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INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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CONFIDENTIAL LIMA 07811

PERSONAL FOR ADMIRAL TROST FROM AMBASSADOR WATSON

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MARR, PE.
SUBJECT: CNO INVITATION TO ADMIRAL SORIA TO VISIT TO THE US.

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. I AM VERY PLEASED THAT ADMIRAL JUAN (SORIA) DIAZ WILL SOON HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES AS YOUR OFFICIAL GUEST. FRIENDLY TO THE US AND PRO-WESTERN IN HIS OUTLOOK, ADMIRAL SORIA IS IMPORTANT TO US NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF HIS POSITION AS COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE NAVY AND PRESIDENT OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF HIS CLOSE PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP WITH PRESIDENT GARCIA, WHO IS AMBIVALENT ABOUT THE US. WHILE ADMIRAL SORIA IS SCHEDULED TO RETIRE AT THE END OF THIS CALENDAR YEAR, I FEEL THAT HE WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN PERUVIAN POLITICO-MILITARY LIFE BECAUSE OF HIS PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PRESIDENT. NAVAL ATTACHE, JOHN SKILLINGSBURG, HAS DEVELOPED AN EXCELLENT WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH SORIA AS HAVE I. IT IS FOR THESE REASONS THAT I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU SOME THOUGHTS ON HIS VISIT.
3. ADMIRAL SORIA HAS TOLD US THAT HE HAS NO PARTICULAR SUBJECTS HE WANTS TO RAISE WITH US. NEVERTHELESS, I FEEL THAT THE FOLLOWING ISSUES MAY INTEREST HIM AND COULD COME UP FOR DISCUSSION DURING HIS TRIP:

LM

---BROOKE/ALEXANDER SANCTIONS:

WE HAVE HAD SOME MEASURE OF SUCCESS IN CONVINCING THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT THAT THE USG IS WILLING TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO IT, BUT THAT PRESENT LEGISLATION PREVENTS US FROM DOING SO UNLESS THE GOP MAKES TIMELY PAYMENTS ON ITS OUTSTANDING LOANS TO US. NEVERTHELESS, THE GOP PAYMENT PATTERN HAS BEEN SUCH THAT SANCTIONS ARE LIFTED FOR ONLY SHORT PERIODS OF TIME. THIS SITUATION HAS CREATED HAVOC WITH OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (AS WELL AS WITH OUR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE EFFORTS), BOTH IN TERMS OF EXECUTION AND IN TERMS OF BUDGETING FOR OUT-YEARS. YOU MAY WISH TO UNDERSCORE THIS POINT WITH ADMIRAL SORIA.

---PERSONNEL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS:

BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULTIES WITH SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, WE HAVE HAD TO RELY MORE HEAVILY ON PERSONNEL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS AND STAFF ASSISTANCE VISITS. YOUR COOPERATION, AND THAT OF OUR COLLEAGUES IN USCINCSO, IN THESE PROGRAMS HAVE HAD A POSITIVE EFFECT ON THE PERUVIAN MILITARY, PARTICULARLY THE NAVY. ONE AREA WITHIN THE SPECIAL WARFARE AREA THAT NEEDS CRITICAL HELP IS FOR A SENIOR ENLISTED SEAL INSTRUCTOR AT THE SEAL TRAINING FACILITY IN CALLAO. YOU MAY WISH TO CONSIDER OFFERING ADMIRAL SORIA THE SERVICES OF A USN SEAL FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS. SINCE HE HAS NOT ASKED FOR IT, ADMIRAL SORIA WOULD SEE YOUR OFFER AS A SIGN

OF CONTINUED US INTEREST IN THE PERUVIAN NAVY.
---ROLE OF THE MILITARY IN ANTI-DRUG EFFORTS.

WE ARE CONCERNED OVER THE LACK OF SIGNIFICANT ANTI-NARCOTICS ACTIVITY IN PERU IN GENERAL OVER RECENT MONTHS. MOST IRRITATING TO US IS THE FACT THAT THE U.S. LOANED THE PERUVIANS AT GREAT EXPENSE, THREE HELICOPTERS IN APRIL FOR USE IN THE DRUG-WAR AND THEY HAVE YET TO BE USED. YOU MAY WISH TO EMPHASIZE THE CURRENT POLITICAL MOOD OF THE U.S. CONGRESS CONCERNING NARCOTICS ISSUES. FUNDING FOR NON-NARCOTICS FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY TIED TO IDENTIFIABLE RESULTS OF ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAMS. THE PERUVIAN ARMED FORCES HAVE NOT BEEN DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN RECENT EFFORTS TO CURB THE ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFIC ALTHOUGH THEY MAY PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN THE FUTURE. I WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR URGING ON ADMIRAL SORIA THE FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE TO OVERALL US-PERU RELATIONS OF DYNAMIC, EFFECTIVE ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORTS HERE.

THE NIMBIS IN MIAMI ON 14 JULY IS A PERFECT BACKDROP FOR DISCUSSION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF A MILITARY ROLE IN COMBATING NARCOTICS. AS THE PERUVIAN NAVY IS ENTRUSTED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PATROLLING THE NATION'S RIVERS WHICH ARE BEING INCREASINGLY USED BY NARCOTIC TRAFFICKERS TO MOVE THEIR PRODUCT, IT IS LIKELY THAT THE NAVY WILL FIND ITSELF MORE INVOLVED IN INTERDICTION EFFORTS IN THE FUTURE, AT THE VERY LEAST PROVIDING BOTH LOGISTICAL AND INTELLIGENCE SUPPORT TO POLICE OPERATIONS.

---C-130 PURCHASE:

THE PERUVIAN NAVY HAS RECENTLY PURCHASED TWO C-130A'S FROM THE USAF AND WHICH ARE NOW PARKED AT AERO CORPORATION IN LAKE CITY, FLA. ADMIRAL SORIA WILL VISIT AERO CORP ON 13 JULY. THESE WILL BE THE FIRST C-130'S IN THE NAVY INVENTORY. ADMIRAL SORIA FACES A DIFFICULT TASK IN FINDING THE NECESSARY FUNDING TO ACCOMPLISH REPAIRS AND BUY SUPPORT EQUIPMENT IN ORDER FOR THESE NEW ACQUISITIONS TO BE USED TO THEIR MAXIMUM. YOU MAY WISH TO EMPHASIZE TO ADMIRAL SORIA THE NECESSITY OF PROPERLY FUNDING TRAINING AND SPARE PART SUPPORT OR THESE NEW ACQUISITIONS WILL SOON BE SOURCE OF SERIOUS TROUBLE.

---SOVIET MILITARY PRESENCE:

ADMIRAL SORIA HAS TOLD US OF HIS CONCERN OVER THE SOVIET MILITARY PRESENCE IN PERU. THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN COURTING HIM, AS WELL AS OTHER OFFICERS, TO VISIT THE SOVIET UNION. ADMIRAL SORIA SAID THAT HE HAS REFUSED THEIR ENTREATIES, BUT IS UNSURE HOW OTHER OFFICERS ARE REACTING TO THE SOVIETS BLANDISHMENTS. A RELATED VEIN, ADMIRAL SORIA TOLD US THAT A SHORT TIME AGO, THE SOVIET UNION AND THE PERUVIAN NAVY ENTERED INTO AN AGREEMENT TO USE THE NAVAL SHIP REPAIR FACILITY IN CALLAO TO PERFORM WORK FOR THE SOVIET FISHING INDUSTRY. WHILE ADMITTING THAT THIS ARRANGEMENT WOULD HELP THE NAVY SOLVE A SERIOUS UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM AMONG ITS CIVILIAN SHIPYARD WORK FORCE, ADMIRAL SORIA WAS CONCERNED OVER THE FACT THAT THE SOVIETS COULD USE THIS AGREEMENT TO SECURE A FOOTHOLD IN A SERVICE BRANCH THAT HAS BEEN RELATIVELY FREE OF SOVIET INFLUENCE SO FAR. I AM NOT SURE THAT WE CAN HELP HIM WITH THIS PROBLEM, BUT THERE MAY BE OTHER WAYS THAT THE US NAVY COULD SHOW SOLIDARITY WITH ITS PERUVIAN COUNTERPART TO OFFSET IN SOME WAY SOVIET BLANDISHMENTS. IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT THE BLUE ANGELS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO COME TO PERU NEXT YEAR TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NAVY'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

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CELEBRATIONS OF ITS AIR BRANCH (WHICH IS OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE TO SORIA, WHO IS AN AVIATOR). PERHAPS THE USN COULD BE FORTHCOMING IN OTHER WAYS TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS CELEBRATION.

4. I THANK YOU FOR EXTENDING YOUR INVITATION TO ADMIRAL SORIA WHICH SHOULD STRENGTHEN MATERIALLY THE RELATIONSHIP JOHN AND I HAVE DEVELOPED WITH HIM AND CONTRIBUTE IMPORTANTLY TO OVERALL US-PERU RELATIONS. ALL OF US IN THIS EMBASSY STAND READY TO FOLLOW-UP AGGRESSIVELY ANY DECISIONS OR COMMITMENTS THAT MAY RESULT FROM YOUR MEETINGS. WATSON

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