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INCOMING TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA-16

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THEY ARE COMMITTED TO THE COMMON GOAL OF EXPLORING AND DEVELOPING OUR TERRORITY."

RELEASED

INFO	OCT-08	COPY-01	ADS-08	AID-08	INR-10	SS-10	OPR-02
	CIAC-08	H-01	NSCE-08	NSAE-08	SSO-08	SY-06	HA-08
	L-03	PH-08	PA-01	MCT-02	CGO-08	ONB-01	INRE-08
	OCS-05	CA-01	FBOE-08	ANAE-08	A-02	USSS-08	ICAE-08
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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4256
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
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USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN

CONFIDENTIAL LIMA 8666

PANAMA FOR ADS

DIA FOR IR BRANCH

E O 12356 DECL: OADR

TAGS: PE, PINS, PINT, SOPM, CU

SUBJ: (U) PERUVIAN PRESIDENT ASSESSES TERRORIST SITUATION

REF: LIMA 8587

1. (U) IN HIS WEEKLY PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 22, PERUVIAN PRESIDENT FERNANDO BELAUNDE ADDRESSED MANY OF THE CONCERNS CONNECTED WITH HIS DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN THE PROVINCE OF LIMA AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROVINCE OF CALLAO (RETEL). HE REPORTED THAT 120 PEOPLE WERE UNDER DETENTION AS A RESULT OF THE AUGUST 19 INCIDENTS THAT TRIGGERED THE DECLARATION, AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THOSE WHO WERE INNOCENT WOULD BE RAPIDLY RELEASED (CIVIL GUARD COMMANDER CATTER LATER PUT THE FIGURE AT 214); HE DOWNPLAYED ANY SERIOUS THREAT TO PUBLIC ORDER, SAYING A CURFEW IN LIMA WAS UNNECESSARY. AS BEFORE, HE CONTENDED THAT THE NEWS MEDIA GIVE EXAGGERATED PLAY TO TERRORIST INCIDENTS--"THEY BELONG ON THE CRIME PAGES IN THE BACK OF THE NEWSPAPERS"--WHILE THEY UNDERPLAY HIS GOVERNMENT'S SUCCESSSES IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

2. (U) BELAUNDE CALLED THE TERRORISTS "TRAITORS TO THEIR COUNTRY," BUT PLACED LESS EMPHASIS THAN BEFORE ON A POSSIBLE OUTSIDE CONNECTION. ASKED WHETHER HE WAS CONSIDERING BREAKING RELATIONS WITH CUBA, HE SAID THAT "PERU IS VERY PATIENT, AND DOES NOT ACT ON HERE INDICATIONS. BUT IT WILL ACT WHEN IT HAS SUFFICIENT PROOF." ASKED ABOUT A ROLE FOR THE ARMED FORCES IN THE COUNTER-TERRORIST EFFORT, BELAUNDE NOTED MILITARY LOGISTIC SUPPORT CURRENTLY BEING GIVEN TO THE POLICE, THEN ADDED: "THIS IS NOT THE MOMENT, BECAUSE THERE IS NO BATTLE-FRONT, NOT EVEN A GUERRILLA FORCE WHICH OFFERS BATTLE ANYWHERE; INSTEAD THERE IS ONLY COMMON CRIME, AND THAT IS ESSENTIALLY A POLICE MATTER."

3. (U) ONE QUESTIONER ASKED ABOUT "DISCONTENT IN THE BARRACKS" WITH HIS GOVERNMENT. BELAUNDE REPLIED THAT THE GOP HAS THE "VIGOROUS" SUPPORT OF THE MILITARY AS AN INSTITUTION, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ISOLATED INDIVIDUAL WITH COUP-PRONE THOUGHTS. HE CHARACTERIZED THE 1968 COUP WHICH ENDED HIS FIRST TERM AS "PERSONAL" RATHER THAN "INSTITUTIONAL." "WE HAVE A VERY CLEAR UNDERSTANDING WITH THE ARMED FORCES. THEY RESPECT LEADERS WHO WORK AND

4. (U) EXCEPT FOR THE FAR LEFT, REACTION TO THE STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARATION WAS ALMOST COMPLETELY FAVORABLE. TOP LEADERS OF OPPOSITION APRA KEPT THEIR SILENCE, BUT ENOUGH SECOND-LINE APRISTAS ENDORSED THE MEASURE TO KEEP THE PARTY FROM SEEMING TOO SOFT ON TERRORISM. APRA FIREBRAND JAVIER VALLE RIESTRA CALLED FOR THE RESIGNATION OF PRIME MINISTER ULLOA AND THE REST OF THE CABINET AS A CONFESSION OF FAILURE. THE LEFT ECHOED AND AMPLIFIED THIS, OFFERING GRUDGING ENDORSEMENT, IF ANY, OF THE EMERGENCY MEASURE, ALONG WITH STRIDENT EFFORTS TO BLAME THE GOVERNMENT FOR TERRORISM. HARKIST DAILY "HARKA" DARKLY HINTED THE US EMBASSY WAS RESPONSIBLE, AND ALLEGED THE BOMBINGS GAVE ULLOA THE PRETEXT HE NEEDED TO CRACK DOWN ON DISSENT.

5. (U) LIMA ITSELF APPEARS NORMAL, IF SLIGHTLY LESS ACTIVE AT NIGHT. THERE IS NO CURFEW, BUT ALL MEETINGS MUST OBTAIN PRIOR PERMISSION FROM THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. EXPLOSIVE DEVICES WERE LEFT AT THREE LIMA THEATERS EVENING AUGUST 22; ONE EXPLODED, PRODUCING MINOR INJURIES. ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY, TERRORIST INCIDENTS CONTINUED. A VIOLENT FIREFIGHT BETWEEN CIVIL GUARD (CG) AND MASKED ATTACKERS AT VILCASHUAHAN, IN AYACUCHO AUGUST 22 ALLEGEDLY LEFT SEVERAL DEAD. HIGHEST REPORTS IN THE PRESS PUT THE TOTAL AT 36, SIX OF THEM GC. OUR EXPERIENCE IS THAT INITIAL REPORTS EXAGGERATE CASUALTIES.

6. (C) COMMENT. THE DECISION TO DECLARE A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN LIMA AND CALLAO WAS PRIMARILY DUE TO THE PRESIDENT'S PERCEPTION OF A POLITICAL NEED TO "DO SOMETHING" RATHER THAN TO ANY CAREFUL ASSESSMENT OF A CHANGE IN THE THREAT LEVEL OR A CONSIDERED PLAN OF HOW TO GET THE POLICE TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM MORE EFFECTIVELY. HAVING DECLARED HIS CAPITAL CITY IN EMERGENCY, BELAUNDE WILL FIND IT HARD TO TOLERATE A LEVEL OF "PETARDISHO" (MIDNIGHT BOMB-THROWING, WHICH NEED NOT BE DESIGNED TO DO SERIOUS DAMAGE TO SIGNIFICANT TARGETS) WHICH OTHERWISE COULD BE COUNTERANDED. BUT IT WILL BE DIFFICULT, APPROACHING IMPOSSIBLE, FOR THE POLICE TO PREVENT ALL SUCH ACTS IN A CITY OF 5 MILLION PEOPLE. AND PRESSURE TO GET RESULTS IN LIMA WILL VERY LIKELY DEplete POLICE RESOURCES DEVOTED TO OPERATIONS IN AYACUCHO--WHICH IN OUR ASSESSMENT ARE ALREADY FALLING SHORT OF WHAT IS NEEDED TO STOP SENDERO LORINOSMO. ORTIZ

United States Department of State
Office of FOI, Privacy, & Classification Review
Review Authority: OLSON, OSCAR
Date: 08/24/94
Case ID: 93006592

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840195/12318

PANAMA: COLUMNIST ON GENERAL NUTTING STATEMENT

PA288226

PANAMA CLTY MATUNIO IN SPANISH 26 AUG 82 P 18A

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(("BONA FIDE" COLUMN BY CAHILO O. PEREZ: "UNCOMMON AGGRESSIVENESS"))

(TEXT) THE PANAMA CANAL WAS BUILT FOR PEACE AND NOT FOR WAR. THIS IS STATED IN THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENSE OF SOVEREIGNTY AND PEACE, CONADESOPAZ, OVER WHICH I PRESIDE. THE PANAMA CANAL AREA, HOWEVER, IS BEING UTILIZED FOR WAR, FOR AGGRESSION. THIS ENDANGERS PEACE IN THE AREA AND EVEN THE NORMAL FUNCTIONING OF THE INTEROCEANIC WATERWAY.

THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY THAT HAS RECENTLY GONE INTO FORCE DETERMINES THE CANAL'S PEACEFUL CHARACTER. THE CANAL CANNOT BE USED FOR WAR PURPOSES.

NEITHER SHOULD IT FIGURE IN DANGEROUS STATEMENTS LIKE THOSE OF LT GEN WALLACE H. NUTTING, WHICH WE READ YESTERDAY. HE SAID THAT THE U.S. FORCES SHOULD LEND MILITARY SUPPORT TO THE GUATEMALAN ARMY, THUS INTERVENING IN THAT BROTHER COUNTRY AS THE UNITED STATES ALREADY DOES IN EL SALVADOR.

THIS STATEMENT IS A CONFESSION BY THE GUILTY PARTY -- THE U.S. INTERVENTION IN CENTRAL AMERICA, WHICH EVERYBODY CRITICIZES, IS NO LONGER HIDDEN. THEY NO LONGER HIDE THEIR INTENTION OF INVADING NICARAGUA, CUBA AND ANY OTHER COUNTRY OPPOSING THE BLANK CHECK RECENTLY APPROVED BY THE U.S. SENATE, WHICH AUTHORIZES REAGAN TO DECLARE OPEN WAR ON ANY GOVERNMENT OPPOSING THE MANIFEST DESTINY OF SOME U.S. POLITICIANS.

THE SYMS AMMENDMENT LEAVES REAGAN'S HANDS FREE TO FULFILL HIS PLAN OF AGGRESSION. WE ALREADY SAW THIS IN THE CASE OF THE HALVINAS WAR. NOW GENERAL NUTTING, WHOM WE CONSIDERED TO BE A MODERATE, MAKES STATEMENTS FOR AGGRESSION. THEY SEE COMMUNISM EVERYWHERE AND DO NOT UNDERSTAND THAT THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO SIT DOWN AND DISCUSS THE CAUSES FOR SO MANY MISTAKES, UNCERTAINTIES AND DISSATISFACTIONS.

THE SENATE'S GREEN LIGHT FOR INTERVENTION IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN MEANS THE REVIVAL OF THE MONROE DOCTRINE. MAYBE THAT IS WHY COUNTRIES WITH DEMOCRATIC REGIMES CONDEMN THIS NEW POLICY OF AGGRESSION THAT WORRIES US BECAUSE IT TENDS TO ELIMINATE MANY HUMBLE PEOPLE, AS ITS MOST IMPORTANT GOAL IS TO

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