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PAGE 01 LIMA 07626 012030Z
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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
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INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
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USAFSO HOWARD AFB PM
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E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PGOV, PTER, PHUM, PE
SUBJECT: GOP ACCEPTS RESIGNATION OF REPUBLIC GUARD
- CHIEF

1. (U) THE GOP ANNOUNCED JUNE 30 IT HAD ACCEPTED THE RESIGNATION OF REPUBLICAN GUARD (GR) CHIEF GENERAL MARTINEZ LIRA, IN THE WAKE OF THE JULY 18 EXECUTION OF ABOUT 100 INMATES AT LURIGANCHO PRISON, REPORTEDLY BY GR FORCES.

2. (C) COMMENT: MARTINEZ HAD SERVED IN HIS POST ONLY TWO MONTHS; HIS PREDECESSOR HAD BEEN FORCED TO RESIGN FOLLOWING REVELATIONS THAT GR MEMBERS HAD PERMITTED THE ESCAPE OF TWO MAJOR CRIMINALS. MARTINEZ DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN IN THE CHAIN OF COMMAND DURING THE CONTROVERSIAL RETAKING OF LURIGANCHO (GR TROOPS THERE WERE UNDER MILITARY COMMAND), BUT RESULTING UPROAR OVER PRISON DEATHS MADE HIS DEPARTURE

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PAGE 02 LIMA 07626 012030Z

INEVITABLE. UNANSWERED QUESTION REMAINS WHETHER DEPARTURE OF MARTINEZ AND JUSTICE MINISTER GONZALEZ

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SAM A. MOSKOWITZ
DATE/CASE ID: 9 AUG 1999 199902275

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL
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Page: 2

Channel: n/a

POSADA (SEPTTEL) WILL BE FOLLOWED BY ANY RESIGNATIONS
IN THE MILITARY.
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