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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
-----BE2B05 111812Z /38

P 111808Z MAY 93
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 8118
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8232
NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LIMA 05363

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: LEADING
DAILY SAYS ROBLES' ACCUSATIONS DEMONSTRATE NEED TO
INVESTIGATE HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

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1. AMONG THE MANY COMMENTARIES ON THE ROBLES CASE THAT
APPEARED OVER THE MAY 8-10 WEEKEND THE BEST MAY HAVE
BEEN AN EDITORIAL AND SIGNED OPINION PIECE IN LEADING
DAILY "EL COMERICO." IN A PAGE TWO EDITORIAL IN THE MAY
9 EDITION TITLED "CONSEQUENCES OF A GRAVE INCIDENT" THE
PAPER MAKES A STRONG CASE FOR THE NEED TO INVESTIGATE
THE LA CANTUTA MASSACRE AND PUNISH ITS PERPETRATORS.
THE FOLLOWING DAY PUBLISHER LUIS MIRO QUESADA USED A
PAGE 2 COMMENTARY TITLED "SOMETHING IS ROTTEN IN

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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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DENMARK" TO BLAST PRO-GOVERNMENT CONGRESSMEN FOR TRYING TO IMPEDE THE INVESTIGATION OF ROBLES' CHARGES. EXCERPTS FROM BOTH ARTICLES FOLLOW:

 2. CONSERVATIVE, INFLUENTIAL "EL COMERCIO" (READERSHIP ABOUT 620,500) IS THE PRESTIGIOUS PAPER OF RECORD FOR THE PERUVIAN ELITE. IT LEADS IN LIMA AND NATIONAL READERSHIP.

3. FROM THE EDITORIAL "CONSEQUENCES OF A GRAVE INCIDENT:"

"WITH THE DEPARTURE OF GENERAL ROBLES AND HIS FAMILY IN THE LEGAL STATUS OF 'TRANSPORTEES' AND NOT ASYLEES THIS DISQUIETING EPISODE APPEARS TO HAVE ENDED."

"NEVERTHELESS, INDEPENDENT OF THE ROLE OF THE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, IT IS EVIDENT THAT PRESIDENT FUJIMORI'S GOVERNMENT MUST NOW CONFRONT A SERIES OF DIFFICULT ISSUES."

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"THE FIRST PRIORITY IS THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS."

"WHAT IS CERTAIN IS THAT THERE ARE MANY CASES OF ASSASSINATIONS AND 'DISAPPEARANCES' THAT ARE STILL UNINVESTIGATED DESPITE THE EXISTENCE OF MANY ACCUSATIONS AND EVEN INDICATIONS OF THE PRESUMED PARTICIPATION OF MILITARY PERSONNEL. AS WE HAVE SAID PREVIOUSLY IN THIS COLUMN, IT CAN'T BE POSSIBLE THAT A PROFESSOR AND NINE STUDENTS COULD SIMPLY DISAPPEAR FROM LA CANTUTA AT A TIME WHEN IT WAS BEING HEAVILY GUARDED BY THE ARMY."

"AN EXHAUSTIVE AND COMPLETE INVESTIGATION OF THIS CASE MUST BE CARRIED OUT. THAT IT MUST ARRIVE AT THE TRUTH OF THE CASE AND PUNISH THOSE THAT ARE RESPONSIBLE, WHETHER CIVILIAN OR MILITARY, IS FUNDAMENTAL."

"THE ONLY MORAL AUTHORITY THAT CAN DEFEAT THE SUBVERSIVES IS THAT WHICH IS GIVEN BY ACTING UNDER THE NORMS OF THE RULE OF LAW."

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"IT IS INDISPENSABLE TO CLARIFY IF THERE WERE OFFICERS OR SOLDIERS INVOLVED. THIS DOESN'T MEAN THAT THE ARMY WILL BE AFFECTED AS AN INSTITUTION, BUT WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THE ARMED FORCES OF PERU SIMPLY CANNOT HAVE A POLICY THAT GOES BEYOND THE LAW."

FROM THE LUIS MIRO QUESADA ARTICLE TITLED "SOMETHING IS ROTTEN IN DENMARK:"

"IT IS FUNDAMENTAL THAT THE MILITARY OF A COUNTRY
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MAINTAINS ITSELF COMPLETELY AT THE MARGINS OF POLITICS...AT THE VERY LEAST THEY MUST BE DEDICATED TO THE STATE AND NOT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DAY. HOWEVER, IT IS EVIDENT THAT ALONG WITH THE 'SELF-COUP' OF APRIL 5 OF LAST YEAR HAS COME A POLITICIZATION OF THE ARMED FORCES THAT IS WEAKENING DEMOCRACY AND OUR MILITARY INSTITUTIONS."

"DEFENSE MINISTER MALCA...HAS PROMISED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL INVESTIGATE THIS EVENT AND THAT THE INVESTIGATION WILL BE BOTH OPEN AND EXHAUSTIVE."

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"HE IS THEREFORE COMPETING WITH THE SUPREME MILITARY
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COURT WHERE THEY ARE NOT JUST HAVING A TRIAL AGAINST
'WHOEVER MIGHT BE RESPONSIBLE' BUT A PROCEEDING AGAINST
PEOPLE SPECIFICALLY ACCUSED BY GENERAL ROBLES. HE ALSO
IS COMPETING WITH THE CONGRESS WHERE AN INVESTIGATIVE
COMMITTEE HAS THE RIGHT TO CITE...THOSE WHO GENERAL
ROBLES SAYS WERE THE AUTHORS OF THE KILLINGS AT LA
CANTUTA SINCE THESE ARE NOT ANONYMOUS ACCUSATIONS, NOR
THOSE OF A POLITICALLY MOTIVATED CITIZEN OR RELATIVE OF
A VICTIM, BUT CHARGES BROUGHT BY A DIVISION COMMANDER
WHO SAYS HE GOT THE INFORMATION FROM THE NATIONAL
INTELLIGENCE SERVICE."

"THESE DECLARATIONS HAVE GREAT IMPORTANCE. TO ATTACK
GENERAL ROBLES' CONDUCT OR DISCOUNT HIS CLAIMS BECAUSE
THERE IS NO PROOF -- AS SOME GOVERNMENT AND RENOVATION
PARTY CONGRESSMEN HAVE DONE -- IS UNJUST AND IN SOME WAY
SEEMS TO BE AN ATTEMPT TO COVER UP OR BLOCK THE
INVESTIGATIONS THAT WILL YIELD THE PROOF THAT WILL
EITHER ABSOLVE OR CONDEMN THE OFFICIALS IMPLICATED.
THESE CONGRESSMEN ARE MAKING THE SEARCH FOR THE TRUTH
DIFFICULT AND IN THIS WAY CAN BE SAID TO BE ACTING
UNETHICALLY." COREY-ARCHER

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