SECRET SECTION 01 OF 04 LIMA 02727

EXDIS DECAPTIONED

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, SNAR, PHUM, PE
SUBJECT: VIEWS THE FUJIMORI GOVERNMENT

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT

2. SUMMARY:

FORMER MONTESINOS ALLY, EXPECTS THAT PRESIDENT FUJIMORI WILL SUCCEED IN HIS REELECTION BID. ATTRIBUTED HIS LIKELY SECRET

SUCCESS TO THE DISORDERED OPPOSITION, ALTHOUGH DISCONTENT OVER ECONOMIC CONDITIONS COULD HURT FUJIMORI. SAID THERE IS NO DOUBT IN HIS MIND THAT MONTESINOS FULLY CONTROLLED THE GROUPS THAT CARRIED OUT LA CANTUTA AND BARRIOS ALTOS. HE ALSO ASSERTED THAT MONTESINOS TOLERATES HEAVY ARMY INVOLVEMENT IN DRUG TRAFFICKING. CREDITING FUJIMORI WITH A DESIRE TO CURB THIS PROBLEM, SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT CANNOT RISK ATTACKING IT SERIOUSLY. ATTRIBUTED ARMY "SUCCESSES" AGAINST TRAFFICKERS TO INTERNAL RIVALRIES IN THE DRUG TRADE. THE ARMY, HE SAID,
IS ATTACKING THE ENEMIES OF THEIR FRIENDS AMONG TRAFFICKERS. HESSE ASSERTED THAT PROFESSIONALISM IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS BEEN DESTROYED BY FUJIMORI'S GOVERNING STYLE. END SUMMARY

3. DCM MET MARCH 21 WITH

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FUJIMORI HEADED TO REELECTION

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4: ___________ said he had no doubt that President Fujimori will succeed in his reelection bid. His ability to use government resources to support that effort is an important factor, but the most important element working in Fujimori's favor is the disorder among opposition groups. They have no candidate -- and are not likely to find or settle on one -- who can present as coherent a vision to the voters as Fujimori. ___________ allowed that severe economic conditions for the poorest Peruvians, whose numbers are very high, could hurt Fujimori, but this does not now seem likely. ___________ ruled out any damage to Fujimori among voters because of cases like La Cantuta or Barrios Altos. Most Peruvians of all classes, he said, think that any means used to suppress the terrorists are acceptable.

MONTESESINOS WAS IN CHARGE

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Current Class: SECRET
5. [Redacted] ACCEPTED, HOWEVER, THAT THESE SERIOUS CASES DO CREATE PROBLEMS FOR FUJIMORI EXTERNALLY. GIVEN THE MANNER IN WHICH THE ARMY EXERCISES VERY STRONG INTERNAL CONTROL OVER THE OPERATIONS OF ITS UNITS AND THE HIGH SENSITIVITY OF THE BARRIOS SECRET

SECRET

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ALTOS AND LA CANTUTA INCIDENTS, [Redacted] SAID THERE IS NO DOUBT IN HIS MIND THAT MONTESINOS WAS FULLY IN CONTROL OF THE GROUPS THAT CARRIED OUT THESE TWO OPERATIONS. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE FOR GROUPS CAPABLE OF SUCH OPERATIONS TO EXIST AND FUNCTION WITHOUT BEING UNDER HIS VERY STRICT COMMAND CONTROL. FOR THIS REASON, [Redacted] THOUGHT THE FUJIMORI GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO BE FORCED TO CONCEAL THE TRUTH AND PROTECT

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ACTION SS-00

INFO LOG-00 OASY-00 ADS-00 /000W

O 242228Z MAR 94
FM AMBASSADORE LIMA
TO SECSSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5795
INFO AMBASSADORE CARACAS
AMBASSADORE BOGOTA
AMBASSADORE QUITO
AMBASSADORE LA PAZ
AMBASSADORE OTTAWA
USEC BRUSSELS

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EXDIS

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, SNAR, PHUM, PE
SUBJECT: [Redacted] VIEWS THE PERPETRATORS OF THE ACTIONS, AND THUS SUFFER

Current Class: SECRET

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Current Class: SECRET
O 242228Z MAR 94
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5796
INFO AMBASSAY CARACAS
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AMBASSAY QUITO
AMBASSAY LA PAZ
AMBASSAY OTTAWA
USEC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, SNAR, PHUM, PE
SUBJECT: VIEWS THE

11.
"VATICANO" IS AN ARMY CREATION

12. DCM ASKED ___ HOW HE COULD EXPLAIN SOME RECENT MAJOR ARMY SUCCESSES AGAINST TRAFFICKERS, SUCH AS THE MANU OPERATION. ASSERTED THAT THE ARMY MOVES AGAINST TRAFFICKERS WHO ARE RIVALS TO THEIR FRIENDS. IT IS ALL PART OF THE SYSTEM, HE CLAIMED. HE NOTED THAT THE CAPTURE OF DEMETRIO CHAVEZ PENAHERERA ("VATICANO") HAD PRESENTED THE ARMY WITH A SPECIAL PROBLEM. HIS CAPTURE IN COLOMBIA WAS OUT OF PERUVIAN CONTROL AND HIS DEPORTATION TO PERU FORCED THE GCP TO TAKE HIM INTO CUSTODY. HE COULD NOT BE RELEASED WITHOUT PROVOKING A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL REACTION. HE COULD ALSO NOT BE TRIED PUBLICLY SINCE HE WOULD REVEAL WHO HIS ALLIES WERE IN THE ARMY. HESSE CALLED VATICANO AN "ARMY CREATION,"

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asserting that an army commander in Iquitos in the 1980's had set VATICANO up in business. Because of these connections, VATICANO had to be secretly tried in a military court and held incommunicado thereafter.

FUJIMORI'S VIEWS ON NARCO-TRAFFICKING

13. DCM ASKED ___ IF HE THOUGHT PRESIDENT FUJIMORI'S STATED COMMITMENT TO STOPPING THE DRUG TRADE WAS GENUINE. AVOIDED A DIRECT ANSWER, BUT INDICATED THAT FUJIMORI SHOWED SINCERE INTEREST WHEN ___ GAVE HIM DATA ON ARMY INVOLVEMENT. ___ ALSO MADE NO ACCUSATION THAT VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS WAS PERSONALLY LINKED TO DRUG TRAFFICKING. VIEW, FUJIMORI WAS UNABLE TO MOVE AGAINST THE ARMY'S DRUG TRAFFICKERS BECAUSE THEY ARE DEEPLY ENTRENCHED. SINCE FUJIMORI DEPENDS HEAVILY ON THE ARMY TO MAINTAIN HIS GOVERNMENT, HE CANNOT TAKE RISKS. ___ PORTRAYED FUJIMORI AS "AFRAID" OF THE ARMY.

FOREIGN MINISTRY PROBLEMS

Current Class: SECRET
14. WHILE DISCUSSING THE INTERNATIONAL IMPACT OF FUJIMORI’S TREATMENT OF THE LA CANTUTA CASE, noted the Foreign Ministry’s severe reactions to U.S. government and European Union views on the case. These unmeasured responses, secret

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He said, are part of the destruction of professionalism in the Foreign Ministry carried out by Fujimori. Rather than carefully measuring responses and considering downstream consequences, the Ministry gets orders from the Palace to react furiously to some unwelcome foreign government action. The orders are carried out instantly without reflection. MFA career professionals are afraid to counsel a different response.

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ACTION SS-00

INFO LOG-00 CASY-00 ADS-00 /000W

242228Z MAR 94
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5797
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
USEC BRUSSELS

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15.

Current Class: SECRET
16. COMMENT: COMMENTS MUST BE TAKEN WITH A LARGE GRAIN OF SALT. HE IS EMBITTERED AT HIS NONETHELESS, HE WAS IN AN EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD POSITION TO FORM JUDGMENTS ON THE ISSUES HE DISCUSSES.

17.