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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PINT, PHUM, PE, AR, VZ, UR, BR, BO, EC  
SUBJ: ARGENTINA REMAINS PUZZLED BY GARCIA'S  
- MANAGEMENT OF THE SITUATION IN PERU

REF: STATE 205132

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT.)
2. IN JUNE 30 CONVERSATION WITH POLITICAL COUNSELOR MFA UNDER SECRETARY ALCONADA SEMPE REVIEWED AND REFERRED POSITIVELY TO CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY ABRAMS AND DAS GELBARD REGARDING CONFUSING SITUATION IN PERU. FOLLOWING HIS LAST CONVERSATION WITH GELBARD ON SATURDAY, ALCONADA SAID PRESIDENT ALFONSIN HAD TALKED BRIEFLY TO GARCIA WHO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR ARGENTINA'S SUPPORT BUT  
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SAID SITUATION WAS WELL UNDER CONTROL. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, ALFONSIN DID NOT HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SAM A. MOSKOWITZ  
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PASS CAUTIONARY MESSAGE REGARDING GARCIA'S MANAGEMENT OF RELATIONS WITH THE MILITARY THAT HAD BEEN CONVEYED EARLIER BY COLOMBIA PRESIDENT BETANCUR.

3. ALCONADA SAID GOA SHARES U.S. ASSESSMENT OF GARCIA'S ERRATIC MANAGEMENT OF CRISIS PROVOKED BY LURIGANCHO INCIDENTS AND THREAT THAT THIS COULD POSE FOR RELATIONS WITH THE PERUVIAN MILITARY WHOSE SUPPORT IN FACE OF THREAT FROM SENDERO LUMINOSO IS ESSENTIAL FOR STABILITY OF THE APRA GOVERNMENT IN PERU.

4. ALCONADA SAID GOA OFFICIALS REMAIN PUZZLED BY THE GOP'S SHIFT FIRST IN DRAMATICALLY CALLING FOR LATIN AMERICAN SUPPORT IN DEFENDING PERUVIAN DEMOCRACY AND THEN ON SATURDAY STATING THAT THE SITUATION IS FULLY UNDER CONTROL AND EVEN SUGGESTING THAT GOA DESIST IN COMMUNICATING BY SATELLITE ITS MULTI-PARTY RALLY IN BUENOS AIRES TO DEMONSTRATE SUPPORT FOR PERUVIAN DEMOCRACY. ALCONADA SEES GARCIA'S CONDUCT AS A POLITICAL MANEUVER TO BUILD INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT AND DISTANCE HIS GOVERNMENT FROM PRISON REPRESSION, BUT SAID GARCIA'S APPARENT NEGLECT OF THE INTERNAL POLITICAL DIMENSION COULD RISK CONFRONTATION WITH PERUVIAN MILITARY. IF GOA RECEIVES ANY NEW AND SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION ON THE POTENTIALLY UNSTABLE SITUATION IN PERU, ALCONADA AGREED TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH DEPARTMENT AND/OR THE EMBASSY. HE STRONGLY IMPLIED THAT GOA DOES NOT HAVE EASY ACCESS TO GARCIA AND, EXCEPT FOR ALFONSIN CALL TO GARCIA, IS IN CLOSER TOUCH WITH FOREIGN

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MINISTER WAGNER.

5. ARGENTINE PRESS TODAY REPORTS RESIGNATION OF PERUVIAN MINISTER OF JUSTICE LUIS GONZALEZ POSADA AND FIRING OF REPUBLICAN GUARD GENERAL MARTINEZ LIRA (NEITHER DEVELOPMENTS WERE MENTIONED BY ALCONADA). PERUVIAN LABOR LEADER ALEJANDRO DE LA VEGA IS ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE MET WITH PRESIDENT ALFONSIN ON MONDAY TO THANK THE ARGENTINE PEOPLE FOR THEIR SUPPORT AFTER THE PRISON INCIDENTS AND ASSURE ALFONSIN THAT THE SITUATION IN PERU IS COMPLETELY NORMAL. ORTIZ

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