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ACQ-01 INL-01 EAP-01 INR-00 M-00 OMB-01	ACDA-10 CA-02 OASY-00 EB-00 INSE-00 NRCE-00 OPIC-01 SSO-00	ACDE-00 CCO-00 DODE-00 EUR-01 IO-00 NSAE-00 PA-00 SS-00	INLB-01 CG-00 DOEE-00 FAAE-00 LAB-01 NSCE-00 PM-00 TRSE-00	AID-00 SMEC-00 DOTE-00 H-01 L-01 OCS-03 PRS-00 USIE-00	ARA-01 COME-00 SRPP-00 IMMC-01 ADS-00 OIC-02 P-00 USSS-00	A-00 CTME-00 DS-00 TEDE-00 MMP-00 OIS-01 CIO-00 ASDS-01

PMB-00 DSCC-00 DRL-09 G-00 /040W -----B7FB97 072252Z /38

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P 072221Z MAY 97

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7382

LIMA

INFO DIA WASHDC

CIA WASHINGTON DC

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

FBI WASHINGTON DC

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM

AMEMBASSY QUITO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ AMEMBASSY TOKYO



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SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD ROME PASS EMBASSY VATICAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/07/2007

TAGS: PTER PREL PGOV PE

n/a

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



Case Number: S200200010

SUBJECT: GOP PINS BLAME FOR HOSTAGE CRISIS ON NATIONAL POLICE

REF: A. LIMA 3526 B. LIMA 1590

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

SUMMARY: THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT IS PRESSING CHARGES AGAINST 26 NATIONAL POLICE OFFICERS, INCLUDING TWO FORMER HOSTAGES, FOR THE SECURITY BREAKDOWN THAT ALLOWED THE MRTA TO TAKE SEVERAL HUNDRED PEOPLE HOSTAGE AT THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE. THE PRINCIPAL POLICE OFFICIAL UNDER FIRE HAS FLED TO MEXICO. IGNORING OPPOSITION REQUESTS FOR A BROADER INVESTIGATION, PRESIDENT FUJIMORI HAS PUBLICLY DEFENDED THE WORK OF THE ARMED FORCES AND NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SIN), PARTICULARLY IN THE WAKE OF THE SUCCESSFUL HOSTAGE RESCUE. THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT IS CONDUCTING ITS OWN INVESTIGATION OF ITS SECURITY LAPSES. BY FORCING THE NATIONAL POLICE TO TAKE THE FALL, FUJIMORI HAS REAFFIRMED HIS FAITH AND RELIANCE UPON THE MILITARY AND SIN. END SUMMARY.

GOP BRINGS CHARGES AGAINST 26 MEMBERS OF NATIONAL POLICE



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- 3. (U) NEW INTERIOR MINISTER ARMY GENERAL CESAR SAUCEDO INFORMED CONGRESS ON APRIL 30 THAT THE GOP HAS BROUGHT CHARGES AGAINST 19 SENIOR NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) OFFICIALS FOR THE SECURITY BREAKDOWN THAT ALLOWED THE MRTA TO STORM THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE ON DECEMBER 17, 1996. THE 19 PNP OFFICERS PLUS SEVEN SUBORDINATES FACE CHARGES OF DISOBEDIENCE AND NEGLIGENCE IN A SUPERIOR COURT OF MILITARY JUSTICE. FIVE PNP GENERALS, INCLUDING TWO FORMER HOSTAGES -- EX ANTI-TERRORISM CHIEF MAXIMO RIVERA AND EX-STATE SECURITY CHIEF GUILLERMO BOBBIO, ARE AMONG THE PNP OFFICIALS FACING CHARGES. THE MILITARY COURT IS EXPECTED TO NOTIFY ALL THE ACCUSED THIS WEEK THAT THEY WILL BE REQUIRED TO GIVE TESTIMONY TO THE COURT AT AN AS YET UNSPECIFIED FUTURE DATE. THE PENALTIES FOR DISOBEDIENCE AND NEGLIGENCE RANGE FROM SEVERAL YEARS IMPRISONMENT TO DISMISSALS.
- 4. (U) PNP LIEUTENANT GENERAL LUIS MALASQUEZ, FORMER CHIEF OF NATIONAL POLICE IN LIMA, THE PRINCIPAL ACCUSED IN THE DISCIPLINE PROCEEDINGS, FLED TO MEXICO ON MAY 4. HIS CHILDREN INSIST,



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HOWEVER, THAT HE IS MERELY ON "VACATION" AND WILL RETURN TO PERU. LAST WEEK, HE PUBLICLY REFUTED THE CHARGES THAT HE WAS NEGLIGENT IN PASSING RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROVIDING SECURITY FOR THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S RECEPTION TO A SMALLER, LOCAL NATIONAL POLICE ENTITY. STANDING ON THE STEPS OF CONGRESS AT THE SAME TIME THE INTERIOR MINISTER WAS ADDRESSING PERU'S LEGISLATORS, MALASQUEZ DEFENDED HIS PROFESSIONAL REPUTATION TO REPORTERS. MALASQUEZ LATER HANDED GENERAL SAUCEDO A SEALED ENVELOPE WHICH THE BELEAGUERED PNP GENERAL CLAIMED WOULD CLEAR HIM OF ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SECURITY LAPSES.

5.

FORMER INTERIOR MINISTER ARMY GENERAL JUAN BRIONES AND

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FORMER CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL POLICE ANTONIO KETIN VIDAL, BOTH OUSTED THREE DAYS BEFORE THE HOSTAGE RESCUE (REF A), NOT ONLY ESCAPED CHARGES, BUT RECEIVED GOLDEN PARACHUTES. BRIONES WILL REPRESENT PERU AT THE INTERAMERICAN DEFENSE BOARD IN WASHINGTON AND KETIN VIDAL WILL SOON TAKE UP DUTIES AS THE POLICE ATTACHE IN PERU'S WASHINGTON EMBASSY. PRESS REPORTS INDICATED THAT VIDAL HIMSELF NAMED THE RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS PRIOR TO HIS APRIL 19 RESIGNATION.

FUJIMORI EXONERATES SIN AND ARMED FORCES

PRESIDENT FUJIMORI TIPPED HIS HAND EARLY WHEN HE TOLD REPORTERS ON FEBRUARY 22 THAT "SOME OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS OF THE POLICE ARE RESPONSIBLE" FOR THE MRTA HOSTAGE TAKEOVER (REF B). AT THAT TIME, FUJIMORI INDICATED THAT THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SIN) HAD PROVIDED GENERAL THREAT INFORMATION THAT SHOULD HAVE PUT THE NATIONAL POLICE ON A GREATER STATE OF ALERT, PARTICULARLY FOR THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S HIGH PROFILE RECEPTION. IN THE WAKE OF THE HOSTAGE CRISIS, FUJIMORI HAS NOT HEAPED BLAME ON THE POLICE, BUT RATHER HAS LET THE MILITARY JUSTICE PROCEEDINGS GO FORWARD. AT THE SAME TIME, THE PERUVIAN PRESIDENT CONTINUES TO PRAISE THE ARMED FORCES AND SIN FOR THEIR ROLES IN THE APRIL 22 HOSTAGE RESCUE.



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ACTION SCT-00

INFO	LOG-00 ACQ-01 INL-01	ACDA-10 CA-02 OASY-00	ACDE-00 CCO-00 DODE-00	INLB-01 CG-00 DOEE-00	AID-00 SMEC-00 DOTE-00	ARA-01 COME-00 SRPP-00	A-00 CTME-00 DS-00
	EAP-01	EB-00	EUR-01	FAAE-00	H-01	IMMC-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	INSE-00	10-00	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 PMB-00	SSO-00 DSCC-00	SS-00 DRL-09	TRSE-00 G-00	USIE-00 /040W	USSS-00	ASDS-01

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P 072221Z MAY 97

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7383

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SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD ROME PASS EMBASSY VATICAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/07/2007

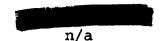
TAGS: PTER PREL PGOV PE

SUBJECT: GOP PINS BLAME FOR HOSTAGE CRISIS ON NATIONAL POLICE



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JAPAN DENIES ANY NEGLIGENCE

7. (U) IN HIS FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE IN THE WAKE OF THE HOSTAGE CRISIS, LIBERATED JAPANESE AMBASSADOR MORIHISA AOKI PUBLICLY APOLOGIZED FOR THE MRTA'S TAKEOVER OF HIS RESIDENCE. THE GOJ IS DOING ITS OWN INTERNAL INVESTIGATION OF THE SECURITY LAPSES WHICH MRTA EXPLOITED TO TAKE SEVERAL HUNDRED RECEPTION GUESTS HOSTAGE. AMBASSADOR AOKI'S PUBLIC MEA CULPA ASIDE, GOJ OFFICIALS HERE HAVE POINTED OUT TO REPORTERS THAT THE HOST GOVERNMENT HAS THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROVIDING ADEQUATE SECURITY FOR DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND RESIDENCES. IN ADDITION, THEY HAVE DENIED SOME PNP OFFICIALS' SUGGESTIONS THAT THE JAPANESE EMBASSY TURNED DOWN EXTRA SUPPORT OFFERED BY THE GOP. LIMA'S LEADING DAILY REPORTS THAT THE JAPANESE EMBASSY MADE A FORMAL WRITTEN REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL SECURITY GUARANTEES FROM PNP GENERAL MALASQUEZ SIX DAYS PRIOR TO THE ILL-FATED RECEPTION.

8. NEVERTHELESS, WE EXPECT THE GOJ'S INTERNAL INVESTIGATION

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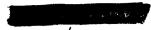
TO RAISE SOME SERIOUS SECURITY LAPSES INSIDE THE JAPANESE
AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE. RELEASED AND FREED HOSTAGES NOTED THAT
THERE WAS NO METAL DETECTOR IN PLACE AT THE FRONT GATE. IN
ADDITION, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE WERE NO ARMED PERUVIAN,
JAPANESE, OR CONTRACTED SECURITY PERSONNEL ON THE GROUNDS OF THE
JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE TO PROVIDE INTERIOR SECURITY.

COMMENT

THE NATIONAL POLICE, FAR WEAKER THAN THE ARMED FORCES AND SIN, APPEARS TO BE THE INSTITUTIONAL SCAPEGOAT FOR SECURITY LAPSES THAT COULD EASILY BE SHARED BY THE BROAD SPECTRUM OF PERU'S SECURITY FORCES. THE THREAT ASSESSMENTS PROVIDED BY SIN OR MILITARY INTELLIGENCE WERE, BY FUJIMORI'S ADMISSION, GENERAL IN NATURE. WHATEVER INFORMATION THE INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES ACTUALLY PROVIDED, IT WAS NOT SUFFICIENT TO DETER SEVERAL ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY OFFICERS AND OVER A DOZEN PNP OFFICIALS (INCLUDING THOSE WHO RECEIVED THE INTELLIGENCE "WARNING") FROM ATTENDING THE HIGH PROFILE EVENT AND ENDING UP AS HOSTAGES. BY FOCUSING THE BLAME ENTIRELY ON THE NATIONAL POLICE AND CREDITING THE MILITARY



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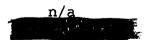
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AND INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY, FUJIMORI CONVENIENTLY SOLIDIFIES HIS RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE INSTITUTIONS HE DEPENDS ON MOST -- THE ARMED FORCES AND THE SIN.

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