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ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
H-01 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 L-03 PM-10 PA-01  
INRE-00 USIE-00 JUSE-01 SP-02 PRS-01 /030 W  
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O 012048Z JUL 86  
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2837  
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
USAFSO HOWARD AFB PM  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM  
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 07635

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR  
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, PE  
SUBJECT: MINISTER OF JUSTICE RESIGNS

REF: (A) LIMA 7533, (B) LIMA 7400

1. (U) MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND GARCIA INTIMATE  
LUIS GONZALEZ POSADA ANNOUNCED IN PRESS CONFERENCE  
JUNE 30 HIS "IRREVOCABLE" DECISION TO RESIGN, ADDUCING  
"REASONS OF ETHICAL NATURE, RELATED TO THE EXECRABLE  
EXCESSES PERPETRATED BY THE SECURITY FORCES" IN PUTTING  
DOWN THE LURIGANCHO PRISON MUTINY ON JUNE 19 (REFTELS).  
IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT, GONZALEZ  
POSADA PRESENTED HIS OFFICIAL LETTER OF RESIGNATION  
TO PRESIDENT GARCIA AND ALSO NOTIFIED PREMIER/MINISTER  
OF ECONOMY LUIS ALVA CASTRO, WHO PUBLICLY LAUDED  
GONZALEZ POSADA'S "BRAVE AND COURAGEOUS" DECISION TO  
RESIGN AND EXTOLLED HIS PAST PERFORMANCE AS MINISTER  
OF JUSTICE. PRESIDENT GARCIA ACCEPTED THE RESIGNATION  
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LATE JUNE 30.

2. (U) DURING PRESS CONFERENCE, GONZALEZ POSADA

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

DEPT OF STATE APPEALS REVIEW PANEL (ARP) Page: 1

FOIA/PA	Mandatory Exemption
( ) Release	( ) Exemption 1
( ) Exempt	( ) Exemption 2
( ) Deny	( ) Exemption 3
Exemptions	( ) Class. Refresh
ARP Action Cert. <i>[Signature]</i>	Date 010902

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READ HIS RESIGNATION LETTER, IN WHICH HE REITERATED THAT HIS PORTFOLIO HAD NO PARTICIPATION IN THE LURIGANCHO EXCESSES, BUT ACKNOWLEDGED DEGREE OF MORAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACT COMMITTED IN PRISONS ADMINISTERED BY MINISTRY OF JUSTICE. DURING AFTERMATH OF PRISONS AFFAIR, GONZALEZ POSADA WAS PANNED BY PRESS AND OBSERVERS FOR NOT HAVING GIVEN ORDER EARLIER TO TRANSFER SUSPECTED TERRORISTS FROM LURIGANCHO AND EL FRONTON TO THE NEW CANTO GRANDE MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON. HE WAS ALSO CRITICIZED FOR REMAINING IN THE BACKGROUND DURING THE WHOLE COURSE OF THE PRISON CRISIS.

3. (C) COMMENT: GONZALEZ POSADA WAS A CLOSE FRIEND OF PRESIDENT GARCIA AND AN IMPORTANT PLAYER IN THE GOP. DURING THE PAST WEEK, IT BECAME CLEAR THAT HIS LOW PROFILE DURING THE PRISON TAKEOVERS, AND CHARGES HE HAD NOT TAKEN ACTIONS IN PAST YEAR TO PREVENT PRISON RIOTS OF SUCH SIZE, HAD PLACED HIS JOB AT STAKE. BY MAKING CLEAR ON JUNE 27 HIS DESIRE TO PUSH INVESTIGATION OF PRISON MASSACRE BEYOND LEVEL OF GUARDIA REPUBLICANA TO THAT OF ARMY AND POSSIBLY THE COMANDO CONJUNTO, GARCIA HAD LEFT HIMSELF OPEN TO CLAIM THAT CIVILIAN LEADERSHIP HAD NOT SHOULDERED ITS SHARE OF THE BLAME.

GONZALEZ POSADA'S RESIGNATION PROTECTS GARCIA AGAINST THOSE CHARGES; IT ALSO MAY PAVE THE WAY FOR GARCIA TO CONVINCED MILITARY TO ACCEPT OUSTER OF A MILITARY OFFICER SUCH AS GENERAL RABANAL (THE SENIOR ARMY OFFICER ON THE SCENE AT LURIGANCHO). GARCIA HAS DECIDED TO NAME GONZALEZ POSADA AS HIS AMBASSADOR TO THE OAS  
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(SEPTTEL), CUSHIONING THE LATTER'S DEPARTURE AND PROVIDING HIM A RESTING PLACE FROM WHICH HE CAN REENTER THE POLITICAL SYSTEM LATER.

4. (C) AS REPORTED SEPTTEL, PALACE SPOKESMAN VICTOR TIRADO TOLD POLCOUNS JUNE 30 THAT INTERIOR MINISTER SALINAS WOULD RESIGN IN MID-JULY. OTHER SOURCES HAVE REPORTED THAT SALINAS MIGHT DEPART MUCH SOONER, AND COULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY INTERIOR VICE MINISTER (AND GARCIA CONFIDANT) AGUSTIN MANTILLA. HOWEVER, DAILY "EXTRA" CLAIMED IN ITS JULY 1 AFTERNOON EDITION THAT GARCIA HAD REJECTED SALINAS' OFFER OF RESIGNATION. GARCIA HAS RELIED

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HEAVILY UPON SALINAS AND PARTICULARLY MANTILLA;  
DEPARTURE OF EITHER ONE WOULD DEPRIVE GARCIA OF  
A TRUSTWORTHY, EFFECTIVE LIEUTENANT.  
JORDAN

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