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(b)(3):10 USC
424
DIA
24 Apr 92

INFORMATION PAPER

Subject: Biographic information (U)

1. ~~(S/NF)~~ Purpose. To answer questions posed by [redacted] about Peruvian National Security Adviser Vladimir Montesinos Torres. (b)(6)

2. ~~(S/NF)~~ Key Points

- What is Montesinos' background?

-- Vladimir Montesinos was a rising star in the Peruvian Army. He graduated eighth among 14 artillery graduates from the military academy in 1966. In 1973, he was appointed Chief of Staff to Army General Mercado Jarrin, Prime Minister under military President, Juan Velasco. By almost all accounts, he performed brilliantly, running the Prime Minister's office with an iron fist. Montesinos became indispensable to the Prime Minister, who did nothing without the advice of his young captain. In August 1976, Montesinos traveled to the United States at the invitation of the U.S. Embassy. There are allegations that Montesinos forged the documents indicating Army approval for his trip, and, upon his return, he was charged with desertion. There was an additional accusation from a group of radical Army officers accusing him of spying for foreign powers, but no formal charges were filed. He was convicted by a military court-martial, stripped of his commission, and imprisoned for more than a year.

(b)(1), 1.4
(c), 1.4 (d)

-- In 1983, Montesinos was charged with selling documents to the United States [redacted] / [redacted] Montesinos fled Peru and crossed the border into Ecuador, where he was arrested and supposedly tortured by Ecuadorian security forces who suspected him of being a spy. Eventually, the charges against him in Peru and Ecuador were dropped, and he returned to Lima in 1985.

-- Upon his return, he joined a Lima law firm. He allegedly became deeply involved in cases defending several prominent narcotics traffickers and continues to be indirectly associated with narcotics-related corruption. After successfully defending several high-ranking police and military officers from both narcotics corruption and human rights abuse charges, he regained his access to the military inner circles. Some of these same officers arranged for Montesinos' eventual hiring by President Fujimori, initially to handle family legal matters. The Fujimoris admired his work, and Montesinos eventually rose to a position of importance with the President.

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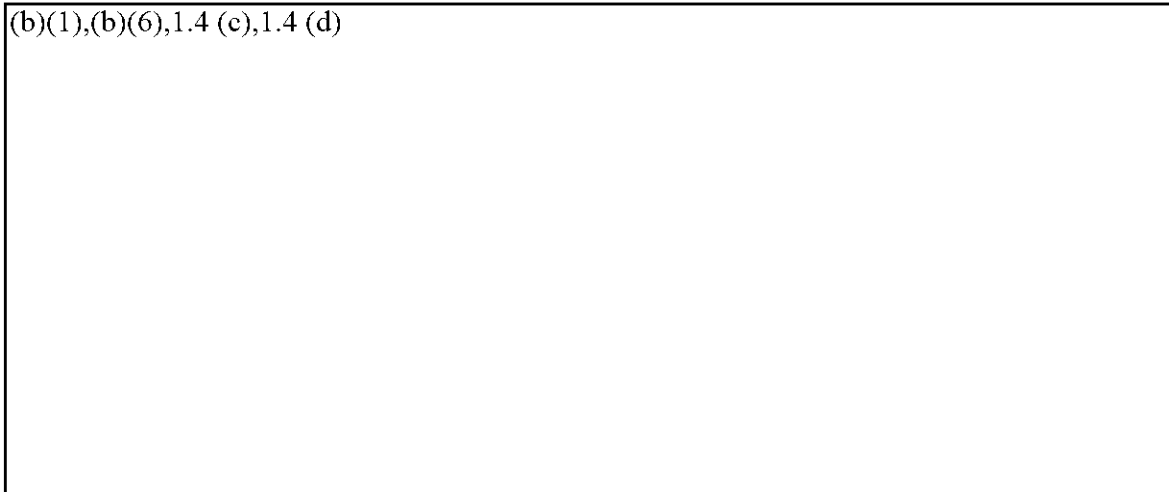


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- What is his influence in the Peruvian Armed Forces?

-- The specter of Montesinos looms large over the current military leadership. His authority over the military is unchallenged, and he has repeatedly shown his ability to make or break senior officers (including the previous Army Commander, General Villanueva Valdivia). He has quietly been purging the senior levels of the military, removing obstructionists and placing Fujimori loyalists at key positions, especially in the intelligence apparatus.

- What is the extent of his influence on President Fujimori?

-- Montesinos is Fujimori's principal national security and military affairs adviser. He initially developed his close relationship with President Fujimori by advising him on how to respond to the campaign attacks on his family's real estate holdings. Montesinos directly influences policy decisions and apparently approves all security-related decisions. Most top military and intelligence officials, as well as several cabinet members, obtained their positions through Montesinos' influence. From Fujimori's initial group of advisers, only Montesinos retains any large measure of influence upon presidential decisionmaking.

- Who are his friends and enemies?

-- Montesinos' former mentor, General (ret) Mercado Jarrin, remains influential in political and military circles. Montesinos has intervened on numerous occasions, both as a private lawyer and a presidential adviser, to assist high-ranking police and military officers in legal



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and/or political trouble. Additionally, Montesinos has shown favoritism toward artillery classmates from his academy days. They are now occupying key positions such as Minister of Defense, Chief of the National Intelligence Service, Chief of the Army Intelligence Directorate, Commander of Military Region II (encompasses Lima), Commandant of the Military Academy, and Minister of Interior. Members of the preceding groups are indebted to Montesinos. Through these people, Montesinos wields far-reaching influence in both policy and military circles.

-- His enemies include a long list of opposition politicians who blame him for exacerbating President Fujimori's authoritarian tendencies. Montesinos has punished those who had a role in the previous investigation on espionage charges, forcing most of them into retirement. Montesinos has also focused his wrath on the Peruvian news media, using his considerable influence to obtain defamation convictions against prominent publications. Finally, Montesinos is purging military members of the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA) political party, many of whom are in the Army's engineer officer corps.

Prepared by:

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