

UNCLASSIFIED

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Case Number: S200200010

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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
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 DEAHQS WASHDC

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

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Case Number: S200200010

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

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/12/07  
TAGS: PTER ASEC PREL PGOV PE  
SUBJECT: PERU'S HOSTAGE CRISIS UPDATE - FEBRUARY 11-12

REF: STATE 025069

1. CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR DENNIS JETT, REASON: 1.5 (D).
2. [REDACTED] SUMMARY: READOUTS GIVEN US BY THE GUARANTORS INDICATE THAT WHILE THE FIRST MEETING IN THE "PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS" BETWEEN THE GOP AND MRTA GOT OFF TO A REASONABLY GOOD START, FINDING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS MAY WELL TAKE A LONG TIME. WHILE A DATE FOR A SECOND ROUND WAS LEFT OPEN, IT COULD COME AS EARLY AS FEBRUARY 13. ONLY THEN WILL IT BEGIN TO BECOME MORE CLEAR WHETHER EITHER SIDE IS GOING TO SHOW THE FLEXIBILITY TO FIND THAT SOLUTION. END SUMMARY.

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
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GOP AND MRTA HOLD FIRST ROUND OF TALKS  
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3. (U) GOP INTERLOCUTOR DOMINGO PALERMO AND MRTA LIEUTENANT ROLI ROJAS (A.K.A. "EL ARABE") MET FOR FOUR HOURS ON FEBRUARY 11 AT AN ICRC-SECURED HOUSED ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE. ALL FOUR GUARANTORS, ICRC CHIEF DELEGATE TO PERU MICHEL MINNIG, ARCHBISHOP JUAN LUIS CIPRIANI, CANADIAN AMBASSADOR ANTHONY VINCENT, AND INTERIM JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TERUSUKE TERADA (GUARANTOR OBSERVER) ATTENDED THE INITIAL ROUND OF TALKS. THIS WAS THE FIRST FACE-TO-FACE MEETING BETWEEN PALERMO AND AN MRTA REPRESENTATIVE SINCE PALERMO VISITED THE HOSTAGE SITE ON DECEMBER 28, 1996.

4. [REDACTED] THE TALKS STARTED AT 3:30 P.M., THIRTY MINUTES LATER THAN PLANNED. THE ICRC TRANSPORTED "EL ARABE" IN A LIGHTLY ARMORED USG-SUPPLIED CHEVROLET CAPRICE. PER REFTTEL, EMBASSY ADVISED GOP BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE OF OUR WILLINGNESS TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE ICRC USE OF THE VEHICLE TO FACILITATE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE GOP AND MRTA. AS INSTRUCTED, EMBASSY

[REDACTED]  
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[REDACTED]

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ALSO INFORMED BOTH ICRC AND GOP THAT THE USG WILL NOT BE HELD LIABLE FOR ANY DAMAGES OR CLAIMS THAT MAY ARISE FROM ICRC'S USE OF THE VEHICLE. EMBASSY REMOVED THE LICENSE PLATES, AND ICRC SUBSEQUENTLY PLACED ITS OWN INSIGNIA TEMPORARILY ON THE WHITE VEHICLE. LOCAL MEDIA REFERRED TO THE CAPRICE AS AN ICRC VEHICLE AND HAVE NOT YET REPORTED IT AS BELONGING TO THE EMBASSY.

5. (U) AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE TALKS, ARCHBISHOP CIPRIANI AND AMBASSADOR VINCENT ANNOUNCED TO THE PRESS THAT THE GOP AND MRTA HAD AGREED ON PROCEDURES FOR FUTURE TALKS AND AGREED TO CONTINUE TALKS ON A DATE TO BE DETERMINED. EARLIER THE SAME DAY, CIPRIANI

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
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TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE GOP-MRTA DIALOGUE "MUST BE REGARDED AS HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL" AND THAT THE ISSUES DISCUSSED SHOULD BE MANAGED BY EVERYONE "WITH GREAT DISCRETION AND RESPONSIBILITY."

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JAPANESE HOPEFUL AFTER FIRST ROUND  
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6. [REDACTED] TDY JAPANESE MOFA OFFICIAL SHUNICHI SATOH BRIEFED AMBASSADOR JETT FEBRUARY 12 ON THE JAPANESE OBSERVER'S IMPRESSIONS OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE GOP-MRTA TALKS. ACCORDING TO AMBASSADOR TERADA'S REPORT, THE OVERALL ATMOSPHERE WAS RATHER FRIENDLY AND CALM. THOUGH HE BELIEVED THAT A RESOLUTION OF DIFFERENCES WAS A LONG WAY OFF, TERADA WAS PLEASED THAT THE ANTAGONISTS HAD AGREED TO CONTINUE THEIR DIALOGUE. HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT CERPA WOULD EVENTUALLY PARTICIPATE DIRECTLY IN THE TALKS, BUT BELIEVED THAT CERPA'S PRESENCE MIGHT ACTUALLY SLOW DOWN THE PROCESS. AT THIS EARLY STAGE, TERADA PROJECTED ANOTHER MONTH OR TWO OF TALKS. IN A SEPARATE READOUT, AMBASSADOR VINCENT EXPRESSED THE SAME VIEW - THAT IT COULD BE LONG PROCESS, BUT AT LEAST IT IS UNDERWAY.

7. [REDACTED] AFTER ALL OF THE PARTICIPANTS HAD ASSEMBLED FOR THE OPENING OF THE DISCUSSIONS, ICRC CHIEF DELEGATE MINNIG ABSENTED HIMSELF UNTIL THE SECOND SESSION. THE FIRST PHASE LASTED FROM

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

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3:30-5:15 P.M. AND THE SECOND, FOCUSING MAINLY ON MEDICAL ISSUES, LASTED FROM 6:00-7:00 P.M. IN THE INTERVENING 45-MINUTE "BREAK," MRTA REPRESENTATIVE ROJAS SPOKE VIA RADIO WITH MRTA LEADER NESTER CERPA CARTOLINI.

8. [REDACTED] THE JAPANESE AND AMBASSADOR VINCENT BOTH NOTED THAT THE TERRORIST ROJAS CUT A FAR FROM FRIGHTENING FIGURE. ATTIRED IN A GREEN TEE-SHIRT, THE COLLEGE-EDUCATED MRTA REPRESENTATIVE APPEARED TO BE A "SIMPLE STUDENT" WHOSE MANNER OF SPEAKING REFLECTED HIS EXPOSURE TO HIGHER EDUCATION. "EL ARABE" HAD BEEN UNDERSTANDABLY TENSE AT THE BEGINNING, BUT GRADUALLY RELAXED. THE JAPANESE BELIEVED IT WAS TOO EARLY TO JUDGE, HOWEVER, HOW FLEXIBLE THE MRTA INTERLOCUTOR COULD OR WOULD BE.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
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9. [REDACTED] DURING THE SUBSTANTIVE PORTION OF THE FIRST ROUND, ROJAS MADE A LONG OPENING SPEECH IN WHICH HE "VERY CLEARLY" REPEATED THE SUBVERSIVE GROUP'S TWO MAJOR DEMANDS. THE MRTA INSISTED THAT THEIR IMPRISONED COMRADES BE RELEASED AND THAT A "SALIDA" (EXIT) FOR THE HOSTAGE TAKERS BE ARRANGED. ROJAS INSISTED THAT UNLESS THE GOP TOTALLY FULFILLS THESE DEMANDS, NO SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE. AT THE SAME TIME, "EL ARABE" NOTED THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE TALKS. HE ARGUED THAT THE MRTA MUST RESPOND WITH ITS OWN COMMUNIQUE WHEN THE GOP CHALLENGES IT IN THE MEDIA. ALSO ON THE POSITIVE SIDE OF THE LEDGER, ROJAS SAID THE HOSTAGES WOULD NEVER BE SUBJECT TO THREAT OR TORTURE. ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE, THE MRTA REPRESENTATIVE CONFIRMED THAT THE HOSTAGE TAKERS WOULD NOT PERMIT ANY MORE EVACUATIONS OF HOSTAGES FOR MEDICAL REASONS. INSTEAD, THE MRTA WAS READY TO SET UP MEDICAL CARE EQUIPMENT INSIDE THE HOSTAGE SITE. ALSO ON THE DOWN SIDE, ROJAS RAILED AGAINST THE GOP'S POLICIES AND REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED THAT IT HAD BEEN A MISTAKE FOR THE FUJIMORI GOVERNMENT TO UNDERESTIMATE THE MRTA.

10. [REDACTED] IN HIS RESPONSE, GOP INTERLOCUTOR PALERMO VIGOROUSLY CONDEMNED THE HOSTAGE TAKING, ARGUING THAT SUCH ACTIONS COULD NEVER BE APPROVED BY THE GOP, THE PERUVIAN PEOPLE, OR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. AT THE SAME TIME, PALERMO SAID THAT THE GOP WAS READY TO LISTEN TO THE MRTA AND TO LOOK FOR A PEACEFUL

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[REDACTED]

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SOLUTION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF PERU.

11. [REDACTED] AFTER BOTH SIDES HAD REPEATED THEIR ARGUMENTS MORE THAN ONCE, DE FACTO CHAIRMAN CIPRIANI PUSHED THE DEBATE FORWARD BY SUGGESTING THAT BOTH PARTIES FOCUS ON THE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT ROUND OF TALKS. HE OFFERED THREE OTHER SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION: THE SITUATION IN PERU'S PRISONS, REVIVING A PROGRAM WHICH WOULD [REDACTED]

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ALLOW THE CHURCH TO INVESTIGATE PRISON CONDITIONS, AND A "LEGAL FRAMEWORK" PROGRAM. BOTH PALERMO AND ROJAS ACCEPTED THE AYACUCHO ARCHBISHOP'S IDEAS.

12. [REDACTED] AFTER ROJAS CAME BACK FROM THE 45-MINUTE "BREAK" AND HIS RADIO CONVERSATION WITH CERPA, HE APPEARED LESS FLEXIBLE ABOUT SETTING A TIME FOR THE NEXT MEETING. ALTHOUGH NO DATE WAS AGREED UPON, THE JAPANESE OBSERVER THOUGHT IT WAS "NOT IMPOSSIBLE" THAT A FOLLOW-UP MEETING COULD COME AS EARLY AS FEBRUARY 13 OR AS LATE AS "NEXT WEEK."

13. [REDACTED] THE SECOND SESSION OF THE TALKS, WITH THE ICRC'S MINNIG IN ATTENDANCE, WAS DEDICATED TO A DISCUSSION OF THE MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE HOSTAGES. BOTH THE GOP AND THE ICRC MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE MRTA BORE THE FINAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MEDICAL CARE OF THOSE IT HAD SEQUESTERED. APPARENTLY NO "COMPROMISE" WAS REACHED ON THIS SENSITIVE MATTER.

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ICRC'S GUARANTOR ROLE LIMITED  
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14. [REDACTED] ALSO TOLD POLOFF AND FBI NEGOTIATION EXPERTS LATE ON FEBRUARY 12 THAT ICRC CHIEF DELEGATE MINNIG ONLY PARTICIPATED IN THE GOP-MRTA TALKS WHEN MEDICAL [REDACTED]

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ISSUES WERE RAISED. THE REST OF THE TIME MINNIG REMAINED OUTSIDE THE NEGOTIATING ROOM. [REDACTED] INDICATED THAT MINNIG WAS PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE TO THE EXTENT THAT THE GOP AND MRTA REQUIRED, BUT DID NOT FORESEE ICRC PARTICIPATION IN "POLITICAL" ISSUES.

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15. [REDACTED] WAS UPBEAT THAT THE FIRST MEETING WAS A GENERALLY AMICABLE ONE, BUT EXPRESSED SOME DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE GOP AND MRTA FAILED TO REACH AGREEMENT IN THE FIRST MEETING ON AN AGENDA FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS. [REDACTED] SAID THE MRTA WANTED TO RAISE ONLY TWO ISSUES WHILE THE GOP PREFERRED A BROADER WIDE-RANGING AGENDA. "EL ARABE," [REDACTED] SEEMED INCLINED TO ACCEPT THE GOP'S AGENDA, BUT AFTER CONTACTING CERPA VIA RADIO (NOTE: THE SPECIAL PHONE LINE SET UP BETWEEN THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE AND THE NEGOTIATIONS SITE APPARENTLY WAS

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[REDACTED]

PAGE 03 LIMA 01264 03 OF 03 130001Z NOT WORKING AT THAT POINT AND ICRC WAS PRIVY TO THE CONVERSATION. END NOTE), HE RETURNED TO THE TABLE ONLY TO REASSERT MRTA'S POSITION ON THE AGENDA. [REDACTED] SAID CERPA CITED THE LACK OF AGREEMENT ON AN AGENDA TO DEMAND THAT THE GUARANTORS ENDEAVOR TO CONVENE THE NEXT MEETING, POSSIBLY ON FEBRUARY 13, RATHER THAN SIMPLY IMPLEMENT A PREVIOUS INFORMAL UNDERSTANDING TO HOLD TALKS AGAIN ON THAT DATE.

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16. [REDACTED] TOLD US THAT THE HOSTAGES REMAIN IN GOOD HEALTH. THE LABORATORY TESTS DONE ON THE HOSTAGES REVEALED NOTHING ABNORMAL OUTSIDE OF A FEW CASES WHICH THE ICRC IS WATCHING CLOSELY. [REDACTED] THAT THE HEALTH OF SOME OF THE MRTA TERRORISTS IS WORSE THAN THAT OF THE HOSTAGES. MANY SUFFER FROM GASTROINTESTINAL ILLNESSES ASSOCIATED WITH LIVING IN THE JUNGLE. GIVEN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE GOP RECENTLY GAVE THE ICRC PERMISSION TO RUN TESTS AND TREAT THE MRTA HOSTAGE TAKERS AS WELL.

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JETT

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# Full Page Redaction

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**Exemption Category**

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