

UNCLASSIFIED

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Page: 1

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PAGE 01 LIMA 05151 300000Z
ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	CTME-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	EB-00
	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-00	AC-01
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00
	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	T-00
	USIE-00	PMB-00	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00	/005W	

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O 292341Z AUG 00
 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6132
 INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
 AMEMBASSY QUITO
 AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
 AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
 AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
 AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
 AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 AMEMBASSY AMMAN
 USCINCSO MIAMI FL

RELEASED IN FULL

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/29/05
 TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PINS, CO, PE
 SUBJECT: ARMS SMUGGLING BUST GENERATES UNEXPECTED PROBLEMS FOR
 GOP; OPPOSITION MAKES HAY

REF: LIMA 4973

PAGE 02 LIMA 05151 300000Z

1. (U) CLASSIFIED [REDACTED] BY CHARGE ROBERTA JACOBSON,
REASON 1.5B AND 1.5D.
2. (U) THIS IS AN ACTION CABLE. SEE PARAGRAPH SEVEN.
3. (U) THE GOP'S AUGUST 21 ANNOUNCEMENT OF HAVING CRACKED AN
ARMS SMUGGLING RING (REFTEL) WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A SHOW OF WHAT
PERU CAN DO AS A VALID REGIONAL PARTNER AGAINST ARMS AND DRUG
TRAFFICKING AND SECONDLY A COMING OUT PARTY FOR PRESIDENTIAL
ADVISOR AND DE-FACTO CHIEF OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE VLADIMIRO
MONTESINOS, BUT THE GOP HAS BEEN BLINDSIDED BY A HOST OF
UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES. FIRST THE COLOMBIANS HAVE CRIED FOUL,
ARGUING THAT IT WAS THEY WHO FIRST BROUGHT THIS CASE TO THE

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: DONALD A. JOHNSTON
 DATE/CASE ID: 15 NOV 2001 200004441

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ATTENTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. SECOND, ACCORDING TO THE GOP, THE PLANE TRANSPORTING THE WEAPONS REFUELED IN THE CANARY ISLANDS. SPAIN HAS SUBSEQUENTLY DENIED THAT THE PLANE IN QUESTION EVER TOUCHED DOWN IN THE CANARIES. FINALLY, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, JORDAN HAS ADAMANTLY DENIED THE GOP'S ALLEGATION THAT JORDAN ILLICITLY SOLD THE RIFLES TO AN EX-NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER AND AN EX-LT. POSING AS A COLONEL AND A CAPTAIN. JORDAN INSISTS THAT THE ARMS WERE SIGNED FOR AND TURNED OVER TO LEGITIMATE GENERALS WITHIN THE PERUVIAN ARMED FORCES.

4. (U) THE GOP AND PRESIDENT ALBERTO FUJIMORI HIMSELF HAVE COUNTERED THAT THE WEAPONS WERE BASICALLY PAID FOR IN CASH, NOT THROUGH THE STANDARD LETTERS OF CREDIT USUALLY EMPLOYED AND THAT THIS FACT ALONE SHOULD HAVE ALERTED THE JORDANIANS THAT SOMETHING WAS WRONG. GOP OFFICIALS CLOSE TO THIS CASE HAVE TOLD REPORTERS THAT THE PURCHASE WAS NEGOTIATED SO THAT THE CRATES CONTAINING THE RIFLES CAME EQUIPPED WITH PARACHUTES, WHICH ALSO

PAGE 03 LIMA 05151 300000Z
 SHOULD HAVE SET OFF ALARM BELLS.

5. (U) MEDIA SOURCES HERE HAVE QUOTED JORDANIAN OFFICIALS DENYING THAT THE CRATES WERE SOLD WITH PARACHUTES AND HAVE PROMISED TO TURN OVER THE RELEVANT DOCUMENTS CONFIRMING THE IDENTITY OF THE GENERALS TO PERU WHEN AND IF THEY ARE OFFICIALLY REQUESTED BY THE GOP. INTERESTINGLY, MEDIA SOURCES ARE ALSO REPORTING THAT BOTH SIDES ARE THREATENING TO TURN OVER ALL RELEVANT DOCUMENTS TO THE U.S. TO PROVE THEIR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS.

6. (U) THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION HAS WASTED NO TIME IN USING COLOMBIAN AND JORDANIAN DIFFERENCES TO BLAST THE GOP AND TO POINT OUT INCONSISTENCIES IN THE OFFICIAL VERSION OF EVENTS. THEY HAVE HIGHLIGHTED THAT NO WEAPONS WERE SEIZED AND ALL OF THE 10,000 RIFLES PURPORTEDLY SOLD BY JORDAN WERE SUCCESSFULLY DELIVERED TO THE FARC IN 1999, WELL BEFORE THE RING WAS UNCOVERED. OPPOSITION LEGISLATORS HAVE TRAVELED TO COLOMBIA TO GET A FIRST-HAND COLOMBIAN PERSPECTIVE, TO SANTIAGO, CHILE, TO SPEAK TO THE JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR, AND PLAN TO TRAVEL TO BRASILIA WHERE THEY INTEND TO CONSULT ON THE MATTER. SOMOS PERU LEGISLATOR ANEL TOWNSEND TOLD CHARGE THAT JORDAN'S AMBASSADOR IN CHILE HAD INSISTED THAT THE SALE OF ARMS WAS LEGITIMATE AND THAT A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE USG OK'D THE DEAL. TOWNSEND PLANNED TO MAKE PUBLIC THE ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT OF THE USG REPRESENTATIVE.

7. (U) ACTION REQUEST: REQUEST THAT DEPARTMENT TASK EMBASSY SANTIAGO TO GET A READ-OUT OF THE MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO PERUVIAN LEGISLATORS AND JORDAN'S AMBASSADOR THERE.

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 2

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 2000LIMA05151

Page: 3
Channel: n/a

COMMENT

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PAGE 04 LIMA 05151 300000Z
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8. (U) THE FOREIGN REACTIONS HAVE BEGUN TO TAKE AWAY FROM WHAT FUJIMORI OBVIOUSLY BELIEVED WOULD BE AN INTELLIGENCE AND PUBLIC RELATIONS COUP. TIME AND DETAILED EXAMINATION OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES WILL CLARIFY EVENTUALLY WHAT ACTUALLY OCCURRED, BUT FOR THE MOMENT OUR INFORMATION AND PERSPECTIVE IS LIMITED TO "HE SAID SHE SAID." OPPOSITION FIGURES ARE APPROACHING THE SITUATION AS MORE AMMUNITION THAT CAN BE USED TO DEMONSTRATE CORRUPTION AND VENALITY IN THE UPPER REACHES OF THE GOP.

JACOBSON

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Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 3

UNCLASSIFIED