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B1, 1.5(D), B6

Page: 1
Channel: n/a

PTQ0994

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PAGE 01 LIMA 02803 01 OF 02 302255Z
ACTION ARA-01

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| INFO | LOG-00 | ACDA-08 | ACDE-00 | INLB-01 | AID-00 | AMAD-01 | ACQ-01 |
| | CIAE-00 | INL-01 | DINT-00 | DODE-00 | DOEE-00 | SRPP-00 | DS-00 |
| | EB-00 | FBIE-00 | H-01 | TEDE-00 | INR-00 | IO-00 | JUSE-00 |
| | LAB-01 | L-01 | ADS-00 | NSAE-00 | NSCE-00 | OIC-02 | OMB-01 |
| | OPIC-01 | PA-00 | PM-00 | PRS-00 | P-00 | CIO-00 | SP-00 |
| | STR-00 | TRSE-00 | T-00 | PMB-00 | DSCC-00 | PRM-01 | DRL-04 |
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P 302247Z APR 98
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2826
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
USIA WASHDC 4359
USCINCSO MIAMI FL

[REDACTED] SECTION 01 OF 02 LIMA 002803

DEPARTMENT FOR ARA/AND

SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD AND J-5

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/30/08
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PAGE 02 LIMA 02803 01 OF 02 302255Z

TAGS: PHUM PGOV KDEM PINR PE
SUBJECT: PRESS VS. PRESS - NEW CAMPAIGN TO HARASS JOURNALISTS

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR DENNIS C. JETT, EMBASSY LIMA.
REASON: 1.5 (D).

2. (C) SUMMARY: EVIDENCE IS MOUNTING OF A SMEAR CAMPAIGN
[REDACTED] USING
PERUVIAN TABLOIDS TARGETTING INVESTIGATIVE REPORTERS WHOSE STORIES
ARE PERCEIVED AS THREATENING TO THE FUJIMORI GOVERNMENT. BRIBES,
DEATH THREATS, AND ACCUSATIONS OF TREASON ROUND OUT THE TACTICS

B1

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L. MILLS
DATE/CASE ID: 4 FEB 2002 200102973

Current Class: [REDACTED]
 Current Handling: n/a
 Document Number: 1998LIMA02803

Page: 2

Channel: n/a

DESIGNED TO MAKE PERUVIAN JOURNALISTS THINK TWICE BEFORE REPORTING STORIES UNFLATTERING TO THE MILITARY AND INTELLIGENCE SERVICES.
 END SUMMARY.

3. (C) IN WHAT APPEARS TO BE AN ORCHESTRATED CAMPAIGN OF ATTACKS ON SECTIONS OF THE PRESS IN PERU, A SERIES OF ARTICLES HAS BEEN APPEARING IN THE PAGES OF FOUR LIMA TABLOIDS ACCUSING SEVERAL JOURNALISTS OF TREASON FOR THEIR INVESTIGATIVE ARTICLES WRITTEN ON THE PERUVIAN ARMED FORCES AND INTELLIGENCE SERVICES. ON A DAILY BASIS SINCE MARCH 27, FOUR PERUVIAN JOURNALISTS (JOSE ARRIETA, ANGEL PAEZ, FERNANDO ROSPIGLIOSI, EDMUNDO CRUZ) AND ONE OWNER/DIRECTOR (GUSTAVO MOHME, WHO IS ALSO AN OPPOSITION CONGRESSMAN) HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECTS OF LENGTHY ARTICLES IN THE YELLOW PRESS, INCLUDING A BRAND-NEW PAPER, "EL TIO," WHICH STARTED RUNNING THE ARTICLES SHORTLY AFTER ITS INCEPTION. MOHME AND THREE OF THE JOURNALISTS WORK WITH THE STRONGLY OPPOSITION DAILY "LA REPUBLICA" AND THE OTHER, JOSE ARRIETA, IS THE FORMER CHIEF INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER FOR BARUCH IVCHER'S TELEVISION CHANNEL.

B1

PAGE 03 LIMA 02803 01 OF 02 302255Z
 PUBLISHED AN EIGHT-PAGE SUPPLEMENT ATTACKING THE FIVE JOURNALISTS, AND THEN UPDATED IT TWO WEEKS LATER.

4. (SBU) THE DEFAMATORY ARTICLES BEGAN SHORTLY AFTER THE FIRST INTERVIEWS WITH FORMER INTELLIGENCE AGENT LUISA ZANATTA CONFIRMING THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICES' TELEPHONE TAPPING OF BOTH GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION FIGURES, INCLUDING FORMER UNSYG JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR.

B6

THE CATALOGUE OF OFFENSES AGAINST THESE JOURNALISTS INCLUDE THEIR REPORTING ON THE TELEPHONE TAPPING, THE CRASH OF A MIG-29, AND THE COLLAPSE AFTER 30 MINUTES OF A NEW BRIDGE REBUILT AFTER EL NINO DAMAGES. OVER THE COURSE OF THE MONTH THE TONE OF THE ARTICLES HAS BECOME MORE SHRILL, WITH THE APRIL 30 FULL-PAGE PIECE IN "EL TIO" ACCUSING ONE REPORTER, ANGEL PAEZ, THE HEAD OF LA REPUBLICA'S INVESTIGATIVE UNIT, OF BEING AN ECUADORIAN SPY.

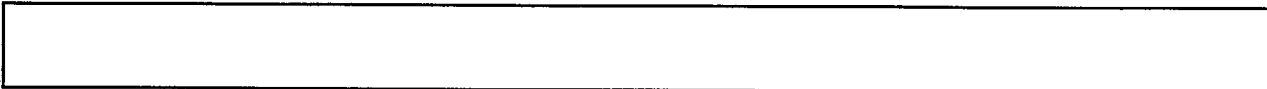
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Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 2

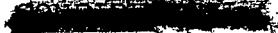
Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1998LIMA02803

Page: 3
Channel: n/a



B1

6. (C) ALL THESE TABLOID STORIES HAVE THE SAME CHARACTERISTICS AND EVEN SOME OF THE SAME LANGUAGE AS THE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST BARUCH IVCHER LAST YEAR BEFORE HE LOST CONTROL OF HIS TELEVISION CHANNEL. "TRAICION A LA PATRIA" (TREASON) IS ALSO THE SAME LANGUAGE WHICH

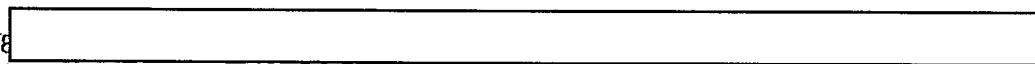


PAGE 04 LIMA 02803 01 OF 02 302255Z
APPEARED IN THE GRAFFITI ATTACKING AMBASSADOR JETT LAST JUNE FOR HIS COMMENTS ON THE MIG-29S. SEVERAL MEDIA OUTLETS ARE INVESTIGATING THE POSSIBLE SOURCE OF THESE ATTACKS IN THE TABLOID PRESS, AND CONCLUDE, [REDACTED] THAT THESE ARE POSSIBLY COMING FROM WITHIN THE PERUVIAN MILITARY.

B1

7. (SBU) AMBASSADOR JETT VISITED "LA REPUBLICA" OFFICES THIS WEEK TO DISCUSS THESE ATTACKS AND GAVE AN INTERVIEW ON U.S. SUPPORT FOR A FREE PRESS. HIS COMMENTS ON THE SAME ISSUE AT A USIS-ORGANIZED SEMINAR ON THE ROLE OF A FREE PRESS IN A DEMOCRACY WERE ALSO CARRIED WIDELY AND HAVE RECEIVED FAVORABLE RESPONSE FROM PERUVIAN JOURNALISTS.

COMMENT



CONFIRMS

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OUR JUDGMENT IN LAST YEAR'S HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT THAT PERU CONTINUES TO ENJOY FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, BUT ALSO THAT JOURNALISTS ARE UNDER ATTACK, ESPECIALLY IF THEY TOUCH ON ISSUES INVOLVING MALFEASANCE IN THE MILITARY OR INTELLIGENCE SERVICES. SO FAR, THE ATTACKS HAVE NOT RESULTED IN BODILY HARM, ALTHOUGH THAT MIGHT NOT BE TRUE FOR LONG SINCE THE APRIL 29 STORY ON ANGEL PAEZ SAID HIS ACTIONS SHOULD NOT GO "UNPUNISHED." INDEED, MANY FOLLOWING THE FREE PRESS ISSUE REMAIN SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE OFFICIAL EXPLANATION THAT THE KILLING OF A RADIO JOURNALIST AND HER HUSBAND IN NORTHERN PERU LAST MONTH.



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PAGE 01 LIMA 02803 02 OF 02 302256Z
ACTION ARA-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-08 ACDE-00 INLB-01 AID-00 AMAD-01 ACQ-01

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 3

Current Class: [REDACTED]
 Current Handling: n/a
 Document Number: 1998LIMA02803

Page: 4

Channel: n/a

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| STR-00 | TRSE-00 | T-00 | PMB-00 | DSCC-00 | PRM-01 | DRL-04 |
| G-00 | FDIC-01 | SAS-00 | /026W | | | |

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P 302247Z APR 98
 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2827
 INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
 AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
 AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
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[REDACTED] SECTION 02 OF 02 LIMA 002803

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PAGE 02 LIMA 02803 02 OF 02 302256Z

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OCCURRED IN CONNECTION WITH A ROBBERY. THOUGH IT IS NOT AT ALL CLEAR WHO MIGHT HAVE HAD REASON TO TARGET THE OUTSPOKEN RADIO PERSONALITY, THE MURDERS APPEARED TO BE WELL-PLANNED.

9. (C) THE RESULT OF THESE ATTACKS IS, IN SOME CASES, PRIOR CENSORSHIP, AS MEDIA ARE SITTING ON STORIES WHICH THEY FEAR WOULD CAUSE REPRISAL. THE DIRECTOR OF THE NEW PRESS COUNCIL, THOUGH, PREFERS TO CALL THIS A TACTIC OF "EX POST FACTO CENSORSHIP," AS IT WOULD BE TOO IMPOLITIC TO ENGAGE IN PRIOR CENSORSHIP IN 1998 IN LATIN AMERICA. THE HEAD OF ONE PROMINENT HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION, DURING AN APRIL 21 LUNCH WITH VISITING ONDCP DIRECTOR MCCAFFREY, SUMMED UP THE SITUATION WELL: "WE AGREE WITH PRESIDENT FUJIMORI THAT THERE IS PRESS FREEDOM IN PERU. IT JUST TAKES A VERY BRAVE JOURNALIST TO PRACTICE IT."
 JETT

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 4