

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
-----A0C156 051316Z /38

O 051320Z MAR 97
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6196
INFO FBI WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
NSC WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

SECTION 01 OF 02 LIMA 001888

DECAPTIONED

NSC FOR DOBBINS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/28/20
TAGS: PTER, ASEC, PREL, PINR, KJUS, PE, JA, CU, DR
SUBJECT: GOP-MRTA TALKS: SOME PROGRESS IN EIGHTH ROUND
DESPITE CERPA'S ABSENCE

REF: A) LIMA 1775, B) GENEVA 1214, C) SANTO DOMINGO 1095

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY DCM JAMES F. MACK, EMBASSY LIMA, FOR REASON 1.5 (D).

2. SUMMARY: [REDACTED] TOLD US MARCH 4 THAT

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EVEN WITH COMANDANTE CERPA'S ABSENCE FROM THE EIGHTH SESSION, ALL THE PARTICIPANTS DEMONSTRATED THE WILL TO MOVE AHEAD IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. WITH CERPA'S TELEPHONIC BLESSING, ALL AGREED THAT GUARANTOR CANADIAN AMBASSADOR VINCENT WOULD ORGANIZE A "COMMITTEE" OF GOC, GOJ, AND CATHOLIC CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES TO VISIT INCARCERATED MRTA MILITANTS; ICRC'S PARTICIPATION WAS PUT ON HOLD. GOP INTERLOCUTOR PALERMO AGREED TO THE MRTA'S REQUEST THAT HE BRING A CONCRETE PROPOSAL ON PRISONER RELEASES TO THE NEXT MEETING, SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 5. END SUMMARY.

A POUTING CERPA GIVES THE MEETING A MISS

[REDACTED]

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3. [REDACTED] TOLD US MARCH 4 THAT THE PREVIOUS DAY'S MRTA-GOP TALKS HAD MADE SOME HEADWAY. ALTHOUGH MRTA LEADER NESTOR CERPA CARTOLINI DID NOT SHOW UP, THE TWO-HOUR MEETING WAS REASONABLY RELAXED AND MADE SOME PROGRESS TOWARD AN EVENTUAL REOLUTION OF THE HOSTAGE STANDOFF.

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4. [REDACTED] MRTA LIEUTENANT ROLI ROJAS FERNANDEZ ("EL ARABE") BEGAN THE SESSION BY EXPLAINING THE FOUR REASONS CERPA COULD NOT ATTEND. [REDACTED] ROJAS' DELIVERY WAS POLITE RATHER THAN AGITATED; HE WAS SIMPLY EXPLAINING HIS BOSS'S DISPLEASURE RATHER THAN ACTING IT OUT. ACCORDING TO ROJAS, THE MRTA HAD EXAMINED THE CONTENT OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS AND HAD CONCLUDED THAT THE GOP LACKED THE "POLITICAL WILL" TO RELEASE THE MRTA'S IMPRISONED COMRADES, THE KEY TERRORIST DEMAND. SECOND, THE SAFE PASSAGE QUESTION SHOULD BE DEALT WITH PRIVATELY RATHER THAN THROUGH PRESIDENT [REDACTED]

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FUJIMORI'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS. (NOTE: BY THEN CERPA LIKELY KNEW THAT PRESIDENT FUJIMORI WAS IN CUBA TALKING DIRECTLY WITH FIDEL CASTRO ABOUT POLITICAL ASYLUM FOR THE MRTA HOSTAGE TAKERS. THE MRTA REPRESENTATIVES DID NOT, HOWEVER, REFER SPECIFICALLY TO THIS SURPRISE VISIT WHICH GARNERED INTERNATIONAL MEDIA ATTENTION. END NOTE.) THIRD, THE MRTA LEADER OBJECTED TO RECENT VISITS BY THE GOP'S JUSTICE AND INTERIOR MINISTERS TO BOLIVIA. THE MRTA BELIEVED THAT THE MINISTERS' INTERVENTIONS WERE INTENDED TO TIGHTEN JUDICIAL MEASURES AGAINST THE FOUR MRTA MEMBERS IN BOLIVIAN JAILS. FINALLY, CERPA'S ABSENCE PROTESTED THE GOP'S SUSPENSION OF FAMILY VISITS TO IMPRISONED MRTA MILITANTS.

5. [REDACTED] WHEN ROJAS HAD FINISHED, GOP INTERLOCUTOR AND EDUCATION MINISTER DIEGO PALERMO CABREJOS SAID HE WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT CERPA COULD NOT ATTEND THE MEETING THAT DAY AS HIS PRESENCE ON FEBRUARY 27 HAD FACILITATED A GOOD DEAL OF PROGRESS. PALERMO THEN ATTEMPTED TO REBUT THE MRTA REPRESENTATIVE'S POINTS. ACCORDING TO THE GOP INTERLOCUTOR EVERYTHING PRESIDENT FUJIMORI WAS SAYING DEMONSTRATED HIS POLITICAL WILL TO RESOLVE THE HOSTAGE CRISIS. SECOND, BOLIVIA WAS AN INDEPENDENT, SOVEREIGN COUNTRY; THE PERUVIAN MINISTERS' VISITS COULDN'T INFLUENCE ANY PART OF ITS JUDICIAL SYSTEM. FINALLY, PALERMO STATED THAT NEITHER THE GOP NOR THE PERUVIAN PEOPLE COULD ACCEPT THE RELEASE OF MRTA'S JAILED LEADERS ("CUPULA"). ON THE OTHER HAND, THE GOP INTERLOCUTOR WAS STUDYING "SOME 30 CASES" WHICH COULD BE [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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CONSIDERED FOR "LIBERATION." PALERMO BELIEVED THE TALKS WERE MOVING TOWARD AN AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD SATISFY BOTH PARTIES AND MAINTAIN THEIR DIGNITY.

[REDACTED]

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 GUARANTOR "COMMITTEE" TO VISIT IMPRISONED MRTA MILITANTS

6. [REDACTED] DE FACTO GUARANTOR CHAIRMAN ARCHBISHOP JUAN LUIS CIPRIANI SUGGESTED THAT THE MEETING TURN ITS ATTENTION TO THE MRTA'S REQUEST FOR THE GUARANTORS TO VISIT ITS IMPRISONED COLLEAGUES. THE ARCHBISHOP OF AYACUCHO SUGGESTED THAT GUARANTOR CANADIAN AMBASSADOR ANTHONY VINCENT FORM A "COMMITTEE" OF INDIVIDUALS REPRESENTING CANADA, JAPAN, AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TO LOOK INTO THE CONDITIONS IN WHICH MRTA INTERNEES LIVE. IT WAS UNCERTAIN WHETHER ANYONE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) WOULD BE INCLUDED.

ICRC STANDS ITS GROUND

7. [REDACTED] ROJAS THEN ASKED THAT ICRC CHIEF DELEGATE MICHEL MINNIG BE BROUGHT INTO THE MEETING. MINNIG EXPLAINED TO THE

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] SECTION 02 OF 02 LIMA 001888

[REDACTED]

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GROUP THE ICRC'S "NORMS" FOR VISITING PRISONERS IN PERU:
THE VISITS MUST BE PRIVATE, THE ICRC CHOOSES WHICH PRISONERS
IT WANTS TO INTERVIEW, AND THE GOP MUST GUARANTEE THAT THE
ICRC MAY VISIT THE SAME PRISONERS AGAIN. THE [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] BELIEVES THAT MINNIG'S RECITATION REFLECTED THE
ICRC'S "TOUGH POSITION," INSISTING IN RECENT DEMARCHES TO
ALL PARTIES CONCERNED (REFTEL B) THAT THE GOP MAKE GOOD ON
ITS 1992 AGREEMENT TO PERMIT THE ICRC TO VISIT PRISONERS IN
PERU UNDER THE ARRANGEMENTS MINNIG OUTLINED.

[REDACTED]

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9. [REDACTED] ROJAS THEN CONFERRED BY TELEPHONE WITH CERPA WHO
AGREED TO THE GUARANTOR "COMMITTEE" GOING AHEAD WITH VISITS
TO THE JAILED MRTA MEMBERS. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] THEY
SPECULATE THAT LOWER LEVEL CANADIAN DIPLOMATS AND CHURCH
REPRESENTATIVES, RATHER THAN THE GUARANTORS THEMSELVES, WILL
COMPRISE THE VISITS COMMITTEE.

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MRTA READY FOR CONCRETE PROPOSAL ON PRISONER RELEASES

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10. [REDACTED] TOWARD THE END OF THE SESSION, ROJAS ASKED WHETHER THE "LIBERATION" OF MRTA PRISONERS COULD BE NEGOTIATED ON THE BASIS OF A CONCRETE PROPOSAL. CIPRIANI ASKED PALERMO IF THE GOP COULD PRESENT SUCH A PROPOSAL. PALERMO AGREED TO BRING SOMETHING TO THE NEXT MEETING, SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 5.

[REDACTED] PALERMO WAS TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT FUJIMORI MARCH 4, AFTER THE PERUVIAN LEADER'S RETURN FROM A WHIRLWIND TRIP TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND CUBA.
JETT

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[REDACTED]
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