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ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-00 SSO-00 INRE-00
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O 030021Z JUL 86
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7651
INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

S E C R E T GUATEMALA 06896

E. O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PINT, PHUM, PE, GT
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE ON GARCIA AND PERUVIAN MILITARY

REF: STATE 205132

1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. AT A PRIVATE MEETING AT MY HOME ON JULY 1, I EXPRESSED TO FOREIGN MINISTER QUINONES OUR SHOCK AT THE NEWS OF ABUSES FOLLOWING THE RECAPTURE OF THE THREE PRISONS NEAR LIMA FROM REBELLING SENDERO LUMINOSO PRISONERS. I ALSO TOLD THE FOREIGN MINISTER ABOUT OUR PREOCCUPATION ABOUT REPORTS COMING OUT OF LIMA INDICATING A CONFRONTATION WAS DEVELOPING BETWEEN PRESIDENT GARCIA AND THE MILITARY IN PERU. I STRESSED TO QUINONES THAT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE SHOULD BE DONE TO ASSURE THE PERMANENCE OF THE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT IN PERU AND AVOID AN OPEN CONFRONTATION BETWEEN PRESIDENT GARCIA AND THE MILITARY. JUSTICE SHOULD BE DONE BUT, ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD TRY TO AVOID A BROAD ATTACK ON THE ARMED FORCES WHICH MIGHT POSSIBLY LEAD TO DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES OR THE OVERTHROW OF THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM. I ASKED FOR HIS COOPERATION

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AND INTERVENTION WITH GARCIA, HIS MINISTERS AND OTHER INFLUENTIAL PERUVIANS IN ORDER TO COUNSEL THEM TO FOLLOW A COURSE THAT WILL BRING JUSTICE BUT AT THE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: NORMAN M. BOUTON
DATE/CASE ID: 2 OCT 2001 200102052

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Exemptions

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SAME TIME TO REMIND GARCIA THAT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR HIM TO DEVELOP CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES WITH THE MILITARY AND POLICE SO THAT THEY CAN HELP HIM IN HIS STRUGGLE AGAINST THE SLA AND MRTA.

3. QUINONES AGREED WHOLEHEARTEDLY AND SAID THAT HE WOULD GET IN TOUCH IMMEDIATELY WITH HIS AMBASSADOR IN LIMA. THIS, HE BELIEVED, WAS THE PROPER WAY OF DOING IT. THE FOREIGN MINISTER, HOWEVER, DID SAY THE INFORMATION HE HAD WAS EVEN MORE SERIOUS THAN THE SIMPLE FACT THAT 100 PRISONERS WERE KILLED BY THE MILITARY FORCES. ACCORDING TO THE REPORTS HE HAD, THE WHOLE OPERATION WAS MASTERMINDED BY AN ADMIRAL OF THE PERUVIAN NAVY. THIS WOULD COMPLICATE MATTERS EVEN MORE, QUINONES SAID, BECAUSE IT WOULD IMPLICATE THE TOP ECHELONS OF THE ARMED FORCES. QUINONES ASKED ME IF I COULD VERIFY THE TRUTH OF THIS STATEMENT.

4. QUINONES ESTABLISHED A PARALELLISM BETWEEN PERU AND GUATEMALA, ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT AND THE ARMED FORCES. IN BOTH PERU AND GUATEMALA--IN CONTRAST TO ARGENTINA--THE ARMED FORCES HAD NOT SUFFERED MILITARY DEFEAT. THUS, THE SITUATION WAS VERY DIFFERENT AND THE CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT IN PERU AND GUATEMALA HAD TO ACT WITH EXTREME CAUTION IN ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MILITARY. CEREZO WAS FOLLOWING A VERY CAUTIOUS PATH IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS AND AT THE

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SAME TIME GET THE SUPPORT OF THE ARMED FORCES IN HIS STRUGGLE AGAINST SUBVERSION. QUINONES HOPED THAT GARCIA WOULD DO THE SAME AND THAT IS WHY HE (QUINONES) FULLY SUPPORTED OUR CONCERN. THE PROCESS OF DEMOCRATIZATION, HE SAID, HAD TO BE SAFEGUARDED AND THIS REQUIRED SOMETIMES WALKING A TIGHTROPE.

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