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Page: 1

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PAGE 01 STATE 023591 262206Z
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APPROVED BY: ARA:APATTERSON
HA/BA:KLYONS

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O 262207Z JAN 93
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PHUM, PREL, EFIN, EAID, ICRC, PE
SUBJECT: CORRECTED A/S ARONSON LETTER TO DE LA PUENTE

REF: 1/26 PATTERSON/BRAYSHAW TELCON

1. [REDACTED] -- ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SET FORTH BELOW IS THE CORRECTED TEXT OF THE LETTER ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARONSON TO [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PAGE 02 STATE 023591 262206Z
PRIME/FOREIGN MINISTER OSCAR DE LA PUENTE. EMBASSY SHOULD DISREGARD EARLIER VERSION OF THIS CORRESPONDENCE CONTAINED IN STATE 022557. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO DELIVER A COPY OF THE LETTER TO PRIME/FOREIGN MINISTER DE LA PUENTE AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY. A SIGNED ORIGINAL WILL/WILL FOLLOW.

3. BEGIN TEXT

HIS EXCELLENCY OSCAR DE LA PUENTE RAYGADA
PRIME AND FOREIGN MINISTER OF PERU

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J. OLSON
DATE/CASE ID: 1 AUG 2001 200003853

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Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1993STATE023591

Page: 2

Channel: n/a

LIMA, PERU

DEAR OSCAR:

I AM WRITING THIS LETTER TO FOLLOW UP ON OUR MANY USEFUL TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS. AS YOU KNOW. DURING THE PAST FEW MONTHS, PERU HAS BEEN THE FOCUS OF MUCH OF MY EFFORTS-- PARTICULARLY THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION. I RECENTLY HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SET FORTH SOME OF MY CONCERNS DURING A TELEVISED INTERVIEW WITH SEVERAL PERUVIAN JOURNALISTS. I HOPE THIS INTERVIEW MADE CLEAR HOW MY GOVERNMENT STANDS ON THIS ISSUE. I BELIEVE I HAVE ALREADY SENT YOU A COPY OF THE TRANSCRIPTS OF THIS INTERVIEW.

SPECIFICALLY, AS WE HAVE DISCUSSED I AM CONCERNED BECAUSE PERU APPEARS TO HAVE TAKEN SEVERAL STEPS BACKWARD ON HUMAN RIGHTS. IN SEPTEMBER 1991, YOUR GOVERNMENT MADE A CLEAR AND STRONG STATEMENT OF GOOD FAITH TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WHEN IT GRANTED THE ICRC UNRESTRICTED ACCESS TO CIVILIAN PRISONS AND MILITARY AND POLICE INSTALLATIONS.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PAGE 03 STATE 023591 262206Z
HOWEVER, SINCE SEPTEMBER OF THIS YEAR, THE ICRC HAS BEEN DENIED ACCESS TO CIVILIAN PRISONS, AND I UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR VISITING PRISONERS HAS BEEN QUESTIONED AS WELL. SO FAR, PROGRESS IN RESTORING FULL ICRC ACCESS TO PRISONS HAS BEEN SLOW. AS A FRIEND, I MUST TELL YOU THAT THE LONGER THIS DISPUTE LINGERS ON, THE MORE IT WILL HURT PERU IN THE EYES OF THE INTERNATIONAL DONORS.

FURTHER, I AM ALSO PERPLEXED BY REPORTS THAT THE NAME OF A WELL-KNOWN LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST, CARLOS CHIPOCO, HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN A LIST OF SUSPECTED SHINING PATH APOLOGISTS. CARLOS CHIPOCO HAS BEEN AFFILIATED WITH AMERICAS WATCH, A RESPECTED HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP WITH WHICH I HAVE FREQUENT CONTACT. HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS ALSO TELL ME THAT THERE IS A NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE REPORT WHICH DESCRIBES AMERICAS WATCH AS A GROUP THAT "INDISCRIMINATELY SUPPORTS THE SHINING PATH."

IF THESE REPORTS ARE ACCURATE, I WOULD URGE YOUR GOVERNMENT TO REMOVE ANY REFERENCE LINKING AMERICAS WATCH TO THE SHINING PATH. SUCH AN INFERENCE HAS A CHILLING EFFECT ON THE WORK OF A HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP. SUCH AS AMERICAS WATCH, AND COULD EVEN PUT ITS REPRESENTATIVES IN

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 2

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
 Current Handling: n/a
 Document Number: 1993STATE023591

Page: 3

Channel: n/a

PERU IN PERSONAL JEOPARDY. AMERICAS WATCH IS CLEARLY NO
 ADVOCATE OF THE SHINING PATH: AMERICAS WATCH REGULARLY
 REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BY THE SHINING PATH AND THE
 MRTA, AND HAS RELEASED SEVERAL PRESS STATEMENTS IN THE
 UNITED STATES AND IN PERU DEPLORING SHINING PATH
 ATROCITIES. ASSOCIATION WITH AMERICAS WATCH SHOULD NOT BE
 PREJUDICIAL TO MR. CHIPOCO OR TO ANY OTHER PERUVIAN

PAGE 04 STATE 023591 262206Z

CITIZENS. IF YOU BELIEVE THAT MR. CHIPOCO HAS COMMITTED
 SOME CRIME, THE GOVERNMENT OF PERU NEEDS TO PROVIDE SOLID
 EVIDENCE TO THAT EFFECT. OTHERWISE, I URGE YOUR
 GOVERNMENT TO UNEQUIVOCALLY REMOVE MR. CHIPOCO'S NAME FROM
 ANY SUCH LIST.

FINALLY, THERE HAS BEEN VERY LITTLE PROGRESS TO DATE IN
 RESOLVING VARIOUS HIGH-PROFILE HUMAN RIGHTS CASES. I KNOW
 THAT MANY CREDIBLE OBSERVERS SUSPECT THAT ARMY
 INTELLIGENCE AGENTS MAY HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE
 NOTORIOUS BARRIOS ALTOS MASSACRE OF NOVEMBER 1991, YET THE
 INVESTIGATION OF THIS INCIDENT HAS STALLED.

I CANNOT OVERSTATE TO YOU THE IMPORTANCE OF IMPROVING
 PERU'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD. HUMAN RIGHTS IS, AND WILL
 CONTINUE TO BE, A "MAKE-OR-BREAK ISSUE" FOR PERU. FOR, IF
 PERU IS TO RECEIVE THE EXTRAORDINARY SUPPORT IT NEEDS, IT
 WILL NEED TO DEMONSTRATE THAT IT IS SERIOUS ABOUT THE
 ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

AGAIN, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I VALUE HIGHLY THE CLOSE
 COOPERATION WE HAVE ENJOYED OVER THE PAST YEAR. I REALIZE
 THE DIFFICULTY OF THESE ISSUES, AND APPRECIATE YOUR
 EFFORTS.

SINCERELY,
 BERNARD ARONSON CHRISTOPHER

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Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 3