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/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

COUNTRY: (U) PERU (PE); UNITED KINGDOM (UK); FRANCE (FR); SPAIN (SP); ISRAEL (IS).

SUBJ: IIR CHANGES IN THE ARMY EQUALS ADVANTAGES FOR THE HIGH COMMAND (U)

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- DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 940110.
REQS: (U) (b)(3):10 USC 424

SOURCES: A. (U) WEEKLY MAGAZINE 'OIGA' (940110), RIGHTIST WEEKLY (READERSHIP ABOUT 95,000.) HAS A NATIONALISTIC AND OFTEN ANTI-AMERICAN BENT. IT RANKS SECOND IN ELITE INFLUENCE BUT IS A DISTANT THIRD IN NATIONAL MAGAZINE READERSHIP.

B. (U) WEEKLY MAGAZINE "SI" (940110), CENTER-LEFT WEEKLY (READERSHIP ABOUT 55,000.) IS RESPECTED BY LEFT-OF-CENTER READERS BUT IS NO BETTER THAN FOURTH IN NATIONAL MAGAZINE READERSHIP.

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SUMMARY: (U) THE RECENT PERUVIAN ARMY RESHUFFLING SPEARHEADED BY ARMY COMMANDER GENERAL HERMOZA WILL PERMIT HERMOZA TO CONSOLIDATE HIS POSITION AS COMMANDER GENERAL OF THE ARMY AND PRESIDENT OF THE JOINT COMMAND AS LONG AS THE PRESENT REGIME REMAINS IN POWER.

TEXT: 1. (U) SOURCE A REPORTED THAT COMMANDER GENERAL OF THE ARMY AND PRESIDENT OF THE JOINT COMMAND, GENERAL NICOLAS DE BARI ((HERMOZA)) RIOS SUCCEEDED IN INFLUENCING PRESIDENT ALBERTO ((FUJIMORI)) FUJIMORI TO ACCEPT HIS CHOICES FOR PROMOTIONS AS WELL AS HIS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RETIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS IN THE PERUVIAN ARMY, THUS ACHIEVING HIS GOAL OF CONSOLIDATING HIS POSITION FOR AS LONG AS THE PRESENT REGIME REMAINS IN POWER.

2. (U) THE FOLLOWING REFLECTS GENERAL HERMOZA'S STRATEGY--

- HE REPLACES LIEUTENANT GENERAL VICTOR ((GARCIA)) GONZALES, WITH MAXIMO ((BRACAMONTE)) VARGAS AS INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE ARMY. HE SENDS GENERAL GARCIA TO A MILITARY POSTING IN FRANCE.

- HE REPLACES MAJOR GENERAL LUIS ((PEREZ)) DOCUMET, CHIEF OF THE SPECIAL FORCES DIVISION (GENERAL PEREZ IS MARRIED TO THE SISTER OF GENERAL BRIONES' WIFE) WITH GENERAL MARCO ANTONIO ((RODRIGUEZ)) HUERTA. HERMOZA THEN REWARDS PEREZ WITH A MILITARY POSTING IN SPAIN. GENERAL PEREZ IS HEAVILY TIED TO THE LA CANTUTA CASE AS WELL AS OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE CASES, SUCH AS THE DISAPPEARANCE OF SEVERAL STUDENTS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF HUANCAYO AND THE BARRIOS ALTOS MASSACRE. GENERAL RODRIGUEZ, PREVIOUSLY ASSIGNED TO THE SUPREME COURT OF MILITARY JUSTICE, WAS HANDLING THE LA CANTUTA CASE WHILE ASSIGNED THERE.

- GENERAL HERMOZA RIDS HIMSELF OF MAJOR GENERAL EDUARDO ((BELLIDO)) MORA, CHIEF OF THE HUALLAGA FRONT BY SENDING HIM TO ISRAEL AS THE MILITARY ATTACHE AND REPLACING HIM WITH RECENTLY PROMOTED MAJOR GENERAL ALFREDO ((RODRIGUEZ)) RIVERO. GENERAL BELLIDO, WHILE COMMANDER GENERAL OF THE HUALLAGA FRONT, ACCUSED SEVERAL MILITARY OFFICERS WITH NARCOTRAFFICKING. MOST RECENTLY, BELLIDO ACCUSED ARMY COLONEL EDUARDO

((ALVARADO)) REVOREDO AND LIEUTENANT COLONEL WALTER ((BUE)) CASTILLO WITH INVOLVEMENT IN NARCOTRAFFICKING. RUMOR HAS IT THAT PRESIDENT FUJIMORI WANTED TO PROMOTE BELLIDO AND PEREZ, HOWEVER, THAT WAS OPPOSED BY HERMOZA.

- HERMOZA PROMOTED LIEUTENANT COLONEL MANUEL ((GUZMAN)) CALDERON TO COLONEL. FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS, GUZMAN HAS HELD THE POSITION OF COMMANDER, COMANDO BATTALION. RECENTLY PROMOTED TO COLONEL, HE WILL REMAIN IN THE SAME POSTING. IT IS SAID THAT GUZMAN IS GENERAL HERMOZA'S RIGHT HAND MAN. PRIOR TO BEING CHIEF, COMANDO BATTALION, GUZMAN WAS COMMANDER OF BIC 19. THIS UNIT PARTICIPATED IN THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE PROFESSOR AND NINE STUDENTS FROM LA CANTUTA UNIVERSITY. COLONEL GUZMAN, WAS THE OFFICER WHO HANDED OVER THE NINE STUDENTS AND PROFESSOR TO MAJOR SANTIAGO ((MARTIN)) RIVAS.

- HERMOZA KEPT ALL OF HIS MILITARY REGION COMMANDERS IN PLACE, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE IV MILITARY REGION COMMANDER IN CUSCO, LIEUTENANT GENERAL PETRONIO ((FERNANDEZ-DAVILA)) CARNERO WHO WAS REPLACED BY RECENTLY PROMOTED LIEUTENANT GENERAL JOSE ((PICON)) ALCALDE. GENERAL PICON WAS PREVIOUSLY ASSIGNED TO THE SUPREME COURT OF MILITARY JUSTICE. BEFORE THE LA CANTUTA EXPOSE, LIEUTENANT GENERAL RODOLFO ((ROBLES)) ESPINOSA, THEN COMMANDER GENERAL OF TRAINING AND DOCTRINE COMMAND, CONFIDED IN HIS FRIEND GENERAL PICON ABOUT THE ARMY INVOLVEMENT IN THE LA CANTUTA DISAPPEARANCES. GENERAL ROBLES ASKED PICON TO OPEN AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE CASE. GENERAL PICON REFUSED AND INSTEAD REPORTED ROBLES TO GENERAL HERMOZA. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] GENERAL ROBLES IS PRESENTLY RESIDING IN ARGENTINA WITH HIS FAMILY ON AN IMPOSED SELF-EXILE.)

- THE DESIGNATION OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL GUIDO ((GUEVARA)) GUERRA AS PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT OF MILITARY JUSTICE AT FIRST PRODUCED SOME RESISTANCE FROM OTHER SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS BECAUSE THIS WOULD MEAN THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE PERUVIAN ARMY A MEMBER OF THE MILITARY COURTS WOULD COMMAND GENERALS ASSIGNED TO THE COMBAT ARMS. HERMOZA ARGUED THAT GENERAL GUEVERA WAS BETTER EQUIPPED TO FACE THE PROBLEMS POSED BY THE LA CANTUTA CASE.

- GENERAL HERMOZA STILL HAS A FEW MORE CHANGES TO DO DURING THE COURSE OF THE YEAR. IN MAY 94, LIEUTENANT GENERAL ROBERTO ((SALDANA)) VARGAS, THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMY GENERAL STAFF, WILL FACE MANDATORY RETIREMENT DUE TO AGE. HERMOZA IS LOOKING AT GENERAL RODRIGUEZ, PRESENTLY FIRST MILITARY REGION COMMANDER TO REPLACE SALDANA. THIS WILL CAUSE SOME RESHUFFLING OF THE COMMANDERS OF THE MILITARY REGIONS. HERMOZA CAN THEN ASSIGN THE POWERFUL FIRST MILITARY REGION TO HIS LOYAL GENERAL, GENERAL PICON.

- THE ONLY POSITION LEFT TO ROUND OUT HERMOZA POWER BASE - POLITICAL AND MILITARY, IS THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE POSITION. WHISPERS IN THE HALLS OF THE "PENTAGONITO" (PERUVIAN ARMY HEADQUARTERS) RESOUND WITH THE PLANS TO REMOVE GENERAL MALCA AND REPLACE HIM WITH GENERAL VICTOR ((PIZARRO)) WHO IS PRESENTLY POSTED TO SPAIN. PIZARRO IS FROM THE SAME GRADUATING CLASS OF HERMOZA. IF PIZARRO IS UNAVAILABLE, THEN THE OTHER CANDIDATE WOULD BE GENERAL JULIO ((SALAZAR)) MONROE, CHIEF OF THE **NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SIN)**. SALAZAR'S BROTHER, GENERAL LUIS ((SALAZAR)) MONROE, WAS CHIEF OF THE SECOND MILITARY REGION WHEN THE LA CANTUTA CASE ERUPTED. IF JULIO SALAZAR IS NAMED MOD, VICE ADMIRAL AMERICO ((IBARCENA)) WOULD OCCUPY THE **SIN** POSITION.

3. (U) SOURCE B REPORTED THAT MAJOR GENERAL MARIO ((BRITO)) GOMERO, EX-CHIEF OF THE ARMY PERSONNEL COMMAND (COPERE) HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS MILITARY ATTACHE TO LONDON. BRITO ON A PREVIOUS ASSIGNMENT SERVED AS MILITARY ATTACHE TO THE UNITED STATES. THIS SOURCE ALSO STATED THAT MAJOR GENERAL LUIS ((PEREZ)) DOCUMET WAS BEING ASSIGNED AS MILITARY ATTACHE TO FRANCE.

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(b)(1),1.4 (c)

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5. (U) DESPITE THE CONFLICTING INFORMATION PROVIDED BY SOURCES A AND B, GENERAL PEREZ'S NEXT ASSIGNMENT REMAINS UNCONFIRMED.

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