

[REDACTED]

n/a

Case Number: S200200010

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

PTQ3985

[REDACTED]

PTQ3985

PAGE 01 LIMA 02727 01 OF 03 312323Z
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	STR-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-01	PMB-00
	DSCC-00	PRM-10	PRME-01	DRL-09	G-00	/050W	

-----AA7790 312323Z /38

O 312322Z MAR 97
 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6663
 INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
 DOJ WASHDC PRIORITY
 CIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
 DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
 USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
 FBI WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
 JCS WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
 USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
 DEAHQS WASHDC
 USINT HAVANA
 AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PAGE 02 LIMA 02727 01 OF 03 312323Z
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 AMEMBASSY QUITO
 AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
 AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
 AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
 AMEMBASSY ROME

n/a

[REDACTED]

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

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
n/a

Case Number: S200200010

[REDACTED] SECTION 01 OF 03 LIMA 002727

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

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/31/2007

TAGS: PTER ASEC PREL PGOV PHUM CASC PE

SUBJECT: PERU'S HOSTAGE CRISIS UPDATE - MARCH 26-MARCH 31

1. CLASSIFIED BY JIM MACK, DCM, EMBASSY LIMA. REASON: 1.5 (D).

2. [REDACTED] SUMMARY: DURING THE EASTER WEEKEND, PRESIDENT ALBERTO FUJIMORI, MRTA LEADER NESTOR CERPA, AND ARCHBISHOP JUAN LUIS CIPRIANI ALL DISPELLED RUMORS OF AN IMMINENT BREAKTHROUGH IN THE HOSTAGE STANDOFF. MRTA'S INSISTENCE THAT THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT RELEASE MRTA PRISONERS CONTINUES TO BLOCK ANY REAL SIGNIFICANT ADVANCES TOWARD A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION. WHILE ARCHBISHOP CIPRIANI IS ENDEAVORING TO LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR A FLEXIBLE "HUMANITARIAN" SOLUTION, PRESIDENT FUJIMORI CONTINUES TO ENJOY OVERWHELMING PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR HOLDING THE LINE AGAINST RELEASING IMPRISONED MRTA TERRORISTS. END SUMMARY.

PAGE 03 LIMA 02727 01 OF 03 312323Z

ARCHBISHOP CIPRIANI MAKES CASE FOR HUMANITARIAN SOLUTION

3. (U) KEY MEDIATOR ARCHBISHOP JUAN LUIS CIPRIANI RUSHED BACK MARCH 29 FROM HIS AYACUCHO DIOCESE WHERE HE HAD BEEN LEADING HOLY WEEK CELEBRATIONS SINCE MARCH 25, PROMPTING A WAVE OF LOCAL MEDIA SPECULATION THAT THERE WOULD BE AN EASTER BREAKTHROUGH IN THE HOSTAGE STANDOFF. LECTURING REPORTERS ON MARCH 29 AND 30 NOT TO "INVENT" STORIES, CIPRIANI DENIED THAT A SOLUTION WAS IMMINENT, BUT INSISTED THE GUARANTORS CONTINUED TO MAKE PROGRESS. RESPONDING TO ONE LIMA DAILY'S HEADLINE EXHORTING THE GOP NOT TO RELEASE IMPRISONED MRTA TERRORISTS, CIPRIANI INSISTED THE HOSTAGE CRISIS IS A HUMANITARIAN PROBLEM AND NOT A POLITICAL ONE. HE STRESSED THAT RESOLVING THE HOSTAGE CRISIS WOULD REQUIRE EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES, SUCH THAT WITH "GREAT RESPECT FOR THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK, WE MUST ALSO SHOW PARDON AND MERCY." HE URGED REPORTERS NOT TO CONFUSE "PARDON WITH SURRENDER." CIPRIANI, ALONG WITH FELLOW GUARANTORS TDY JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TERUSUKE

[REDACTED]
n/a

[REDACTED]
n/a
Case Number: S200200010

TERADA AND CANADIAN AMBASSADOR ANTHONY VINCENT MET WITH PRESIDENT FUJIMORI FOR ALMOST TWO HOURS ON MARCH 31.

PERU'S CARDINAL URGES GOP NOT TO RELEASE MRTA TERRORISTS

4. (U) STRIKING A TONE CONTRARY TO ARCHBISHOP CIPRIANI'S STANCE AT A MARCH 30 PRESS CONFERENCE, CARDINAL AUGUSTO VARGAS ALZAMORA EMPHATICALLY STATED THAT CONCEDED TO THE MRTA TERRORISTS' DEMAND FOR PRISONER RELEASES WOULD "BURY THE LAWS GOVERNING THE COUNTRY." PLACING THE BLAME FOR THE PROTRACTED HOSTAGE STANDOFF

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PAGE 04 LIMA 02727 01 OF 03 312323Z
SQUARELY ON THE "MEAN-SPIRITED AND ARROGANT" MRTA LEADER NESTOR CERPA, THE CARDINAL DEPLORED THE MRTA FOR "BLACKMAILING PERU WITH WEAPONS TO WIN IMPOSSIBLE CONCESSIONS." "HOW DOES A SMALL GROUP PEOPLE MAKING THREATS UNDER ARMS EXPECT TO CONVINC OTHERS, VARGAS ASKED RHETORICALLY, "WHEN THEY ARE UNDERMINING THE PEACE OF OUR SOCIETY?"

FUJIMORI REPORTS CONDITIONS NOT RIGHT FOR MEETING WITH MRTA

5. (U) IN A MARCH 30 TELEVISION INTERVIEW, PRESIDENT FUJIMORI SAID MORE POINTS HAD TO BE IRONED OUT BEFORE GOP INTERLOCUTOR DOMINGO PALERMO WOULD RESUME FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS WITH MRTA LEADER NESTOR CERPA. THE TENTH AND LAST DIRECT GOP-MRTA MEETING TOOK PLACE ON MARCH 12. FUJIMORI EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN THE WORK OF THE GUARANTORS, WHO HE SAID WERE MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO CREATE THE CONDITIONS FOR THE NEXT PALERMO-CERPA MEETING.

ICRC BELIEVES MRTA STILL DETERMINED TO WIN PRISONER RELEASES

6. [REDACTED] PROVIDED POLOFF AND FBI NEGOTIATION EXPERTS ON MARCH 26 WITH AN UPDATE ON THE HOSTAGE

B1

[REDACTED]

NNNNPTQ3987

n/a
[REDACTED]

n/a

Case Number: S200200010

PTQ3987

PAGE 01 LIMA 02727 02 OF 03 312323Z
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	STR-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-01	PMB-00
	DSCC-00	PRM-10	PRME-01	DRL-09	G-00	/050W	

-----AA779C 312324Z /38

O 312322Z MAR 97
 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6664
 INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
 DOJ WASHDC PRIORITY
 CIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
 DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
 USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
 FBI WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
 JCS WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
 USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
 DEAHQS WASHDC
 USINT HAVANA
 AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

PAGE 02 LIMA 02727 02 OF 03 312323Z
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 AMEMBASSY QUITO
 AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
 AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
 AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
 AMEMBASSY ROME

SECTION 02 OF 03 LIMA 002727

n/a

[REDACTED]
n/a
Case Number: S200200010

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

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/31/2007
TAGS: PTER ASEC PREL PGOV PHUM CASC PE
SUBJECT: PERU'S HOSTAGE CRISIS UPDATE - MARCH 26-MARCH 31

CRISIS. [REDACTED] STRESSED THAT MRTA LEADER CERPA NO LONGER EXPECTS TO WIN THE RELEASE OF KEY MRTA LEADERS, BUT [REDACTED] BELIEVES CERPA WILL INSIST ON ACHIEVING THE "LIBERATION" OF SOME MID-LEVEL MRTA MEMBERS BEFORE AGREEING TO RELEASE THE 72 HOSTAGES. [REDACTED] THAT CERPA IS FOCUSING ON POSSIBLE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SAFE PASSAGE TO CUBA, AND THE YOUNGER MRTA TERRORISTS HAVE APPROACHED ICRC DELEGATES TO ASK ABOUT LIVING CONDITIONS IN CUBA. THE YOUNGER MRTA HOSTAGE TAKERS, [REDACTED] ARE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT GOING TO CUBA WILL BE LIKE LANDING IN "PARADISE."

B1
B1
B1
B1

7. [REDACTED] NOTED THAT THE FOUR OLDER MRTA LEADERS INSIDE, CERPA AND HIS LIEUTENANTS "EL ARABE," "TITO," AND "SALVADOR" REMAIN VERY UNITED. [REDACTED] CERPA STILL EXERCISES

B1
B1

PAGE 03 LIMA 02727 02 OF 03 312323Z
FIRM CONTROL OVER THE YOUNGER MRTA TERRORISTS. CERPA BONDS WITH THE YOUNGER HOSTAGE TAKERS IN MAKESHIFT SOCCER GAMES WHICH ALSO ALLOW THE MORE ENERGETIC TERRORISTS TO BLOW OFF STEAM. THE SIGHT OF THE OVERWEIGHT MRTA LEADER PLAYING SOCCER WITH THE YOUNG TERRORISTS INSIDE THE HOTAGE SITE, [REDACTED] IS "SURREAL."

B1

8. [REDACTED] SKED ABOUT THE HOSTAGES, [REDACTED] SAID THY APPEARED TO BE FATIGUED WITH BUT RESIGNED TO TE PROTRACTED NEGOTIATING PROCESS. [REDACTED] EXPRESSED DOUBTS THAT ANY OF THE HOSTAGES, ESPECIALLY THE JPANESE, WOULD CONTEMPLATE AN ESCAPE OR CONFRONTAION WITH THE MRTA CAPTORS AT THIS TIME. [REDACTED] PECULATED THAT IF NEGOTIATIONS BREAK DOWN, THE PERVIAN MILITARY AND POLICE HOSTAGES MIGHT TAKE MATERS INTO THEIR OWN HANDS. [REDACTED] INDICATED THAT NON OF THE HOSTAGES ARE EXPERIENCING ANY PRESSING HYSICAL HEALTH PROBLEMS.

B1
B1
B1
B1
B1

CERPA REITERATES DEMAND FOR PRISONER RELEASES

9. (U) MAKING RADIO CONTACT WITH JOURNALISTS ON MARCH 29, MRTA

n/a
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

n/a

Case Number: S200200010

"COMANDANTE" CERPA REITERATED HIS DEMAND THAT THE GOP RELEASE IMPRISONED MRTA MILITANTS IN EXCHANGE FOR THE 72 HOSTAGES HE IS HOLDING. "WE HAVE NOT COME THIS FAR TO TALK ABOUT ASYLUM OR A TRIP ABROAD," HE SAID; "IF THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT IS THE SOLUTION, IT IS FAR REMOVED FROM REALITY AND THE MAIN ISSUE OF OUR DEMANDS." DISCOUNTING OVERLY OPTIMISTIC PRESS REPORTS OF AN APPROXIMATE NEGOTIATED SOLUTION TO THE HOSTAGE STANDOFF, CERPA INSISTED THAT "THERE IS NO IMMINENT SOLUTION FORESEEN."

[REDACTED]

PAGE 04 LIMA 02727 02 OF 03 312323Z
GUARANTOR SUB-GROUP CONTINUES PRISON VISITS

10. [REDACTED] A MEMBER OF THE GUARANTOR COMMISSION SUB-GROUP EXAMINING THE PRISON CONDITIONS OF JAILED MRTA TERRORISTS, TOLD POLOFF THAT THE SUB-GROUP VISITED YANAMAYO PRISON ON MARCH 26 AND WILL VISIT A MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON OUTSIDE OF CAJAMARCA ON MARCH 31. HE EXPECTED THE SUB-GROUP WOULD VISIT A PRISON OUTSIDE OF HUANCAYO LATER THIS WEEK, BUT HE DOUBTED THE GOP WOULD GRANT THEM PERMISSION TO VISIT THE THREE SENIOR MRTA LEADERS IMPRISONED AT CALLAO NAVAL PRISON. ARCHBISHOP CIPRIANI RAISED THE ISSUE OF THE SUB-GROUP'S ACCESS TO CALLAO WITH PRESIDENT FUJIMORI, HE SAID, WITHOUT GETTING A POSITIVE REPLY.

B1

11. [REDACTED]

B1
B1

[REDACTED] UPON THEIR ARRIVAL AT YANAMAYO, THE MALE MRTA PRISONERS POSTED BANNERS IN FRONT OF THEIR CELLS EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY WITH THE MRTA HOSTAGE TAKERS, DEMANDING RESTORATION OF FAMILY VISITS, AND ANNOUNCING THE START OF A HUNGER STRIKE BY ALL THE MRTA PRISONERS THERE. (NOTE: THE PRISON DIRECTOR SAID THE MRTA PRISONERS STOCKPILED FOOD IN THEIR CELLS BEFORE LAUNCHING THE HUNGER STRIKE. END

NNNNPTQ3986

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PTQ3986

n/a

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

n/a

Case Number: S200200010

PAGE 01 LIMA 02727 03 OF 03 312324Z
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	STR-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-01	PMB-00
	DSCC-00	PRM-10	PRME-01	DRL-09	G-00	/050W	

-----AA77A3 312324Z /38

O 312322Z MAR 97
 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6665
 INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
 DOJ WASHDC PRIORITY
 CIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
 DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
 USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
 FBI WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
 JCS WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
 USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
 DEAHQS WASHDC
 USINT HAVANA
 AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PAGE 02 LIMA 02727 03 OF 03 312324Z
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 AMEMBASSY QUITO
 AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
 AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
 AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
 AMEMBASSY ROME

[REDACTED] SECTION 03 OF 03 LIMA 002727

JUSTICE FOR TVCS -- J LANCASTER
SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

n/a

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
n/a
Case Number: S200200010

ROME PASS EMBASSY VATICAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/31/2007
TAGS: PTER ASEC PREL PGOV PHUM CASC PE
SUBJECT: PERU'S HOSTAGE CRISIS UPDATE - MARCH 26-MARCH 31

NOTE.)

12. [REDACTED] LAMENTED THAT THE MRTA PRISONERS PREFERRED TO DISCUSS POLITICAL ISSUES RATHER THAN PRISON CONDITIONS, AND THE MALE PRISONERS WANTED MIGUEL RINCON RINCON, A SENIOR MRTA LEADER ALSO JAILED THERE, TO BE PRESENT FOR ALL DISCUSSIONS. OVERALL, [REDACTED] SAID PRISON CONDITIONS AT YANAMAYO WERE COMPARABLE TO THOSE AT OTHER MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISONS EXCEPT FOR THE COLD WEATHER THERE. ASKED ABOUT THE GUARANTORS' ONGOING EFFORTS TO FACILITATE A RESOLUTION OF THE HOSTAGE CRISIS, [REDACTED] SAID THERE WERE NO CHANGES IN THE POSITIONS OF EITHER THE GOP OR MRTA OVER THE EASTER WEEKEND.

B1

B1

B1

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
PAGE 03 LIMA 02727 03 OF 03 312324Z

MRTA PRISONERS RIOT AT CASTRO CASTRO PRISON

13. (U) ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS REPORTING, THE OVER 200 MRTA PRISONERS AT CASTRO CASTRO MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF LIMA JOINED A PRISON RIOT STARTED BY COMMON PRISONERS ON MARCH 27. DEMANDING IMPROVEMENTS IN PRISON CONDITIONS, REESTABLISHMENT OF FAMILY VISITS (SUSPENDED IN THE WAKE OF THE HOSTAGE CRISIS), AND JUDICIAL REVIEW OF THEIR SENTENCES, THE MRTA PRISONERS BURNED MATTRESSES AND OTHER MATERIALS TO REGISTER THEIR PROTEST. THE MRTA PRISONERS ALSO MANAGED TO PAINT WITH ASHES A MESSAGE IN SUPPORT OF THE MRTA TERRORIST ATTACK ON THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE ("VIVA LA TOMA DE LA RESIDENCIA DE JAPON") ON A ROOFTOP WATER TOWER. PERUVIAN SECURITY FORCES MANAGED TO QUELL THE PRISON DISTURBANCE BY FIRING IN THE AIR; NO ONE WAS REPORTED INJURED.

POLL INDICATES LITTLE SUPPORT FOR RELEASING MRTA PRISONERS

14. (U) BASED ON ITS INTERVIEWS WITH 400 LIMA RESIDENTS BETWEEN

[REDACTED]
n/a
[REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]

n/a

Page: 9

Case Number: S200200010

MARCH 21 AND 23, THE POLLING FIRM IMASEN FOUND THAT 89 PERCENT OF THE RESPONDENTS REJECTED THE IDEA OF RELEASING MRTA TERRORISTS TO RESOLVE THE HOSTAGE CRISIS. IMASEN'S POLL INDICATED THAT 73 PERCENT FAVORED ALLOWING THE MRTA HOSTAGE TAKERS TO LEAVE FOR ANOTHER COUNTRY IN EXCHANGE FOR RELEASING THE HOSTAGES. THE SAME POLL REGISTERED APPROVAL RATINGS OF 94 PERCENT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS, 86 PERCENT FOR ARCHBISHOP CIPRIANI, AND 76 PERCENT FOR THE GUARANTOR COMMISSION

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PAGE 04
AS A WHOLE.

LIMA 02727 03 OF 03 312324Z

JETT

[REDACTED]

NNNN

n/a
[REDACTED]

Page: 9

UNCLASSIFIED