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Case Number: S200200010

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.5(D)

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PAGES MISSING

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ACTION SCT-00

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-10	ACDE-00	INLB-01	AID-00	ARA-01	A-00
	CA-02	CCO-00	CG-00	SMEC-00	COME-00	CTME-00	INL-01
	OASY-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EAP-01	EB-00
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	IO-00	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00	MMP-00	M-00	NRCE-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-03	OIC-02	OIS-01	OMB-01	OPIC-01
	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00	CIO-00	SP-00	SSO-00
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 CIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 FBI WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 JCS WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
 USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
 AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
 AMEMBASSY ROME
 DEAHQS WASHDC

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AMEMBASSY PARIS
 AMEMBASSY CARACAS
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 AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
 AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
 AMEMBASSY LONDON

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM E. LANDFAIR
 DATE/CASE ID: 13 AUG 2002 S200200010
 CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 25X6
 DECLASSIFY AFTER: 23 JAN 2027

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

UNCLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]

n/a

Case Number: S200200010

JUSTICE FOR TVCS -- J LANCASTER
SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD
ROME PASS EMBASSY VATICAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/23/07

TAGS: PTER ASEC PREL PGOV PE

SUBJECT: PERU'S HOSTAGE CRISIS UPDATE - JANUARY 18-23

1. CLASSIFIED BY JAMES MACK, DCM, REASON: 1.5 (D).

2. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT FUJIMORI REITERATED PUBLICLY THAT THE GOP WILL NOT TALK TO THE MRTA UNTIL THE MRTA TERRORISTS AGREE TO DROP THEIR DEMAND FOR PRISONER RELEASES. THIRTY-SEVEN DAYS AFTER STORMING THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE, MRTA TERRORISTS STILL CLING TO THE UNREALISTIC DEMAND THAT THE GOP RELEASE ITS IMPRISONED MILITANTS. IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE GOP AND THE MRTA, TENSIONS BETWEEN PRO-GOVERNMENT ARCHBISHOP JUAN LUIS CIPRIANI AND THE ICRC ARE BECOMING MORE PRONOUNCED. END SUMMARY.

FUJIMORI REITERATES PRECONDITION FOR TALKS

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3. (U) IN A JANUARY 22 INTERVIEW WITH JAPANESE JOURNALISTS, PRESIDENT ALBERTO FUJIMORI STATED THAT THE GOP WILL NOT BEGIN SUBSTANTIVE TALKS WITH THE TUPAC AMARU REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT (MRTA) UNTIL MRTA DROPS ITS DEMAND THAT THE GOP RELEASE ITS IMPRISONED MILITANTS. OVER THE COURSE OF THE 45-MINUTE INTERVIEW, HE ALSO SAID THE AGENDA COULD COVER OTHER ISSUES, INCLUDING DISCUSSING POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS IN PRISON CONDITIONS AND POLITICAL ASYLUM FOR THE HOSTAGE TAKERS. THE PERUVIAN PRESIDENT ALSO RESTATED THAT THE GOP STILL EXPECTS TO RESOLVE THE SITUATION "AND WILL USE ALL THE PEACEFUL MEANS AVAILABLE TO DO SO."

ARCHBISHOP CIPRIANI -- AT ODDS WITH ICRC

4. ARCHBISHOP JUAN LUIS CIPRIANI CONTINUES TO PLAY A KEY MEDIATING ROLE IN THE HOSTAGE STANDOFF; HE HAS VISITED THE

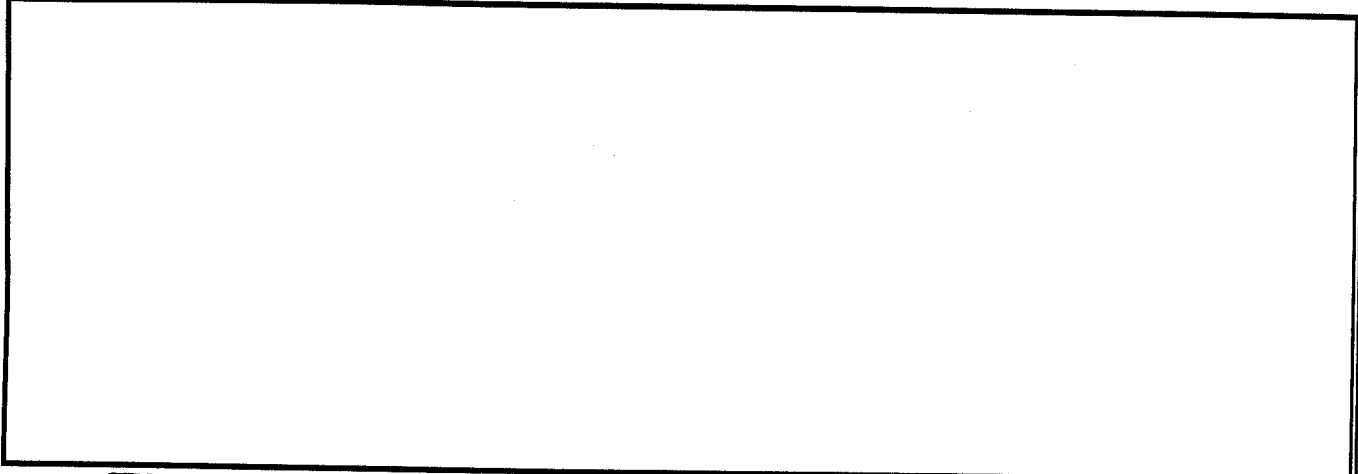
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JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE FOR A FEW HOURS EVERY DAY FOR THE LAST SEVERAL DAYS. FATHER GUILLERMO OVIEDO, A CONFIDANT OF CIPRIANI, TOLD POLOFF AND FBI NEGOTIATION EXPERTS ON JANUARY 23 THAT CIPRIANI HAS BEEN TRYING TO CONVINCING THE MRTA TERRORISTS TO DROP THEIR UNREALISTIC DEMAND THAT THE GOP RELEASE IMPRISONED MRTA MILITANTS AND TO DISCUSS DEMANDS THE GROUP COULD POSSIBLY ACHIEVE. OVIEDO SAID CIPRIANI ALSO SPENDS MOST OF HIS TIME SPEAKING INDIVIDUALLY TO HOSTAGES OR HEARING CONFESSIONS DURING HIS VISITS TO THE HOSTAGE SITE.



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6. [REDACTED] ASKED ABOUT CIPRIANI'S EFFECT ON THE MRTA TERRORISTS, OVIEDO SAID THEY SHOW HIM CONSIDERABLE RESPECT AND EVEN ASKED HIM TO TALK TO THEM ABOUT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH'S SOCIAL JUSTICE TEACHINGS. OVIEDO GAVE CIPRIANI CREDIT FOR SECURING THE JANUARY 17 RELEASE OF POLICE COMANDANTE LUIS VALENCIA HIRANO, WHO OVIEDO ASSERTED WAS RELEASED BECAUSE HE "WENT CRAZY" AND POSED A RISK TO BOTH THE TERRORISTS AND OTHER HOSTAGES (THE ICRC ANNOUNCED THAT HE BEEN RELEASED DUE TO UNSPECIFIED MEDICAL REASONS WHICH WE UNDERSTAND TO BE A BLEEDING ULCER). OVIEDO OPINED THAT THE ARCHBISHOP WOULD EVENTUALLY "MELT" THE MRTA TERRORISTS' INTRANSIGENCE AND BRING THEM TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE.

FINDING A HOME FOR MRTA TERRORISTS

[REDACTED]

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7. [REDACTED] AT THE DCM'S JANUARY 22 LUNCH FOR VISITING PERU DESK OFFICER KASKA, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS VICE MINISTER FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS AND FORMER HOSTAGE ARMANDO LECAROS SAID PERU, IN THE EVENT IT NEGOTIATES SAFE PASSAGE FOR THE MRTA HOSTAGE TAKERS TO A THIRD COUNTRY, WOULD ASK CUBA TO TAKE THE MRTA TERRORISTS ONLY AS A LAST RESORT. LECAROS SAID THE GOP PREFERRED THAT SOME OTHER COUNTRY ACCEPT THE HOSTAGE TAKERS, BUT HE SHED NO LIGHT ON WHICH COUNTRY MIGHT OFFER TO DO SO. HE NOTED THAT ADDING THE CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE GUARANTOR COMMISSION DOES NOT MEAN CANADA MIGHT CONSIDER ACCEPTING THE MRTA HOSTAGE TAKERS; ON THE CONTRARY, AMBASSADOR LECAROS SAID THE GOP DOES NOT WANT THE MRTA TERRORISTS TO GO TO CANADA.

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 CHANGES IN THE POLICE PERIMETER

8. (U) THE PERUVIAN POLICE SURROUNDING THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE ORDERED REPORTERS TO VACATE THE ROOFTOPS NEAR THE HOSTAGE SITE ON JANUARY 18. A NUMBER OF DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL REPORTERS HAD CAMPED ON NEARBY ROOFTOPS FILMING ALL THE ACTIVITY IN THE VICINITY OF THE JAPANESE RESIDENCE SINCE MRTA STORMED THE JAPANESE EMBASSY RECEPTION ON DECEMBER 17. ON JANUARY 22 THE PERUVIAN POLICE CONSPICUOUSLY BOOSTED ITS PRESENCE IN THE VICINITY OF THE HOSTAGE SITE, MOBILIZING TWO ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS AND FLYING A HELICOPTER LOW IN THE AREA.

 SOME INSIGHTS ON CERPA

9. [REDACTED] AT POLOFF'S JANUARY 22 DINNER FOR VISITING PERU DESK OFFICER, JOURNALIST CECILIA VALENZUELA SPOKE ABOUT MEETING MRTA NESTOR CERPA IN 1991. VALENZUELA, THEN AN INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER WITH A LOCAL TV STATION, WAS ONE OF THE JOURNALISTS PRESENT WHEN CERPA RELEASED NINE POLICE HOSTAGES HE HAD CAPTURED IN THE SAN

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MARTIN DEPARTMENT. ACCOMPANIED BY A YOUNG FEMALE MRTA MEMBER, SHE WALKED FOR ALMOST TWO DAYS TO AN MRTA CAMP IN THE UPPER HUALLAGA VALLEY TO INTERVIEW CERPA. VALENZUELA STRESSED THAT CERPA:

--- ENJOYED THE COMPLETE LOYALTY OF THE 100 OR SO TEENAGERS WHO WERE TRAINING WITH HIM AT THAT TIME.

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--- EXPLOITED THE MEDIA ATTENTION FULLY (HE WAITED TO START THE RELEASE "CEREMONY" UNTIL ALL THE CAMERAS WERE RUNNING);

--- INTELLIGENTLY FIELDLED PRESS QUESTIONS, BUT DODGED THE MORE CHALLENGING INQUIRIES.

10. [REDACTED] VALENZUELA SAID CERPA HAD DEMANDED BUT DID NOT WIN THE RELEASE OF MRTA PRISONERS IN THAT AREA IN EXCHANGE FOR THE POLICE HOSTAGES. SHE BELIEVED THAT CERPA DECIDED NOT TO PRESS HIS DEMAND BUT RATHER TO REAP PUBLICITY GAINS AFTER HOLDING THE POLICEMEN FOR ALMOST ONE MONTH. ASKED IF SHE FELT THERE COULD BE A PARALLEL TO THE PRESENT HOSTAGE CRISIS, VALENZUELA AND OTHER GUESTS KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT TERRORISM IN PERU MAINTAINED THAT CERPA APPEARED TO BE MORE DETERMINED AND OBSTINATE IN THIS CASE.

11. [REDACTED] VALENZUELA AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST PABLO ROJAS EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT CERPA'S TAKING THE NAME OF "COMANDANTE HUERTA" REFLECTED HIS DESPERATION. (NOTE: HEMIGIDIO HUERTA WAS THE UNION LEADER WHO DIED BY CERPA'S SIDE IN A CONFRONTATION WITH POLICE DURING THE 1979 WORKER TAKEOVER OF A LIMA TEXTILE FACTORY AND CONFRONTATION WITH POLICE). THEY STRESSED THAT HUERTA, BEFORE HE DIED, WROTE A WORKERS' SLOGAN IN HIS OWN BLOOD ON THE WALLS OF THE FACTORY.

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