

[REDACTED]

n/a

Case Number: S200200010

PTQ9706

[REDACTED]

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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	DODE-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
	DCP-01	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

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 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6919  
 INFO FBI WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
 AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY  
 AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY  
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY  
 CIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
 AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO  
 USINT HAVANA  
 AMEMBASSY ROME  
 USMISSION GENEVA

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ROME PASS EMBASSY VATICAN  
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/11/2007  
 TAGS: PTER ASEC PREL PGOV PHUM PE  
 SUBJECT: HOSTAGE CRISIS WAITING GAME FAVORS PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT

1. CLASSIFIED BY JIM MACK, CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, EMBASSY LIMA.  
 REASON: 1.5 (D).

[REDACTED] n/a [REDACTED]

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

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2. [REDACTED] SUMMARY: WE EXPECT THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO WAIT FOR THE MRTA TERRORISTS TO DROP THEIR DEMAND FOR THE RELEASE OF CERTAIN IMPRISONED MRTA MEMBERS RATHER THAN MAKE SUCH CONCESSIONS. GUARANTOR-LED EFFORTS TO CONVINCED PRESIDENT FUJIMORI TO SHOW FLEXIBILITY ON THIS ISSUE ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE SUCCESSFUL AND MAY FEED THE MRTA'S UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS. THE TENSE WAITING GAME FAVORS THE GOP, BUT LEAVES THE 72 HOSTAGES AT CONSIDERABLE RISK. AS THE HOSTAGE CRISIS APPROACHES THE FOUR-MONTH MARK, THE CHANCES THAT A HOSTAGE REVOLT OR MEDICAL EMERGENCY WILL DECIDE THE OUTCOME CONTINUE TO RISE. END SUMMARY.

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"REFLECTION PHASE" MAKES LITTLE PROGRESS  
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3. [REDACTED] AFTER DIRECT TALKS BETWEEN THE GOP AND MRTA BROKE DOWN DURING THE SECOND WEEK OF MARCH, MEMBERS OF THE GUARANTOR COMMISSION, PARTICULARLY ARCHBISHOP JUAN LUIS CIPRIANI, ALONG WITH TDY JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TERUSUKE TERADA AND CANADIAN AMBASSADOR ANTHONY VINCENT, AND TO A LESSER EXTENT ICRC CHIEF DELEGATE TO PERU MICHEL MINNIG, BEGAN THEIR MEDIATION EFFORTS IN THE SO-CALLED "REFLECTION PHASE." AFTER ALMOST A MONTH OF SHUTTLING BETWEEN PRESIDENT ALBERTO FUJIMORI (AND/OR GOP

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[REDACTED]

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INTERLOCUTOR DOMINGO PALERMO) AND MRTA LEADER NESTOR CERPA CARTOLINI, THE GUARANTORS DO NOT APPEAR CLOSE TO FINDING A SOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH THE GOP AND MRTA. THE GUARANTORS HAVE ADVANCED DISCUSSIONS ON POSSIBLE PRISON REFORMS, BUT THAT ISSUE IS STILL SECONDARY TO THE MRTA.

4. [REDACTED] MRTA'S INSISTENCE THAT THE GOP RELEASE SOME MRTA TERRORISTS REMAINS THE KEY STUMBLING BLOCK TO ANY NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT. ALTHOUGH HE NO LONGER DEMANDS THE RELEASE OF SENIOR MRTA LEADERS, CERPA SHOWS NO SIGNS THAT HE WILL ACCEPT ANYTHING LESS THAN THE RELEASE OF SOME 10-20 MRTA TERRORISTS THAT HE AND THE OTHER HOSTAGE TAKERS KNOW PERSONALLY, INCLUDING HIS COMMON LAW WIFE NANCY GILVONIO. EXAGGERATING HIS OWN POLITICAL IMPORTANCE, THE ICRC INFORMED US EARLY ON THAT CERPA ALSO BELIEVES THAT WITHDRAWING HIS DEMAND FOR PRISONER RELEASES WILL ENSURE FUJIMORI'S REELECTION IN THE YEAR 2000. CERPA'S INTRANSIGENCE IS SIMPLY STATED IN THE SLOGAN THE MRTA RECENTLY UNFURLED ON A SHEET ATOP THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE: "WE WILL DEFEND WITH OUR LIVES THE FREEDOM OF OUR PRISONERS."

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5. [REDACTED] THE GUARANTORS BELIEVE THE GOP WILL HAVE TO CONCEDE TO SOME PRISONER RELEASES AND ARE URGING PRESIDENT FUJIMORI TO PROVIDE THEM WITH A LIST OF MRTA PRISONERS THE GOP IS PREPARED TO RELEASE. IN ADDITION, THE GUARANTORS ARE TRYING TO ENLIST FRIENDS OF FUJIMORI IN THE CAMPAIGN TO CONVINCED FUJIMORI TO SHOW MORE FLEXIBILITY ON THE ISSUE OF PRISONER RELEASES. THE GUARANTORS FEEL FRUSTRATED BY THE LACK OF A BREAKTHROUGH ON THE KEY ISSUE IN THE HOSTAGE STANDOFF AND COMPLAIN PRIVATELY THAT THE GOP IS "USING" THEM. FOCUSING SOLELY ON RESOLVING THE HOSTAGE CRISIS PEACEFULLY, THE GUARANTORS APPEAR TO HAVE LOST SIGHT OF THE POTENTIAL LONG-TERM DAMAGE EXCHANGING HOSTAGES FOR IMPRISONED [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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MRTA TERRORISTS COULD DO TO PERU'S INTERNAL SECURITY. IF THE GUARANTORS ARE PRESSING CERPA TO BE MORE REALISTIC, THEY HAVE NOT STRESSED SUCH EFFORTS TO US.

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PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT STAYS THE COURSE  
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6. [REDACTED] DESPITE PRESSURE FROM THE GUARANTORS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN TO "ACCELERATE" NEGOTIATIONS, WE DO NOT EXPECT PRESIDENT FUJIMORI IS PREPARED TO OFFER ANYTHING BEYOND THE RELEASE OF SOME PRISONERS UNJUSTLY CONVICTED ON TERRORISM CHARGES (AS DETERMINED BY THE AD HOC COMMISSION), THE POSSIBLE SHORTENING OF SOME OF THE HARSHER SENTENCES AGAINST MRTA PRISONERS, AND AN IMPROVEMENT IN PRISON CONDITIONS. INDEED, GIVEN THE GOP'S STANDING OFFER TO PROVIDE THE MRTA HOSTAGE TAKERS SAFE PASSAGE TO CUBA, THE GOP CAN ALREADY MAKE A STRONG ARGUMENT THAT IT IS DEMONSTRATING EXTRAORDINARY FLEXIBILITY IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH A TERRORIST GROUP.

7. [REDACTED] NEVERTHELESS, THE GOP'S HANDLING OF CERPA APPEARS TO HAVE MADE HIM MORE HARDLINE RATHER THAN SOFTENED HIM UP. THE GOP DID NOT OPEN GUARANTOR-ASSISTED TALKS UNTIL FEBRUARY 11, ALMOST TWO MONTHS AFTER THE MRTA STORMED THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE. THE GOP ESTABLISHED NO DEPENDABLE SCHEDULE FOR ITS TALKS WITH THE MRTA, ALLOWING CONSIDERABLE TIME TO ELAPSE BETWEEN MEETINGS. DURING THE GAPS OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE GOP AND MRTA, CERPA REVERTED TO HIS UNREALISTIC, ABSOLUTIST POSITION [REDACTED]

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RATHER THAN BECOME MORE REASONABLE. IN ADDITION, BY SHOWING A LIST OF MRTA PRISONERS TO CERPA AT THE NEGOTIATING TABLE, PALERMO NOT ONLY PROVIDED THE MRTA LEADER WITH INFORMATION HE DID NOT HAVE, BUT ALSO RAISED CERPA'S EXPECTATIONS THAT HE WOULD EVENTUALLY WIN MRTA PRISONER RELEASES.

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8. [REDACTED] WE DO NOT BELIEVE FUJIMORI WILL AUTHORIZE A RESCUE OPERATION WITHOUT SOME FORM OF JUSTIFICATION. HIS LATEST PUBLIC MANTRA IS THAT HE WOULD NOT USE FORCE UNLESS THERE IS AN "UNCONTROLLABLE EMERGENCY" INSIDE THE HOSTAGE SITE. PREVIOUSLY, HE WARNED THAT IF ANY OF THE HOSTAGES WERE HARMED, THE HOSTAGE STANDOFF WOULD TAKE ON "ANOTHER LOGIC." HE CURRENTLY FACES NO PUBLIC PRESSURE TO RESOLVE THE CRISIS PROMPTLY; IN FACT, POLLING CONTINUES TO SHOW VERY LITTLE SUPPORT FOR EITHER CONCEDED TO MRTA PRISONER RELEASES OR LAUNCHING AN ASSAULT. WHILE EASTER CAME AND WENT WITHOUT A SETTLEMENT, THE NEXT MAJOR MILESTONE ON THE LOCAL CALENDAR IS NOT UNTIL PERU'S JULY 28 INDEPENDENCE DAY. WE PRESUME THE GOP WOULD NOT WANT TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE HOSTAGE CRISIS WHILE HOSTING THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY JUNE 1-5.

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TIME MAY BE RUNNING OUT ON THE MRTA  
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9. [REDACTED] ALTHOUGH BOTH FUJIMORI AND CERPA APPEAR CONTENT TO WAIT EACH OTHER OUT, WE BELIEVE TIME FAVORS THE GOP. WITH THE HOSTAGE  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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STANDOFF NOW ALMOST FOUR MONTHS OLD, THE CHANCES THAT ONE OR MORE HOSTAGES WILL SUFFER A MEDICAL EMERGENCY, CONFRONT THE HOSTAGE TAKERS, OR ATTEMPT AN ESCAPE CONTINUE TO RISE. WHEN CERPA LAST RELEASED A HOSTAGE ON MEDICAL GROUNDS ON JANUARY 26, HE VOWED NEVER TO RELEASE ANOTHER HOSTAGE FOR SIMILAR REASONS. THERE IS NO QUESTION, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOP WILL HOLD THE MRTA RESPONSIBLE FOR THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF ALL 72 HOSTAGES. WHILE ANY GOP INTERVENTION WILL LIKELY RESULT IN SIGNIFICANT HOSTAGE CASUALTIES, CERPA FAILS TO UNDERSTAND THAT PRESIDENT FUJIMORI, GIVEN THE RIGHT PROVOCATION, WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE A STRONG CASE THAT HE DID ALL THAT HE COULD TO AVOID A BLOODY END, BUT THE MRTA FINALLY FORCED HIM TO RESPOND TO VIOLENCE WITH VIOLENCE.

10. [REDACTED] THE MRTA'S RELEASE OF HUNDREDS OF UNHARMED HOSTAGES IN DECEMBER IS A DISTANT MEMORY. THE GOP, IN THE MEANTIME, HAS ACCUMULATED A LONG LIST OF EFFORTS WITH WHICH TO MAKE THE CASE THAT IT TRIED HARD TO REACH AN AGREEMENT WITH THE MRTA. FUJIMORI ALREADY CAN POINT OUT THAT THE GOP HELD TEN FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS WITH THE MRTA HOSTAGE TAKERS, MET FREQUENTLY WITH THE GUARANTORS, AND THAT HE PERSONALLY TRAVELLED TO TORONTO, WASHINGTON, BOLIVIA (TWICE), HAVANA, AND SANTO DOMINGO TO WORK TOWARD A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. THE PERUVIAN PRESIDENT CAN ALSO HIGHLIGHT THE FACT

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THAT EVEN AFTER OVER 100 DAYS, THE MRTA DEMANDED THE RELEASE OF MRTA TERRORISTS, SOMETHING FUJIMORI COULD NEVER CONCEDE AND THE PERUVIAN PUBLIC WOULD NOT STOMACH. CERPA'S "TUNNEL VISION" HAS STRENGTHENED, NOT WEAKENED, FUJIMORI'S HAND.

MACK

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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