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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 051103

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/17/10

TAGS: PREL, PHUM, PE, EC, CI

SUBJECT: UNDER SECRETARY PICKERING/PERUVIAN FM DISCUSS
ANDERSON KOHATSU

CLASSIFIED BY U/S THOMAS R. PICKERING. REASON 1.5(D).

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1. (C) SUMMARY. U/S PICKERING TOLD PERUVIAN FM DE TRAZEGNIES THAT PERU SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT THE ANDERSON KOHATSU LEGAL CASE, AND THAT FURTHER GOP STEPS TO MAKE SURE THAT JUSTICE IS SERVED WOULD SEND A POWERFUL MESSAGE TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD ABOUT GOP RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. HE ALSO ASKED THAT THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT NOT ATTEMPT TO SEND TO THE UNITED STATES GOP OFFICIALS LIKE ANDERSON KOHATSU. DE TRAZEGNIES UNDERTOOK TO DELIVER THE MESSAGE TO THE GOP AND THANKED THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR HAVING UPHELD THE FREEDOM OF THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TO CARRY OUT ITS MANDATE.

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THEY ALSO DISCUSSED THE EL COMERCIO CASE AND PERU/ECUADOR BORDER ASSISTANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. (C) PERUVIAN FM FERNANDO DE TRAZEGNIES CALLED U/S PICKERING ON MARCH 16 ON THE ISSUE OF DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY. DE TRAZEGNIES NOTED HE WAS AWARE OF THE DIFFICULTIES IT HAD RAISED FOR THE USG. U/S PICKERING SAID THE INCIDENT HAD

CREATED A FIRST CLASS PROBLEM FOR THE USG AND ASKED DE TRAZEGNIES NEVER TO SEND GOP REPRESENTATIVES LIKE ANDERSON KOHATSU TO THE UNITED STATES UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES. U/S PICKERING ADDED THAT ANDERSON KOHATSU'S CASE DID NOT SEEM TO US TO BE CLOSED EITHER MORALLY OR LEGALLY, AND THAT FURTHER GOP STEPS TO ENSURE THAT JUSTICE IS SERVED WOULD SEND A POWERFUL MESSAGE TO THE WORLD ABOUT GOP RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. DE TRAZEGNIES RESPONDED HE WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE CASE AND THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S DECISION HAD PROTECTED THE FREEDOM OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CARRY OUT ITS MANDATE. HE ALSO UNDERTOOK

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TO CONVEY U/S PICKERING'S MESSAGE TO OTHER PERUVIAN AUTHORITIES.

3. (C) DE TRAZEGNIES ALSO RAISED A PRESS STORY ACCUSING THE GOP, AND PRESIDENT FUJIMORI IN PARTICULAR, OF INVOLVEMENT IN AN ATTEMPT BY MINORITY SHARE HOLDERS OF DAILY EL COMERCIO TO TAKE OVER THE NEWSPAPER. HE SAID THAT FUJIMORI WAS OUTRAGED THAT HIS SO-CALLED "FRIENDS" WOULD ATTEMPT SUCH A MANEUVER. IT IS CLEAR, DE TRAZEGNIES ADDED, THAT THESE INDIVIDUALS GROSSLY MISCALCULATED THE GOP'S REACTION. FUJIMORI ISSUED A PUBLIC STATEMENT PROCLAIMING HIS LACK OF KNOWLEDGE AND CONDEMNING THE ACTION. HE ALSO INSTRUCTED GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO STAY AWAY FROM THE ISSUE. U/S PICKERING THANKED DE TRAZEGNIES FOR THE INFORMATION AND REITERATED THAT THE USG HAS WELL KNOWN SERIOUS CONCERNS ABOUT THE ELECTORAL PROCESS IN PERU.

4. (C) DE TRAZEGNIES ALSO ASKED THAT THE USG CONSIDER MEMBERSHIP IN THE INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE BI-NATIONAL PLAN FOR BORDER DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN ECUADOR AND PERU. (NOTE: THE GOP AND GOE HAVE ASKED MAJOR DONORS TO JOIN THIS COMMITTEE AT THE MARCH 23 DONORS CONFERENCE. THE COMMITTEE WOULD BE ESTABLISHED TO FOLLOW-UP ON PLEDGES. END NOTE.) HE ARGUED THAT USG MEMBERSHIP WOULD BOOST THE U.S. IMAGE IN THE REGION. IN AN ATTEMPT TO BOLSTER HIS CASE, DE TRAZEGNIES CONFIDED THAT DURING THE BRASILIA SUMMIT WHEN THE PEACE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED THERE WERE RUMBLINGS ABOUT PRESIDENT CLINTON'S ABSENCE. U/S PICKERING RESPONDED THE

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USG HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT MEMBERSHIP, THAT HE WOULD TAKE A
LOOK AT THE ISSUE AGAIN, AND THAT HE WOULD TRANSMIT USG
VIEWS VIA OUR EMBASSY IN LIMA.

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