

Case Number: S200200010

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ACTION SS-00

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

INFO LOG-00 OASY-00 ADS-00 /000W
-----9CA5DD 220024Z /38

O 220024Z FEB 97
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5985
INFO NSC WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
FBI WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

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DECAPTIONED

NSC FOR DOBBINS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/20/20
TAGS: PTER, ASEC, PREL, PINR, KJUS, PE, JA
SUBJECT: MOVING BEYOND "PRELIMINARY" GOP-MRTA TALKS

REF: A) LIMA 1508 B) LIMA 1436

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR DENNIS JETT, EMBASSY LIMA,
FOR REASON 1.5 (D).

2. SUMMARY: [REDACTED]
REAL PROGRESS HAD BEEN ACHIEVED WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF [REDACTED]

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COMANDANTE CERPA IN THE FOURTH ROUND OF GOP-MRTA TALKS.
SURPRISINGLY, PRESIDENT FUJIMORI HAD ACCEPTED THE
GUARANTORS' SUGGESTION THAT ALL THE DISPUTED ISSUES,
INCLUDING MRTA PRISONER RELEASES, BE PUT IN A "BASKET" AS
OPPOSED TO HAVING A SET AGENDA. ALTHOUGH CERPA DEMONSTRATED
A LITTLE FLEXIBILITY DURING THE SESSION, HIS STATEMENTS
REINFORCED HIS SINGLE-MINDED GOAL OF ATTAINING THE RELEASE
OF HIS INCARCERATED COMRADES SO AS TO RECONSTITUTE THE
SUBVERSIVE ORGANIZATION IN THE PERUVIAN JUNGLE. THE
[REDACTED] THE "REAL" SUBSTANTIVE TALKS ARE ABOUT
TO BEGIN--AND THAT THEY WILL BE LONG AND DIFFICULT. END
SUMMARY.

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NOTABLE PROGRESS TOWARD "REAL" TALKS

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

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3. [REDACTED] AMBASSADOR JETT
 FEBRUARY 21 ON THE FOURTH ROUND OF GOP-MRTA TALKS. THE [REDACTED]
 DIPLOMAT CONFIRMED THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS IN THE FEBRUARY 20
 SESSION AGREED THAT SIGNIFICANT FORWARD MOTION HAD BEEN
 ACHIEVED. [REDACTED] THE REAL TALKS--MOVING BEYOND
 THE "PRELIMINARY" STAGE--WERE ABOUT TO BEGIN. [REDACTED]
 CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT HE AND GUARANTOR OBSERVER [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] BELIEVED THAT BOTH SIDES WERE STILL "POSTURING" ON
 THE ISSUE OF THE RELEASE OF MRTA MILITANTS.

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4. [REDACTED] OBSERVED THAT THE PARTICIPATION IN
 THE FEBRUARY 20 MEETING OF TUPAC AMARU REVOLUTIONARY
 MOVEMENT (MRTA) LEADER NESTOR CERPA CARTOLINI WAS VERY
 POSITIVE. [REDACTED] HOWEVER, CERPA HAD

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 BEHAVED ARROGANTLY IN THE MEETING, DOMINATING HIS LIEUTENANT
 ROLI ROJAS FERNANDEZ, A.K.A. "EL ARABE." THOUGH ROJAS DID
 NOT SPEAK DURING THE SESSION, [REDACTED] NOTED THAT, BASED
 ON THE THREE PREVIOUS MEETINGS, THE LIEUTENANT WAS BOTH MORE
 INTELLIGENT AND MORE SOCIALLY PRESENTABLE THAN CERPA.
 AMBASSADOR TERADA HAD DESCRIBED CERPA TO HIS COLLEAGUES AS
 HAVING IMPRESSIVE PHYSICAL STRENGTH AND BEING
 PSYCHOLOGICALLY FRIGHTENING.

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A FLEXIBLE "BASKET FORMULA" SOLUTION TO THE AGENDA PROBLEM

5. [REDACTED] TOLD AMBASSADOR JETT THAT GOP
 INTERLOCUTOR PALERMO HAD COME UP WITH A SOLUTION TO THE
 IMPASSE OVER SETTING AN AGENDA FOR THE GOP-MRTA TALKS. IN
 THEIR FEBRUARY 18 MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FUJIMORI, THE
 GUARANTORS HAD PERSUADED THE PERUVIAN PRESIDENT TO AGREE
 THAT ALL OF THE AGENDA ITEMS OF BOTH SIDES COULD BE PUT IN A
 "BASKET." THE GUARANTORS WOULD THEN DECIDE WHICH TOPIC
 WOULD BE PURSUED AT ANY GIVEN MEETING. (COMMENT: IF THIS
 RECOUNTING OF EVENTS IS ACCURATE, FUJIMORI HAS SHOWN MORE
 FLEXIBILITY THAN EXPECTED. IT REMAINS UNCLEAR, HOWEVER, HOW
 STRICTLY THE GUARANTORS WILL KEEP THE DISCUSSANTS TO THE
 CHOSEN TOPIC AS ALL OF THE ISSUES OVERLAP. IF THE FOURTH
 SESSION IS ANY INDICATION, THE GUARANTORS WILL USE THE
 CHOSEN AGENDA ITEM AS A STARTING POINT FOR WIDE-RANGING
 DISCUSSIONS. AT LEAST IT GETS THE GUARANTORS MORE ACTIVELY

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[REDACTED]

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INVOLVED IN MEDIATING. END COMMENT.) AWARE OF THE NEED TO EXPEDITE THE DISCUSSIONS, FUJIMORI ALSO AGREED THAT THE GROUP SHOULD HENCEFORTH MEET TWO OR THREE TIMES A WEEK.

[REDACTED]

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CERPA: STILL HOPING TO HAVE HIS WAY

6. [REDACTED] DURING THE COURSE OF THE THREE-HOUR LONG ROUND, MRTA COMANDANTE CERPA MADE A 30-MINUTE STATEMENT OUTLINING HIS OBJECTIONS TO GOP ANTI-TERRORISM POLICIES WHICH HAVE RESULTED IN THE IMPRISONMENT OF HIS MRTA COMRADES "UNDER VERY SEVERE CONDITIONS." CERPA EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD PLANNED AND IMPLEMENTED THE TAKEOVER OF THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE IN ORDER TO RIGHT THESE WRONGS. THE TERRORIST TACTICIAN PROCLAIMED THAT A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION TO THE HOSTAGE CRISIS HINGES ON THE LIBERATION OF HIS JAILED COLLEAGUES. AFTER ATTAINING THEIR FREEDOM, CERPA PLANS TO RELOCATE THE FREED PRISONERS AS WELL AS THE HOSTAGE TAKERS TO "LIBERATED TERRITORIES" IN THE PERUVIAN JUNGLE. (COMMENT: THERE IS NO/NO TERRITORY CONTROLLED BY THE MRTA INSIDE PERU. REMAINING BANDS OF THE SUBVERSIVE GROUP ARE PROBABLY STRONGEST--BUT ARE BY NO MEANS DOMINANT--IN THE DEPARTMENT OF JUNIN. WHETHER CERPA IS SERIOUS ABOUT STAYING

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] SECTION 02 OF 02 LIMA 001523

[REDACTED]

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IN THE COUNTRY AND WHETHER THE GOP WOULD PERMIT IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN. END COMMENT.)

7. [REDACTED] GOP INTERLOCUTOR PALERMO THEN GAVE A SHORTER PRESENTATION, OFFERING TO SEEK A RESOLUTION OF THE HOSTAGE CRISIS IN CONFORMITY WITH PERUVIAN AND INTERNATIONAL LAW. [REDACTED] PALERMO DID NOT OFFER ANY DETAILS

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 AS TO THE GOP'S POSITION ON PRISONER RELEASES. PALERMO DID TELL CERPA THAT HE HAD A COMPLETE LIST OF IMPRISONED MRTA MILITANTS WHICH HE WOULD "LIKE TO STUDY." (COMMENT: THIS EXCHANGE WAS LIKELY MEANT TO IMPLY SOME GOP FLEXIBILITY ON REVIEWING THE CASES OF MRTA PRISONERS, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO REMAIN UNSENTENCED OR WHOSE SENTENCES ARE NEAR COMPLETION. END COMMENT.)

8. [REDACTED] JUST AS ONE OF THE GUARANTORS SUGGESTED THAT THE FOURTH SESSION SHOULD BE CONCLUDED, CERPA INDICATED THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO DISCUSS "ONE OR TWO" ITEMS PROPOSED BY THE GOVERNMENT. GUARANTOR AND INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) CHIEF DELEGATE MICHEL MINNIG JOINED THE DISCUSSION OF CERPA'S FIRST TOPIC, MEDICAL CARE IN THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE. ON THE SUBJECT OF POSSIBLE MEDICAL EVACUATIONS FROM THE RESIDENCE, CERPA ONCE MORE SAID THAT HE REFUSED TO PERMIT ANY MORE HOSTAGES TO BE REMOVED FROM THE COMPOUND FOR MEDICAL REASONS. THE TERRORIST LEADER ALLOWED THAT WITH PROGRESS IN THE UPCOMING TALKS AND A DEMONSTRATION OF THE GOP'S "POSITIVE POLITICAL WILL," CERPA WOULD "GO BACK TO STUDYING THE ISSUE." [REDACTED] ASSESSED THAT, FOR CERPA, THIS STRAINED LOCUTION INDICATED "FLEXIBILITY."

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9. [REDACTED] THE SECOND ITEM CERPA WISHED TO DISCUSS WAS THE RESUMPTION OF FAMILY VISITS TO IMPRISONED MRTA MEMBERS. (NOTE: SUCH VISITS HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED SINCE THE MID-DECEMBER ONSET OF THE CRISIS. END NOTE.) PALERMO SAID THAT THE GOP HAD CONSIDERED ASKING THE CHURCH TO VISIT THE INCARCERATED MILITANTS. CERPA AGREED THAT THESE VISITS SHOULD TAKE PLACE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND THE GOP

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INTERLOCUTOR AGREED TO PURSUE THIS OPTION IMMEDIATELY.
(COMMENT: THE GOP HAD PREVIOUSLY SUGGESTED THAT A CATHOLIC
CHURCH COMMISSION COULD BE FORMED TO VERIFY THE PHYSICAL
WELL-BEING OF JAILED MRTA TERRORISTS. HOWEVER, IT REMAINED
A SUGGESTION; INDIVIDUAL PASTORAL VISITS TO MRTA PRISONERS
HAVE ALSO BEEN SUSPENDED SINCE DECEMBER. END COMMENT.)

10. [REDACTED] CERPA THEN BROUGHT UP A THIRD, RELATED ISSUE: THE
EVENTUAL VISIT OF THE HOSTAGES' FAMILY MEMBERS. ACCORDING
TO [REDACTED] PALERMO HAD ORIGINALLY INTRODUCED THIS
IDEA, NOT BECAUSE OF HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS, BUT BECAUSE A
PARTICULAR WOMAN HAD REQUESTED ACCESS TO HER HOSTAGE
HUSBAND. ACCORDING TO THIS RECOUNTING, GUARANTOR ARCHBISHOP
CIPRIANI HAD QUERIED THE HOSTAGE SOME DAYS AGO AS TO HIS
WILLINGNESS TO SEE HIS WIFE AND SIGN LEGAL PAPERS BEFORE SHE
UNDERWENT SURGERY. ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] THE HOSTAGE
HAD REFUSED TO RECEIVE ANY FAMILY MEMBERS "BECAUSE OF HIS
MISERABLE CONDITION." AFTER HEARING THIS TWISTED TALE,
CERPA PRONOUNCED THAT "ON BEHALF OF THE MRTA," HE WOULD NOT
OPPOSE SUCH A VISIT. (COMMENT: SOME SPINMEISTER IN THE GOP
MAY HAVE INVENTED THIS TALE TO TEST CERPA'S
GULLIBILITY/SENTIMENTALITY QUOTIENT. END COMMENT.)
JETT

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[REDACTED]
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