ALLOW GENERAL ROBLES AND SIX MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY TO ENTER AND INSTALL THEMSELVES THERE TO ASK FOR ASYLUM? DOESN'T THIS EASY ACCESS REFLECT A CERTAIN COMPLICITY WITH ROBLES ON THE PART OF THE WASHINGTON GOVERNMENT OR ITS REPRESENTATIVES HERE? ROBLES, REMEMBER, HAS DENOUNCED A GROUP OF MILITARY MEN FOR THEIR SUPPOSED PARTICIPATION IN SERIOUS

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HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS."

"ALL THESE QUESTIONS REMAIN OPEN BASED ON WHAT WE WERE ABLE TO VERIFY FROM AN IMPECCABLE DIPLOMATIC SOURCE. IT SEEMS THE DIPLOMATS IN THE U.S. EMBASSY WERE SURPRISED BY GENERAL ROBLES... ONCE THERE, THE SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE ROBLES FAMILY ASKED FOR ASYLUM..."

"THE U.S. CHARGE, CHARLES BRAYSHAW, OPTED TO LOOK FOR A THIRD COUNTRY THAT RECOGNIZES THE RIGHT OF ASYLUM IN
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ORDER TO GIVE GENERAL ROBLES AND HIS FAMILY THE PROTECTION THEY NEEDED. THAT COUNTRY WAS ARGENTINA..."
"GENERAL ROBLES HAS MADE A GRAVE ACCUSATION; THE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF HAS BEEN QUESTIONED YET AGAIN; EX-CAPTAIN MONTESINOS CONTINUES TO BE THE OBJECT OF SERIOUS CONCERN. ALL THESE ISSUES REMAIN OPEN AND THEY CAN'T BE ERASED LIKE GENERAL ROBLES AND HIS FAMILY IN TWO ARGENTINE LEAR JETS."

4. FROM THE PATRICIO RICKETTS COLUMN TITLED "HE SAYS

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"A DIVISION COMMANDER WHO THINKS HE MERITS BEING ARMY
INSPECTOR GENERAL OUGHT TO HAVE THE COURAGE TO
PERSONALLY MAKE HIS ACCUSATIONS. HE SHOULDN'T HIDE
HIMSELF IN THE U.S. EMBASS/ AS A CALCULATED PROVOCATION
WHILE HIS WIFE SHOWS HERSELF ON HIS BEHALF."

"THIS IRRESPONSIBLE GENERAL HAS JEOPARDIZED THE LIVES OF
NUMEROUS OFFICIALS AND THEIR FAMILIES... UP UNTIL NOW
ROBLES HAS DONE A LOT FOR THE SCANDAL (THE LA CANTUTA
CASE) BUT LITTLE FOR TRUTH, JUSTICE OR HIS INSTITUTION.
ONE THING IS CERTAIN: HIS PRETENSION OF INVESTIGATING
THE CASE FROM THE INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE IS
UNACCEPTABLE. THE REASON IS OBVIOUS: ONE WHO BELIEVED
LESS THAN A MONTH AGO THAT HIS CONTRIBUTION (TO THE
INVESTIGATION) WOULD BE ANONYMOUS AND BLAMED ON OTHERS
MERITS BEING REMOVED FROM ALL HIS RESPONSIBILITIES IN
THE ARMY. THIS APPLIES BOTH HERE AND IN WASHINGTON."
COREY-ARCHER

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