

[REDACTED]
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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
	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 5970
 INFO FBI WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
 CIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
 DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
 USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY
 DOJ WASHDC PRIORITY
 JCS WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
 USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
 AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
 AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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 AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
 AMEMBASSY ROME
 DEAHQS WASHDC
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 AMEMBASSY QUITO

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

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/21/07
TAGS: PTER ASEC PREL PGOV PE
SUBJECT: PERU'S HOSTAGE CRISIS UPDATE - FEBRUARY 18-20

REF: EMBASSY VATICAN/MESSAGE NO. 028/96

1. CLASSIFIED BY JAMES MACK, DCM, REASON: 1.5 (D).
2. [REDACTED] SUMMARY: GOP INTERLOCUTOR DOMINGO PALERMO AND MRTA COMANDANTE NESTOR CERPA CARTOLINI DISCUSSED "SIGNIFICANT ISSUES" ON FEBRUARY 20, THE FIRST GOP-MRTA TALKS SINCE FEBRUARY 15 AND THE FIRST TIME CERPA PARTICIPATED DIRECTLY. ARCHBISHOP JUAN LUIS CIPRIANI, WITH BACKING FROM THE OTHER GUARANTORS, BROKERED AN UNDISCLOSED COMPROMISE AGENDA THAT ALLOWED THE GOP AND MRTA TO GO BACK TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE. THE MRTA'S INSISTENCE THAT THE GOP RELEASE IMPRISONED MRTA MEMBERS STILL POSES A SIGNIFICANT OBSTACLE TO MOVING TALKS FORWARD. END SUMMARY.

[REDACTED]
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GOP AND MRTA HOLD FOURTH ROUND OF TALKS

3. (U) GOP INTERLOCUTOR DOMINGO PALERMO AND AN MRTA REPRESENTATIVE BEGAN THE FOURTH ROUND OF GOP-MRTA "PRELIMINARY TALKS" AT 3:30 P.M. ON FEBRUARY 20, FIVE DAYS AFTER THE PREVIOUS TALKS. ALL FOUR GUARANTORS, ARCHBISHOP JUAN LUIS CIPRIANI, CANADIAN AMBASSADOR ANTHONY VINCENT, VISITING JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TERUSUKE TERADA, AND ICRC CHIEF DELEGATE TO PERU MICHEL MINNIG, ACCOMPANIED PALERMO TO THE NEGOTIATION HOUSE ACROSS FROM THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE. PALERMO WAS ALSO ACCOMPANIED BY ONE UNIDENTIFIED ADVISOR. SOME LIMA MEDIA OUTLETS ASSERTED THAT IT WAS RAFAEL MERINO BARTET, A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE, WHO ACTED AS PALERMO'S ADVISOR.

4. (U) MINNIG ESCORTED MRTA COMANDANTE CERPA AND HIS LIEUTENANT ROLI ROJAS FERNANDEZ, A.K.A. "EL ARABE," ON THE SHORT DRIVE ACROSS THE STREET. MRTA LIEUTENANT ROJAS REPRESENTED THE TERRORIST GROUP AT THE FIRST THREE ROUNDS OF TALKS. THE FOURTH

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ROUND OF TALKS LASTED SOME THREE HOURS; PREVIOUS ROUNDS LASTED BETWEEN THREE AND FOUR HOURS.

5. (U) CONSISTENT WITH THE ROUTINE ESTABLISHED AFTER PREVIOUS ROUNDS OF TALKS, CIPRIANI READ IN SPANISH AND VINCENT IN ENGLISH A SHORT STATEMENT ON THE TENOR OF THE DISCUSSIONS. THE GUARANTORS ANNOUNCED THAT THE TALKS TOOK PLACE IN A "CONSTRUCTIVE ATMOSPHERE" AND THAT "SIGNIFICANT ISSUES HAVE BEGUN TO BE DISCUSSED WHICH REQUIRE PROFOUND ANALYSIS." THEY ALSO NOTED THAT TALKS WILL CONTINUE ON FEBRUARY 24.

6. [REDACTED] TOLD POLOFF THAT [REDACTED]

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UNDERSTOOD THE TALKS MADE REAL PROGRESS. DEPENDING ON HOW THE FEBRUARY 24 SESSION GOES, [REDACTED] THOUGHT THE GROUND WAS BEING PREPARED FOR PALERMO AND CERPA TO MEET MORE FREQUENTLY DURING THE COMING WEEK.

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FUJIMORI MEETS WITH GUARANTORS

7. (U) THE FOURTH ROUND OF TALKS CAME ON THE HEELS OF PRESIDENT FUJIMORI'S FEBRUARY 18 MEETING WITH GOP INTERLOCUTOR PALERMO, ARCHBISHOP CIPRIANI, CANADIAN AMBASSADOR VINCENT, AND JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO TERADA. ICRC CHIEF DELEGATE MINNIG WAS NOT ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN FUJIMORI'S SECOND MEETING WITH THE GUARANTORS, WHICH LASTED ALMOST THREE HOURS.

8. [REDACTED] WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE GUARANTORS, PARTICULARLY CIPRIANI AND TERADA, STRONGLY URGED FUJIMORI TO SHOW GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN ESTABLISHING AN AGENDA FOR FUTURE TALKS WITH THE MRTA. WELCOMING CIPRIANI'S ADVANCES, A JAPANESE TDY DIPLOMAT GAVE POL COUNSELOR PRIOR NOTICE LATE ON FEBRUARY 19 THAT "PRELIMINARY TALKS" WOULD RESUME ON FEBRUARY 20, BUT HE DID NOT ELABORATE ON WHAT COMPROMISES THE GOP OR MRTA MAY HAVE MADE TO GET BACK TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE. GOP-MRTA TALKS HAD STALLED WHEN MRTA INSISTED THAT ITS DEMAND FOR PRISONER RELEASES BE ON THE NEGOTIATING TABLE

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AND THE GOP REFUSED TO ACCEPT ANY REFERENCE TO THE LIBERATION OF PRISONERS ON THE NEGOTIATING AGENDA.

CIPRIANI PLAYS SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY

9. [REDACTED] THE DAY AFTER HIS FEBRUARY 18 MEETING WITH THE PERUVIAN PRESIDENT, ARCHBISHOP CIPRIANI VISITED THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE FOR ALMOST THREE HOURS. THE DISCREET DE FACTO MEDIATOR HAD PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED IN A RADIO INTERVIEW THAT HE WISHED TALKS WOULD MOVE AT A FASTER PACE. CIPRIANI'S SENTIMENTS WERE WELL REFLECTED IN THE VATICAN'S FEBRUARY 19 STATEMENT CALLING FOR A "SPEEDY, PEACEFUL AND JUST SOLUTION TO THIS PAINFUL PROBLEM" (REFTEL).
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POLLS SHOW PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR COMPROMISE NOT CAPITULATION

10. (U) IN GENERAL, PUBLISHED OPINION POLLS SHOW STRONG PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR CONTINUING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MRTA, BUT LITTLE SUPPORT FOR CONCEDING TO THE MRTA'S DEMAND THAT THE GOP RELEASE IMPRISONED MRTA MILITANTS. BASED ON ITS POLLING OF 500 ADULTS IN LIMA, THE FIRM APOYO, OPINION Y MERCADO FOUND THAT IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THE LIBERATION OF ALL THE HOSTAGES, A MAJORITY WOULD FAVOR IMPROVING PRISON CONDITIONS (71 PERCENT), GIVING THE MRTA HOSTAGE TAKERS SAFE PASSAGE OUT OF THE COUNTRY (66 PERCENT), AND REVIEWING THE SENTENCES OF MRTA PRISONERS (65 PERCENT). THE SAME FIRM FOUND THAT A LARGE MAJORITY OPPOSED GIVING THE MRTA HOSTAGE TAKERS SAFE PASSAGE TO THE AMAZON REGION IN PERU (72 PERCENT), PAYING RANSOM (74 PERCENT), OR FREEING MRTA PRISONERS (86 PERCENT). APOYO ALSO FOUND 70 PERCENT OF THE RESPONDENTS BELIEVED THE GOP SHOULD CONTINUE NEGOTIATING WITH THE MRTA VERSUS ONLY 25 PERCENT WHO OPINED THE GOP SHOULD RESORT TO FORCE TO END THE STANDOFF; 5 PERCENT REGISTERED NO OPINION. LIMA'S LEADING

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DAILY PUBLISHED APOYO'S FINDINGS ON FEBRUARY 19 AND 20.

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