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RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.5(C), 1.5(D)

PTQ6146

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ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	L-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01	PA-00
	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00
	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00

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 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6395
 INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
 AMEMBASSY MEXICO
 AMEMBASSY QUITO
 AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
 AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
 AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
 AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
 AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
 USCINCSO MIAMI FL

SECTION 01 OF 03 LIMA 005528

E.O. 12958: DECL 9/16/05
 TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PE
 SUBJECT: NEW ELECTIONS IN PERU: POSITIVE REACTION TO
 FUJIMORI PROPOSAL

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REF: A) LIMA 5526 B) LIMA 5498

CLASSIFIED BY JOHN R. HAMILTON, AMBASSADOR. REASON FOR
CLASSIFICATION 1.5 (B) AND (D).

1. (C) PERUVIAN OPINION MAKERS, THE PUBLIC AND ARMED
 FORCES ARE REACTING POSITIVELY AND CALMLY, PRAISING
 PRESIDENT FUJIMORI'S STATESMANSHIP IN CALLING FOR NEW
 ELECTIONS IN WHICH HE WILL NOT BE A CANDIDATE. OPPOSITION
 AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS HAVE APPEALED PUBLICLY FOR MODERATE
 AND RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR IN THE INTEREST OF THE COUNTRY.

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THE AMBASSADOR HAD POSITIVE, REASSURING CONVERSATIONS WITH PRIME MINISTER SALAS, DEFENSE MINISTER BERGAMINO AND VICE FOREIGN MINISTER ARROSPIDE. TIMELINES FOR NEW ELECTIONS UNDER DISCUSSION VARY FROM BETWEEN THREE MONTHS TO A YEAR, WITH NO CLEAR BREAKDOWN INDICATING THE OPPOSITION IS FIRMLY IN FAVOR OF EARLIER BALLOTING NOR A UNIFIED GOP IN FAVOR OF LATER ELECTIONS. SPECULATION ABOUT POSSIBLE PRO-GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES HAS ALREADY HAS BEGUN, AND THERE ARE SEVERAL SCENARIOS FOR THE WAY TO NEW ELECTIONS. THE WHEREABOUTS OF DE FACTO INTELLIGENCE SERVICE CHIEF MONTESINO ARE UNKNOWN. END SUMMARY

A REAL SURPRISE, A STATESMAN-LIKE ACT

2. (C) PRESIDENT FUJIMORI'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW ELECTIONS IN WHICH HE WILL NOT BE A CANDIDATE AND THE "DE-ACTIVATION" OF THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE CAUGHT THE COUNTRY AND

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MOST OF THE CABINET BY SURPRISE. MOMENTS BEFORE THE PRESIDENT SPOKE, JUSTICE MINISTER ALBERTO BUSTAMANTE AND PERU 2000 LEGISLATOR (AND FORMER PRIME MINISTER) VICTOR JOY WAY TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT THEY HAD NO IDEA WHEN THE PRESIDENT WAS GOING TO SPEAK OR WHAT HE WAS GOING TO SAY. ASKED WHAT WAS TAKING THE GOVERNMENT SO LONG TO MAKE A STATEMENT, JOY WAY ASSERTED THAT THE TWO-DAY DELAY IN THE PRESIDENT'S PUBLIC STATEMENT REFLECTED A PUSHBACK FROM DE FACTO SIN DIRECTOR VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS'S SUPPORTERS IN THE MILITARY.

3. (C) THE AMBASSADOR TOLD MINISTER OF DEFENSE BERGAMINO SEPTEMBER 17 THAT WE SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION AND CALLED ON ALL POLITICAL FORCES TO PUT THE INTERESTS OF THE COUNTRY FIRST, AND TO RETURN TO THE OAS DIALOGUE. BERGAMINO RESPONDED THAT THE PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT HAD THE FULL BACKING OF THE ARMED FORCES. (NOTE: INDEED ONE RUMOR SUGGESTS THE MILITARY MAY HAVE ENCOURAGED FUJIMORI'S ACTION.) THE GENERAL EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT RADICAL ELEMENTS OF THE OPPOSITION MIGHT REGARD THE CURRENT SITUATION AS A POWER VACUUM AND SAID THE ARMED FORCES WOULD NOT TOLERATE VIOLENT BEHAVIOR. THE AMBASSADOR TOLD BERGAMINO THAT THE OPPOSITION'S REACTION HAD BEEN RESPONSIBLE AND THAT THE GOP COULD COUNT ON US TO URGE EVERYONE TO EXERCISE STATESMANSHIP. THE AMBASSADOR ALSO

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SPOKE WITH PRIME MINISTER FEDERICO SALAS AND VICE FOREIGN MINISTER JOSE ANTONIO ARROSPIDE TO CONVEY OUR POSITION. THEY EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR OUR CALL ON THE OPPOSITION TO BEHAVE RESPONSIBLY. THE REACTION OF THE GOP OFFICIALS WAS POSITIVE AND REASSURING.

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4. (C) THE AMBASSADOR ALSO SPOKE WITH PRESIDENT FUJIMORI'S DAUGHTER AND FIRST LADY, KEIKO SOFIA SEPTEMBER 17. HE TOLD HER THE USG SUPPORTS THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION. HE ALSO EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF HOW DIFFICULT THE DECISION MUST HAVE BEEN FOR THE FUJIMORI FAMILY. KEIKO CALLED PRESIDENT FUJIMORI'S DECISION "HISTORIC," SAYING "IT IS THE MOST DEMOCRATIC THING MY FATHER HAS EVER DONE." SHE TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT AS A PERUVIAN AND AS HIS DAUGHTER SHE WAS PROUD OF HER FATHER. THE PRESIDENT'S DAUGHTER SAID THE DECISION WAS THE MOST DIFFICULT FACED BY HER FATHER BUT IT WAS THE BEST THING FOR THE COUNTRY. SHE ALSO SAID SHE APPRECIATED U.S. POLICY STANCE VIS-A-VIS PERU.

INITIAL ARMED FORCES REACTION

4. (C) EMBASSY CONTACTS IN THE NAVY AND AIR FORCE HAVE GENERALLY BEEN OPTIMISTIC REGARDING THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW ELECTIONS. ONE KEY OFFICER TOLD US THAT GIVEN ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION WAS FOR THE BEST. AS IS CHARACTERISTIC, OUR WORKING LEVEL MILITARY CONTACTS

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	INR-00	L-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01	PA-00
	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00
	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6396
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY QUITO
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AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
USCINCSO MIAMI FL

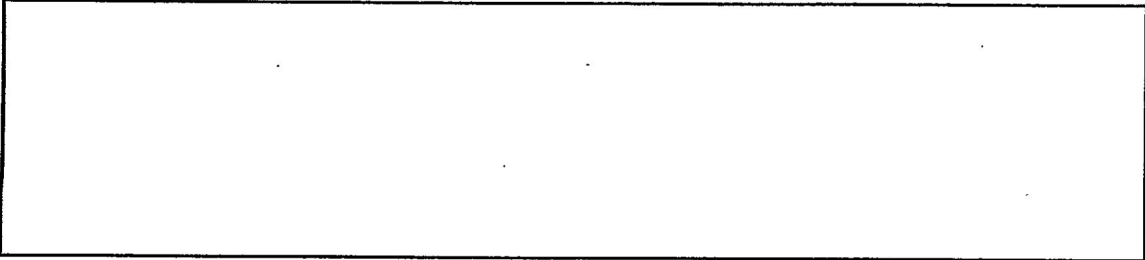
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HAVE BEEN MUCH MORE RESERVED. IN KEEPING WITH MOD
BERGAMINO'S COMMENTS TO THE AMBASSADOR ABOVE, REGARDLESS OF
SERVICE, THE CONSENSUS AT THE COLONEL AND BRIGADIER GENERAL
LEVEL IS THAT AS PROFESSIONAL SOLDIERS THE MILITARY WILL
SUPPORT AN ORDERLY TRANSITION OF POWER AND WHATEVER
GOVERNMENT IS ELECTED.

INTELLIGENCE SERVICES



B1

ELECTIONS SCENARIOS

6. (SBU) FUJIMORI'S CALL FOR NEW ELECTIONS, STILL PRESUMED

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TO BE BOTH PRESIDENTIAL AND CONGRESSIONAL, HAS GENERATED WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSIONS ON WHEN AND UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS THEY WOULD LIKELY OCCUR. ACCORDING TO GOP SUPPORTERS AND MEMBERS, THE ELECTIONS WILL MOST LIKELY OCCUR WITHIN SIX MONTHS TO A YEAR, AND WILL REQUIRE AGREEMENT AMONG MEMBERS OF CONGRESS' DIRECTIVE COUNCIL TO SET DATES. NATIONAL

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BOARD OF ELECTIONS MEMBER CARLOS VELA SAID ELECTIONS COULD LEGALLY BE REALIZED AS EARLY AS JANUARY 2001, PROVIDING FOUR MONTHS FOR A CAMPAIGN PERIOD. WIDELY RESPECTED JURIST (AND FORMER FUJIMORI PRIME MINISTER) JAVIER VALLE Riestra OPINED THE TRANSITION PROCESS TO NEW ELECTIONS WILL REQUIRE 12 MONTHS, AND THAT CONGRESS OR A SPECIAL COMMISSION ELECTED BY CONGRESS SHOULD OVERSEE THIS STEP. BY CONTRAST, PERU POSSIBLE LEGISLATOR CARLOS FERRERO SAID ELECTIONS SHOULD OCCUR WITHIN FOUR MONTHS, UNDER CONDITIONS THAT A FREE PRESS AND A NEW ELECTION SYSTEM. ALEJANDRO TOLEDO, RETURNING TO PERU FROM WASHINGTON, SPOKE OF TIME BEING NECESSARY TO ENSURE CLEAN PROCEDURES FOR THE ELECTIONS.

7. (U) CONGRESS PRESIDENT MARTHA HILDEBRANDT TOLD REPORTERS THAT ELECTIONS COULD BE HELD NO EARLIER THAT THE SPRING OF 2001 BECAUSE THE LAW REQUIRED THAT THE CALL FOR NEW ELECTIONS BE RECEIVED IN ONE SESSION OF CONGRESS AND APPROVED IN THE FOLLOWING SESSION (NOW SCHEDULED TO BEGIN NEXT MARCH). CONGRESS VICE PRESIDENT LUZ SALGADO SUGGESTED THAT ELECTIONS COULD BE HELD IN FOUR MONTHS.

8. (U) OPPOSITION AND RULING PARTY CONTACTS TOLD US THEY WILL BE MEETING THIS AFTERNOON AND TOMORROW TO DISCUSS A WIDE VARIETY OF ISSUES IN PLAY. FOR THE OPPOSITION, ONE FOCUS WILL BE THE LEADERSHIP IN CONGRESS AND THE NEED TO ADDRESS THE FACT THAT THE RULING PARTY PERU 2000'S CONTROLLING MAJORITY WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY ALLEGEDLY FRAUDULENT MEANS (I.E., BY BRIBERY OF THOSE WHO DEFFECTED.) ACCORDING TO SOMOS PERU CONTACTS, THE OPPOSITION WILL ATTEMPT TO REACH AGREEMENT ON A PROPOSAL TO THE RULING PARTY TO RE-CONSTITUTE THE LEADERSHIP TO INCLUDE OPPOSITION
SECRET

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FIGURES. SECOND, OPPOSITION LEADERS WILL DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF PROPOSING OPPOSITION FIGURES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CABINET. THIRD, INITIATE ELECTORAL REFORMS (RECOMPOSITION OF THE JNE, ONPE AND RNIEC) TO ENSURE FAIR

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ELECTIONS. FOURTH, THEY WILL EXPLORE CONVOKING A SPECIAL AD HOC COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE MONTESINOS. PRO-GOP SOURCES TOLD US THEY WOULD WAIT TO HEAR OPPOSITION PROPOSALS BUT EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THEY WOULD BE CONSTRUCTIVE AND OFFERED IN THE STATESMAN LIKE SPIRIT THAT HAD CHARACTERIZED THE PRESIDENT'S CALLING OF NEW ELECTIONS.

9. (SBU) SOURCES ARE NOT WILLING TO SPECULATE ON OPPOSITION OR PRO-GOVERNMENT ELEMENTS' ABILITY TO REACH AGREEMENT ON UNIFIED CANDIDATES. BENEATH THE PRAISE FOR FUJIMORI ARE CONSIDERATIONS BY BOTH RULING PARTY AND OPPOSITION LEADERS OF CANDIDACIES AND NUMBER OF PARTIES TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY BALLOTING.

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ACTION WHA-00

INFO LOG-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 SRPP-00 VC-00 H-01 TEDE-00
INR-00 L-00 AC-01 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OMB-01 PA-00
PM-00 PRS-00 ACE-00 P-00 SP-00 SSO-00 SS-00
TRSE-00 T-00 USIE-00 PMB-00 DRL-02 G-00 SAS-00
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10. (U) LIMA ARCHBISHOP LUIS CIPRIANI TOLD REPORTERS THAT THE OAS DIALOGUE PRESENTS A "MAGNIFICENT" OPPORTUNITY FOR WORKING TOWARDS NEW ELECTIONS. CIPRIANI ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE FOCUS OF THE TALKS AND PERHAPS SOME THEMES WOULD NOW HAVE TO CHANGE. FRANCISCO DIEZ CANSECO, PRESIDENT OF CONSEJO POR LA PAZ, AND APRA LEGISLATOR JORGE DEL CASTILLO ALSO PARTICIPANTS IN THE OAS TALKS, SAID THE TALKS SHOULD NOW FOCUS ON ELECTORAL REFORM. DIEZ CANSECO IS ONE OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES IN THE DIALOGUE (ON THE IVCHER MATTER) AND DEL CASTILLO, FOR THE OPPOSITION, HAS WORKED IN THE GROUP DISCUSSING THE RETURN TO THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COURT.

COMMENT

11. (C) THERE ARE A NUMBER OF LEGAL, CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED AND IT WILL TAKE SOME DAYS OR WEEKS TO DECIDE UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS ELECTIONS ARE HELD AND HOW MUCH ELECTORAL REFORM PRECEDES THEM. HOWEVER, THERE HAS BEEN SUPPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION FROM ALL SIDES, NOTABLY THE ARMED FORCES AND A BROAD SPECTRUM OF CIVIL SOCIETY. THERE ARE NO REPORTS OF DISTURBANCES AND STREETS ARE CALM. WE HAVE NO INDICATION AT THIS TIME THAT EITHER THE MILITARY OR INTELLIGENCE SERVICES HAVE ANY INTENTION OTHER THAN TO FOLLOW CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER.
HAMILTON
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