

UNCLASSIFIED

AF148
Page: 1

Case Number: S200200010

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

PAGE 01 LIMA 00725 01 OF 03 270050Z
ACTION SS-00

INFO LOG-00 OASY-00 ADS-00 /000W
-----9340D7 270050Z /38

O 270049Z JAN 97
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5531

SECTION 01 OF 03 LIMA 000725

DECAPTIONED

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/26/2007
TAGS: PREL, PTER, PE, JA, US
SUBJECT: GOJ URGES A COORDINATED PRESS STATEMENT
ON IMMEDIATE GOP-MRTA TALKS WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS

1. CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR DENNIS C. JETT. REASONS: 1.5 (B) AND (D) THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST. SEE PARAS 2 AND 15.

2. SUMMARY: IN A JANUARY 25 MEETING, THE JAPANESE MOFA'S TOP RANKING OFFICIAL IN LIMA PRAISED AMBASSADOR JETT'S JANUARY 24 COMMENTS TO THE PRESS DISCOURAGING THE USE OF VIOLENCE TO END THE HOSTAGE STANDOFF. DIRECTOR GENERAL SATOH URGED THAT THE USG MAKE AN ADDITIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT IN COORDINATION WITH THOSE FROM OTHER CONCERNED CAPITALS SO AS TO ENCOURAGE THE IMMEDIATE INITIATION OF DIRECT GOP-MRTA TALKS WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS. IN A JANUARY 26 FOLLOW-UP CALL, SATOH SAID PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN CLEARING THE LOGJAM BUT ENCOURAGED THE USG TO GO AHEAD WITH PUBLIC

PAGE 02 LIMA 00725 01 OF 03 270050Z
STATEMENTS URGING BOTH PARTIES TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT DELAY. WE AGREE AND URGE THAT THE NOON BRIEFING ON JANUARY 27 BE USED TO MAKE A STATEMENT ALONG THE LINES OF THE LAST PARAGRAPH OF THIS CABLE. END SUMMARY.

HELP US GET TO "YES" ON GOP-MRTA DIALOGUE

3. SHUNICHI SATOH, THE JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR GENERAL OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN AFFAIRS, CALLED ON AMBASSADOR JETT JANUARY 25. ON TDY FOR THE DURATION OF THE HOSTAGE CRISIS RESULTING FROM THE DECEMBER 17 SEIZURE OF THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE, SATOH IS IN CHARGE OF COORDINATING THE

Page: 1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM E. LANDFAIR
DATE/CASE ID: 13 AUG 2002 S200200010
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 25X1

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Case Number: S200200010

GOJ'S CRISIS RESPONSE EFFORTS ON THE GROUND IN LIMA. DURING THE MEETING, SATOH REQUESTED THAT USG SPOKESMAN NICK BURNS JOIN FORCES WITH HIS COUNTERPARTS IN TOKYO, LONDON, AND OTTAWA TO ENCOURAGE IMMEDIATE INITIATION OF DIRECT TALKS BETWEEN THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TUPAC AMARU REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT (MRTA) AND THE GOVERNMENT OF PERU. THE GOJ BELIEVES THAT SUCH AN "INDIRECT DEMARCHE" WOULD ALLOW PRESIDENT FUJIMORI TO MODIFY HIS POSITION SLIGHTLY WITHOUT LOSING FACE.

4. [REDACTED] SATOH BEGAN AND ENDED THE MEETING WITH EFFUSIVE THANKS TO THE AMBASSADOR FOR HIS JANUARY 24 REMARKS PROMINENTLY CARRIED BY MOST LIMA DAILIES JANUARY 25. SPEAKING TO THE PRESS AFTER THE SIGNING OF A USAID COOPERATION AGREEMENT, THE AMBASSADOR HAD REITERATED U.S. SUPPORT FOR A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE HOSTAGE CRISIS, ADDING THAT IT WOULD BE AN ERROR TO USE VIOLENCE TO RESOLVE THE SITUATION WHEN A PEACEFUL SOLUTION WAS POSSIBLE. AMBASSADOR JETT HAD EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT GOP-MRTA TALKS WOULD BEGIN PROMPTLY TO ARRIVE AT AN AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD RESULT IN A PEACEFUL [REDACTED]

PAGE 03 LIMA 00725 01 OF 03 270050Z
RESOLUTION, BUT ALSO INDICATED HIS UNDERSTANDING OF PRESIDENT FUJIMORI'S STATED POSITION THAT IF ANY OF THE HOSTAGES WERE TO DIE, INCLUDING FROM ILLNESS, THE GOP WOULD OPT FOR A SOLUTION "DISTINCT FROM THAT OF TALKS."

5. [REDACTED] EMPHASIZING THAT BOTH THE GOJ AND HIS TEAM IN LIMA HAD "HIGHLY APPRECIATED" AMBASSADOR JETT'S STATEMENTS, SATOH REQUESTED THAT THE AMBASSADOR ENCOURAGE THE DEPARTMENT'S SPOKESMAN, NICK BURNS, TO REPEAT THE "SAME MESSAGE IN THE SAME TONE" BUT ADDING THE NEED FOR TALKS TO BEGIN WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS. THE JAPANESE BELIEVED THAT HAVING THESE SENTIMENTS ECHOED OUT OF OFFICIAL WASHINGTON, IN COORDINATION WITH THE SAME MESSAGE FROM OTHER CONCERNED CAPTIALS, WOULD BE THE BEST WAY TO OFFER PRESIDENT FUJIMORI THE COVER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY'S REQUEST TO ALLOW HIM A LITTLE MORE FLEXIBILITY.

6. [REDACTED] AMBASSADOR JETT AGREED, NOTING THAT BOTH SIDES NEED TO BE ENCOURAGED TO SIT DOWN AND TALK WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS. HE SAID HE BELIEVED THE GOP HAS NOT CHANGED ITS ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE USE OF MILITARY FORCE, BUT IT DOES WANT TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS. AN IMPASSE HAS EVOLVED BECAUSE EACH SIDE IS TRYING TO GET THE OTHER TO ACCEPT IN PUBLIC ITS MAIN POSITION BEFORE SITTING DOWN TO NEGOTIATE. BOTH HAVE EXACERBATED THE SITUATION BY EXPRESSING THEIR MAXIMALIST POSITIONS TO THE PRESS. BOTH SIDES SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO SIT DOWN TO TALKS AFTER SAYING "OUR POSITION HAS NOT CHANGED, BUT WE HAVE AGREED TO GO AHEAD WITH A DIALOGUE." SATOH RESPONDED THAT [REDACTED]

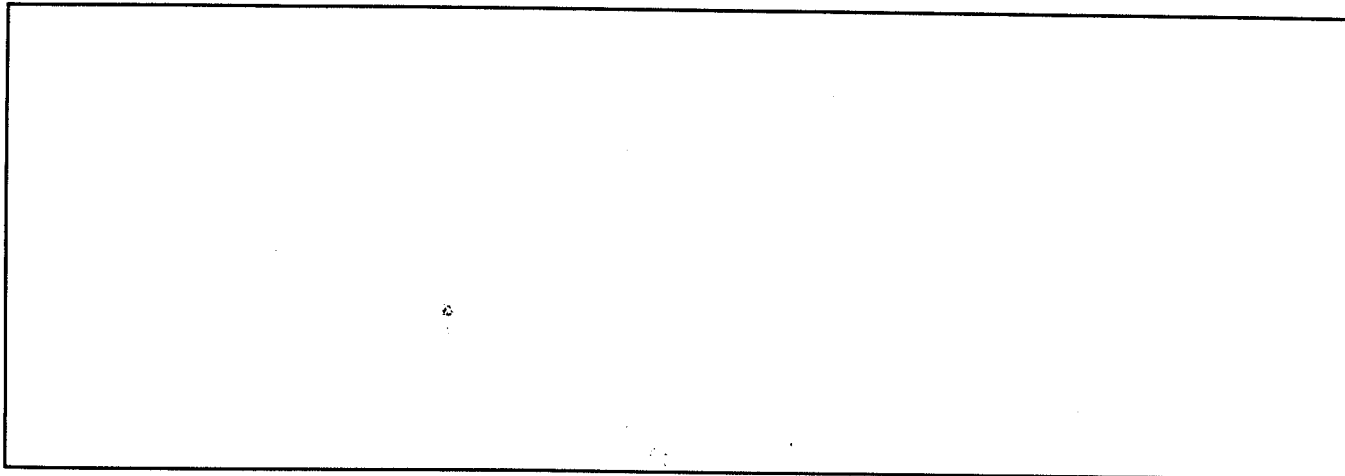
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Case Number: S200200010

THIS "LITTLE POISON" MIGHT BE DIFFICULT FOR FUJIMORI TO SWALLOW,
BUT THAT HE WOULD FIND THAT THE EFFORT WOULD BE BENEFICIAL.

ON-SITE JITTERS CONTINUE

[REDACTED]

PAGE 04 LIMA 00725 01 OF 03 270050Z



B1

8. (U) ACCORDING TO JANUARY 26 PRESS REPORTS, TENSIONS CONTINUED
TO FLARE UP REPEATEDLY THROUGHOUT JANUARY 25. THREE TIMES

[REDACTED]
PAGE 01 LIMA 00725 02 OF 03 270050Z
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TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5532

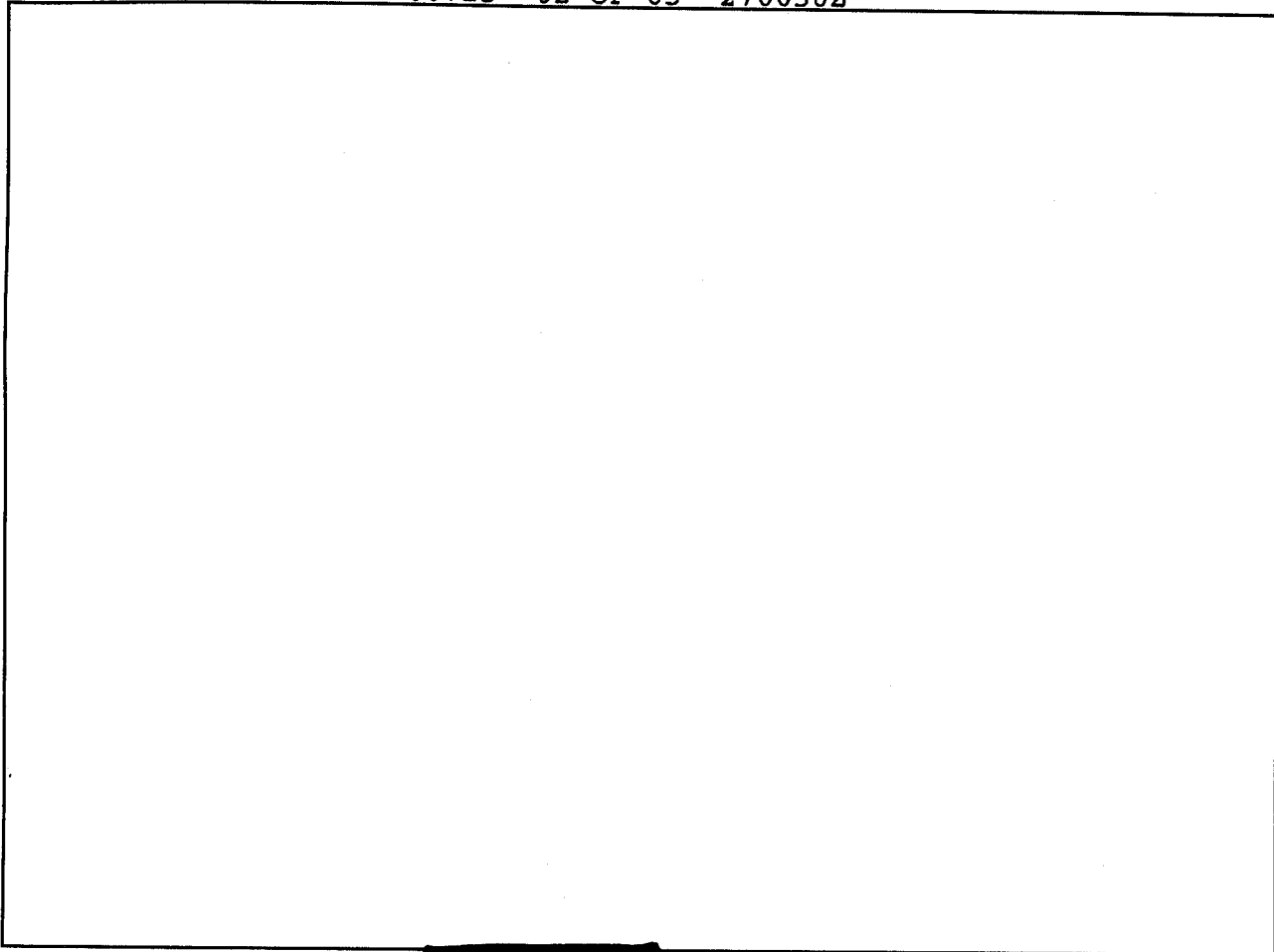
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HELICOPTERS OVERFLEW THE SITE AND DURING THE EARLY AFTERNOON A PNP COLONEL AND SIX OF HIS TROOPS APPROACHED THE COMPOUND ENTRANCE. THE MRTA REPORTEDLY ANSWERED THE DAY'S PROVOCATIONS AT ABOUT 1710 HRS. WITH FOUR ROUNDS OF GUNFIRE. ICRC REPRESENTATIVE JEAN PIERRE SHARER LATER REPORTED THAT NONE OF THE HOSTAGES HAD BEEN INJURED. AT ABOUT 0100 HRS. ON JANUARY 26, HOWEVER, HOSTAGE PNP GENERAL JOSE RIVAS RODRIGUEZ WAS EVACUATED FROM THE SITE IN A STRETCHER. THE MRTA HAD REPORTEDLY CALLED IN THE RED CROSS AFTER 2100 HRS. BECAUSE OF THE GENERAL'S FAILING HEALTH. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT RIVA'S CONDITION WAS RELATED TO THE SHOOTING. THE PNP GENERAL'S DEPARTURE LEAVES THE NUMBER OF HOSTAGES AT 72.

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PAGE 02 LIMA 00725 02 OF 03 270050Z



B1

[REDACTED]
Case Number: S200200010

PAGE 03

LIMA 00725 02 OF 03 270050Z

B1

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GOJ'S REPRESENTATIVES "CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC"

13. [REDACTED] SATOH TELEPHONED US ON JANUARY 26 TO ADD THAT TOKYO HAD ALREADY MADE ITS STATEMENT URGING THAT DIRECT TALKS BEGIN IMMEDIATELY WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS. THE GIST OF TOKYO'S STATEMENT WAS THAT THE GOJ HAD CONFIDENCE IN THE GOP'S HANDLING OF THE CRISIS AND CONTINUED TO SUPPORT JOINT EFFORTS TO EFFECT A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION TO THE CRISIS AND THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF ALL OF THE HOSTAGES, WITHOUT EXCEPTION. IN VIEW OF THE LONG PERIOD OF DETENTION WHICH THE HOSTAGES HAD ALREADY SUFFERED, TOKYO URGED THAT THE COMMISSION OF GUARANTORS BE SET UP AND A DIRECT DIALOGUE

[REDACTED]

PAGE 04 LIMA 00725 02 OF 03 270050Z
INITIATED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

14. [REDACTED] IN HIS PHONE CALL OF JANUARY 26, SATOH WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT MANY UNCERTAINTIES HAD BEEN CLEARED UP SINCE OUR JANUARY 25 EXCHANGE, BUT HE CAUTIONED THAT THE SITUATION REMAINED FLUID. SATOH RELATED THAT TDY JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TERUSUKE TERADA HAD MET EARLY JANUARY 26 WITH THE GOP'S OFFICIAL INTERLOCUTOR, EDUCATION MINISTER DOMINGO PALERMO, TO DISCUSS THE REMAINING BARRIERS TO INITIATING GOP-MRTA TALKS. ACCORDING TO TERADA, "95 PER CENT" OF THE DIFFICULTIES HAD BEEN OVERCOME; ONLY THE GOP'S REFUSAL TO RELEASE IMPRISONED MRTA MILITANTS STOOD IN THE WAY OF PROCEEDING TO A DIRECT DIALOGUE. THE JAPANESE DIPLOMATS WERE OPTIMISTIC THAT THE

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Page: 5

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Case Number: S200200010

GOP COULD FASHION SOME WORDING TO FINESSE THE PARTIES' CONTINUING DIFFERENCES OVER THIS KEY DEMAND.

SUGGESTED PRESS GUIDANCE

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PAGE 01 LIMA 00725 03 OF 03 270050Z
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15. (U) Q.: WHAT IS THE U.S. REACTION TO THE INCREASED TENSIONS IN LIMA AND THE SUGGESTION BY THE JAPANESE FOR TALKS TO BEGIN?

A.: THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES STRONGLY SUPPORTS PRESIDENT FUJIMORI'S EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE AN EARLY AND PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE CRISIS AND THE SAFE RELEASE OF ALL THE HOSTAGES. WE ALSO STRONGLY SUPPORT HIS POLICY OF GIVING NO CONCESSIONS TO THE TERRORISTS. AT THE SAME TIME, IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THIS OUTCOME, IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE MRTA, WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF THE COMMISSION OF GUARANTORS, TO BEGIN THEIR FACE-TO-FACE DIALOGUE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS.
JETT

[REDACTED]
PAGE 02 LIMA 00725 03 OF 03 270050Z
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