NAME: Vladimiro MONTESINOS Torres

POSITION: Advisory Committee Chief, National Intelligence Service (SIN), and defacto National Security Advisor

SIGNIFICANCE: Vladimiro Montesinos Torres is President Alberto Fujimori's chief intelligence and security adviser.

This close personal rapport apparently led "Caretas", a prominent Peruvian news magazine, to label Montesinos "Fujimori's Rasputin" in 1991; Montesinos later won a libel suit against "Caretas" for using this characterization.

Montesinos has been confronted with numerous allegations of human rights abuses. An anonymous letter by disgruntled military officers published in the Peruvian press in early 1993 accused him of personally sanctioning the "La Canuta" murders. Later that year, a senior Army General who subsequently went into exile in Argentina publicly alleged that an intelligence unit under Montesinos' direction was responsible for the murders.

Critics also accuse Montesinos of narcotics involvement, stemming from his legal practice during which he defended drug traffickers and government officials charged with corruption. Over the past three years, the Peruvian press has run several articles alleging that Montesinos has links to known drug traffickers.

PERSONAL DATA:
(U) Montesinos is married and has two daughters. He does not speak English.