

UNCLASSIFIED

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Case Number: S200200010

PTQ0157

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B1, 1.5(D), B6

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PTQ0157

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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
	EUR-01	FAAE-00	H-01	IMMC-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00
	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
	SS-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-01	PMB-00	DSCC-00
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 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5698
 INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
 FBI WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 JCS WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM IMMEDIATE
 DOJ WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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 AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
 DEAHQS WASHDC

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 AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 AMEMBASSY QUITO
 AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

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

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

UNCLASSIFIED

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Case Number: S200200010

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SECTION 01 OF 03 LIMA 001054

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

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/04/07
TAGS: PTER ASEC PREL PGOV PE JA CA
SUBJECT: PERU'S HOSTAGE CRISIS UPDATE - FEBRUARY 1-4

REF: TORONTO 305

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

2. [REDACTED] SUMMARY: BOLSTERED BY SUCCESSFUL MEETINGS WITH JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER HASHIMOTO AND PRESIDENT CLINTON, PRESIDENT FUJIMORI RETURNED TO PERU WITH SOLID INTERNATIONAL BACKING TO BEGIN A SUBSTANTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE MRTA TERRORISTS. THE MODALITIES OF STARTING A DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE GOP AND MRTA, HOWEVER, INCLUDING THE TIMING AND LOCATION OF TALKS, AND THE ROLE OF THE GUARANTORS, STILL REMAIN TO BE WORKED OUT. CONTRARY TO FUJIMORI'S ASSERTION THAT MRTA IS BACKING DOWN FROM ITS DEMAND FOR PRISONER RELEASES, THE MRTA HOSTAGE TAKERS INSIST THEY STILL

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SEEK THE RELEASE OF THEIR COMRADES. END SUMMARY.

JAPAN AND U.S. STRENGTHEN FUJIMORI'S HAND

3. [REDACTED] PRESIDENT FUJIMORI RETURNED TO LIMA FROM WASHINGTON THE AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 4. FUJIMORI'S MEETINGS WITH JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER HASHIMOTO IN TORONTO (REFTEL) AND WITH PRESIDENT CLINTON IN WASHINGTON ARE WIDELY PERCEIVED HERE AS SUPPORTING THE PERUVIAN PRESIDENT'S TOUGH NEGOTIATING STANCE. THE OVERWHELMINGLY POSITIVE LOCAL MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE PRESIDENT'S RECENT TRAVELS EMPHASIZES THE GOJ'S AND USG'S ENDORSEMENT OF FUJIMORI'S POLICY OF MAKING NO MAJOR CONCESSIONS TO THE MRTA TERRORISTS. VIRTUALLY LOST IN THE LOCAL MEDIA'S SPIN, HOWEVER, IS THE GOJ'S AND USG'S URGING THAT FUJIMORI REMAIN COMMITTED TO A PEACEFUL, NEGOTIATED RESOLUTION OF THE HOSTAGE CRISIS.

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MRTA DENIES RETRACTING DEMAND FOR PRISONER RELEASES

4. (U) SPEAKING TO REPORTERS VIA A HAND-HELD RADIO, MRTA COMANDANTE NESTOR CERPA CARTOLINI DENIED DROPPING HIS DEMAND THAT THE GOP RELEASE IMPRISONED MRTA MEMBERS, AS PRESIDENT FUJIMORI HAD ASSERTED IN RECENT INTERVIEWS WITH THE WASHINGTON POST AND CNN. CERPA MAINTAINED THAT HE HAD WORKED OUT WORDING THROUGH ARCHBISHOP JUAN LUIS CIPRIANI BY WHICH MRTA WOULD AGREE TO DISCUSS ITS DEMANDS WITHIN PERU'S LEGAL FRAMEWORK. THE TERRORIST LEADER CALLED ON FUJIMORI TO ISSUE A PUBLIC RECTIFICATION SO AS NOT "TO DAMAGE THE IMAGE OF ARCHBISHOP CIPRIANI." CERPA ADDED

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THAT HE PLANNED TO EXPRESS HIS DISPLEASURE TO CIPRIANI AND ASK HIM TO TAKE STEPS TO AVOID "MUDDYING" HIS ROLE AS A GUARANTOR.

5. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE JAPANESE, THE CANADIANS, AND THE HOLY SEE ALL TOLD US LAST WEEK THAT THE GOP AND MRTA WERE CLOSE TO FINDING MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE LANGUAGE TO OVERCOME THE IMPASSE OVER DISCUSSING THE RELEASE OF MRTA PRISONERS. MRTA HAD AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO DISCUSS ISSUES IN ACCORDANCE WITH PERU'S CONSTITUTION AND LAWS, BUT SUCH A CLAUSE WOULD NOT HAVE PREVENTED MRTA FROM ARGUING FOR AN AMNESTY LAW OR FOR A REVISION OF THE SENTENCES OF ITS IMPRISONED MEMBERS. WHILE FUJIMORI CORRECTLY POINTED OUT THAT THE MRTA HAD AGREED NOT TO MAKE EXPLICIT REFERENCE TO ITS DEMAND FOR PRISONER RELEASES, MAKING THIS SENSITIVE ACCORD PUBLIC ONLY HARDENED THE MRTA'S PUBLIC POSTURING AND INCREASED THE TERRORISTS' DISTRUST OF THE GOP JUST AS TALKS ARE SLATED TO GET STARTED. END COMMENT.

MRTA FIRES SIX SHOTS

6. (U) MRTA TERRORISTS FIRED A RIFLE SIX TIMES IN THE AIR AT 5:00 A.M. E.S.T. ON FEBRUARY 4. CERPA ANNOUNCED THROUGH A BULL HORN THAT MRTA FIRED THE SHOTS TO COMMEMORATE THE DEATHS OF WORKERS KILLED IN A FEBRUARY 4, 1979 CONFRONTATION BETWEEN

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ACTION SCT-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5699
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
FBI WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
JCS WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM IMMEDIATE
DOJ WASHDC IMMEDIATE
CIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

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SECTION 02 OF 03 LIMA 001054

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Case Number: S200200010

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

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/04/07
TAGS: PTER ASEC PREL PGOV PE JA CA
SUBJECT: PERU'S HOSTAGE CRISIS UPDATE - FEBRUARY 1-4

SECURITY FORCES AND UNION MEMBERS WHO HAD TAKEN OVER A LIMA TEXTILE FACTORY. CERPA PLAYED A PROMINENT ROLE AS A UNION LEADER IN THE WORKERS' TAKEOVER OF THE CROMOTEX FACTORY. MRTA DID NOT REQUEST THAT ICRC RETURN TO THE HOSTAGE SITE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE SHOOTING, BUT ICRC LATER CONFIRMED THAT NO ONE WAS INJURED BY THE MRTA'S GUNFIRE.

7. [REDACTED] THE COMMEMORATIVE GUNFIRE IS JUST THE LATEST PARALLEL CERPA HAS DRAWN BETWEEN THE CURRENT HOSTAGE STANDOFF AND THE 1979 CROMOTEX FACTORY TAKEOVER WHICH ENDED VIOLENTLY. IN LEADING THE TERRORIST OPERATION AGAINST THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE, CERPA USED THE NOM DE GUERRE "HUERTA," THE NAME OF ONE OF THE UNION LEADERS KILLED IN THE TEXTILE FACTORY CONFRONTATION. A

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1992 MRTA PARTY CONGRESS REPORT MAKES THE FOLLOWING REFERENCE TO THE FACTORY TAKEOVER: "IN THE CROMOTEX FACTORY ANOTHER HEROIC PAGE WAS WRITTEN BY OUR PEOPLE; THERE WORKERS FOUGHT DESPITE TERRIBLE ODDS AGAINST REPRESSIVE FORCES ARMED TO THE TEETH. SIX WORKERS AND ONE COMPANY OFFICIAL DIED." A PERUVIAN NUN WHO VISITED CERPA AND OTHERS IN JAIL AFTER THAT INCIDENT TOLD POLOFF THAT CERPA WAS THE "LEAST IMPRESSIVE" AND MOST DOGMATIC OF THE IMPLICATED LABOR LEADERS.

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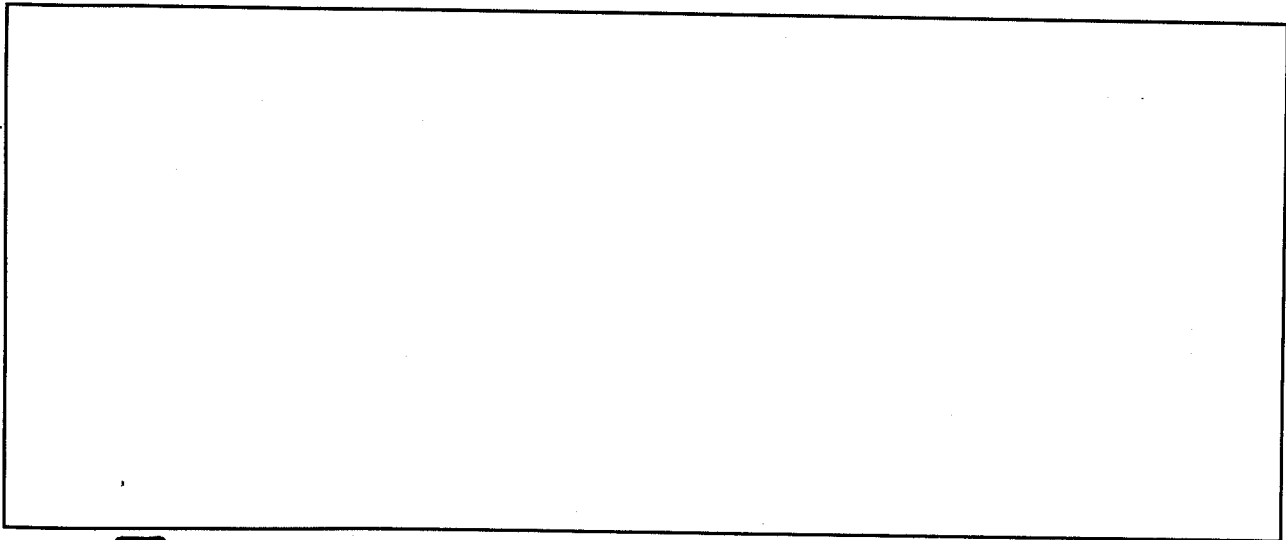
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10. [REDACTED] TOLD US THE ICRC HAD AGREED TO WORK WITH AN EXPANDED MEDICAL TEAM WHICH INCLUDES A JAPANESE DOCTOR AND A MINISTRY OF HEALTH DOCTOR. ICRC HAS TAKEN BLOOD AND URINE SAMPLES OF 60 HOSTAGES (12 REFUSED THE TESTS); LABORATORY RESULTS OF THE FIRST 30 SHOWED NO AREAS OF REAL CONCERN. [REDACTED] NOTED THAT ONLY ICRC DOCTORS MAKE REGULAR VISITS TO THE HOSTAGE SITE, BUT THE MRTA TERRORISTS HAVE AGREED TO ALLOW MEDICAL SPECIALISTS TO VISIT THE SITE IN THE EVENT OF A MEDICAL EMERGENCY.

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11. [REDACTED] SAID CERPA REFUSES TO ALLOW THE MEDICAL EVACUATION OF ANY MORE HOSTAGES, WHICH THE MRTA VIEWS AS UNILATERAL CONCESSIONS. ICRC HAS WARNED CERPA THAT HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE HEALTH OF THE HOSTAGES AND THAT, SHOULD ANYONE DIE, THE MRTA HOSTAGE TAKERS SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT THE GOP WILL BE FORCED TO RESPOND AND THE HOSTAGE STANDOFF "WILL BE OVER." [REDACTED] REGRETTED THAT CERPA REMAINS UNCONVINCED BY THE ICRC'S ARGUMENTS AND OPINED THAT THE MRTA COMANDANTE IS MISCALCULATING BY BELIEVING THAT A MEDICAL EMERGENCY OF A HOSTAGE COULD ACTUALLY FORCE THE GOP TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING IN NEGOTIATIONS.

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POLLS SHOW SUPPORT FOR FUJIMORI'S HANDLING OF CRISIS

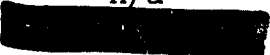


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[REDACTED] SECTION 03 OF 03 LIMA 001054

JUSTICE FOR TVCS -- J LANCASTER
 SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

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n/a

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ROME PASS EMBASSY VATICAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/04/07

TAGS: PTER ASEC PREL PGOV PE JA CA

SUBJECT: PERU'S HOSTAGE CRISIS UPDATE - FEBRUARY 1-4

12. (U) PERU'S PRIVATE POLLING AGENCIES SUSPENDED PUBLICATION OF THEIR FINDINGS EARLY ON IN THE HOSTAGE CRISIS, BUT BY MID-JANUARY, RESUMED MAKING THEIR FINDINGS PUBLIC. LIMA'S LEADING DAILY PUBLISHED ON FEBRUARY 2 DATUM INTERNATIONAL'S FINDING THAT 61 PERCENT OF PERUVIANS SUPPORTED THE GOP'S HANDLING OF THE HOSTAGE CRISIS (29 PERCENT DISAPPROVED AND 10 PERCENT REGISTERED NO OPINION). NEVERTHELESS, ACCORDING TO DATUM, FUJIMORI'S APPROVAL RATING DROPPED TO 43 PERCENT, DOWN FROM 47 PERCENT IN DECEMBER. OTHER POLLS SHOWED THAT FUJIMORI'S POPULAR APPROVAL RATING CLIMBED DURING THE HOSTAGE CRISIS, REVERSING A SLOW BUT STEADY DECLINE IN POPULARITY IN 1996.

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13. [REDACTED] COMMENT: DATUM BASED ITS MOST RECENT FINDINGS ON ITS POLLING OF 400 LIMA AND CALLAO RESIDENTS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18 AND 65. ALMOST ALL OF PERU'S PRIVATE POLLING AGENCIES BASE THEIR FINDINGS ON SIMILAR SIZED SAMPLES IN THE PERUVIAN CAPITAL AND ITS ENVIRONS. BY NOT SAMPLING PERUVIANS IN THE PROVINCES, WHERE A LARGE SHARE OF PRESIDENT FUJIMORI'S SUPPORTERS RESIDE, SUCH POLLS LIKELY UNDERESTIMATE THE PRESIDENT'S TRUE POPULARITY.

END COMMENT.

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