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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: DONALD A. JOHNSTON  
DATE/CASE ID: 25 MAY 2001 200101259

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AMCONSUL MATAMOROS  
AMCONSUL MERIDA  
AMCONSUL MONTERREY  
AMCONSUL NUEVO LAREDO  
NAVSTA PANAMA CANAL RODMAN PN/PAO  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
CDR 193RD INFBDE (PAN) FT CLAYTON PN AFZU-PO  
USAFSO HOWARD AFB PN/PAO  
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO  
AMCONSUL TIJUANA  
XMT AMEMBASSY NASSAU  
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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ALL POSTS PLEASE PASS PAO: ROME ALSO FOR VATICAN

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: OPRC

SUBJECT: ARA GUIDANCES, WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 1992

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PREPARED PRESS GUIDANCES:

COLOMBIA: CHASING ESCOBAR

Q. ANY NEWS ON ESCOBAR? IS THE U.S. HELPING IN THE SEARCH? HAVE WE SENT PERSONNEL?

A. ESCOBAR IS STILL AT LARGE, AND THE GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA IS PURSUING HIM. COLOMBIA HAS OUR FULL SUPPORT IN THAT EFFORT, AND WE HOPE IT SUCCEEDS.

WE HAVE EXTENSIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION WITH COLOMBIA. THAT COOPERATION CONTINUES.

I WILL NOT COMMENT ON ANY SPECIFIC EFFORTS NOW UNDERWAY TO CAPTURE ESCOBAR.

Q. DID A CAPTURE OPERATION FAIL THIS MORNING?

A. WE ARE AWARE THAT AN OPERATION WAS CONDUCTED THIS MORNING, AND WE ARE CONFIDENT THOSE OPERATIONS WILL CONTINUE UNTIL THEY SUCCEED.

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Q. HAS THE U.S. SENT PERSONNEL OR EQUIPMENT TO HELP IN THE SEARCH?

A. AGAIN, I DO NOT WANT TO COMMENT ON ANY OPERATIONS THAT MIGHT BE UNDERWAY RIGHT NOW. WE SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA.

PERU: ELECTIONS; U.S. AID  
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Q. ANY REACTION TO PERUVIAN PRESIDENT FUJIMORI'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF A DATE FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS?

A. IT IS A STEP FORWARD FOR PERU THAT PRESIDENT FUJIMORI ANNOUNCED MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS FOR NEXT FEBRUARY 7.

HE ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY TO BE ELECTED NOVEMBER 22 WILL START ITS SESSIONS NEXT JANUARY 2.

WE ARE ALSO PLEASED THAT PRESIDENT FUJIMORI CONFIRMED HIS GOVERNMENT AND THE POLITICAL PARTIES WILL CONSULT WITH THE AIM OF REACHING AGREEMENT ON PROCEDURES FOR FAIR AND OPEN ELECTIONS AND A NEW ELECTORAL LAW.

Q. WILL THIS AFFECT U.S. AID TO PERU?

A. WE WANT TO HELP PERU SOLVE THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS IT FACES.

IN THE LIGHT OF PRESIDENT FUJIMORI'S ENCOURAGING ANNOUNCEMENT, WE WILL EXAMINE OUR CURRENT FREEZE ON NEW ASSISTANCE FOR PERU.

HOWEVER, FULL RESTORATION OF U.S. AID PROGRAMS DEPENDS ON RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY IN PERU.

Q. WHAT IS THE STATUS OF U.S. AID TO PERU?

A. AT THE TIME OF PRESIDENT FUJIMORI'S EXTRACONSTITUTIONAL ACTIONS, WE SUSPENDED ALL MILITARY AND  
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MOST ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO PERU.

OUR REQUEST FOR AID TO PERU THIS FISCAL YEAR WAS 275  
MILLION: 216 MILLION IN ECONOMIC AID, 40 MILLION IN  
MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND 19 MILLION FOR COUNTERNARCOTICS  
PROGRAMS.

WE ARE CONTINUING HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMS AND SOME  
COUNTERNARCOTICS LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE.

ABOUT 11 MILLION IS GOING FOR THE DISMANTLING OF COCAINE  
LABS AND OTHER TRAFFICKING OPERATIONS, INVESTIGATIONS OF  
DRUG TRAFFICKING ACTIVITIES, ERADICATION OF COCA SEEDBEDS  
AND OTHER PROGRAMS THAT ARE MOST EFFECTIVE IN STOPPING THE  
FLOW OF DRUGS TO THE U.S.

WE ARE PROCEEDING WITH A PROGRAM TO HELP PERU CREATE A  
NATIONAL REGISTRY OF MILITARY AND POLICE DETAINEES,  
CRITICAL TO HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING. THIS PROGRAM AND  
SEVERAL OTHER SMALL PROGRAMS AMOUNT TO ANOTHER 5 MILLION.

WE ARE ALSO CONTINUING SOME 100 MILLION IN HUMANITARIAN  
FOOD AND DEVELOPMENT AID THROUGH NON-GOVERNMENTAL  
ORGANIZATIONS.

TOTAL: 116 MILLION OF 275 MILLION.

PORT AU PRINCE MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.  
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