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ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	AMAD-01	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00
	INL-01	DODE-00	DOEE-00	ANHR-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00
	EUR-00	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-00
	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01
	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00
	STR-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	SNIS-00	NISC-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00
	PRM-01	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/011W	

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4608
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USCINCSO MIAMI FL

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 5/30/05
TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, PREL, PE

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SUBJECT: JOURNALIST FABIAN SALAZAR ALLEGES TORTURE BY
INTELLIGENCE AGENTS

REF: LIMA 3183

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR JOHN HAMILTON FOR REASONS 1.5 B AND D.
2. (C) SUMMARY: OPPOSITION JOURNALIST FABIAN SALAZAR OLIVARES CLAIMED FROM A HOSPITAL BED MAY 25 THAT NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SIN) OFFICERS HAD BROKEN INTO HIS OFFICE THE PREVIOUS EVENING, CONFISCATED VIDEOS SHOWING ELECTION OFFICIALS AND OTHERS IN MEETINGS WITH DE FACTO SIN CHIEF VLADIMIR MONTESINOS, AND BRUTALLY TORTURED HIM. HUMAN RIGHTS CONTACTS REPORT SALAZAR IS IN STABLE CONDIT



ION AFTER
HAVING RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY TO HIS LEFT ARM, WHICH THE
ASSAILANTS ALLEGEDLY SAWED TO THE BONE. A PRO-GOVERNMENT
POLLSTER NAMED BY SALAZAR DENIED EVER BEING AT SIN
HEADQUARTERS AND QUESTIONED SALAZAR'S CREDIBILITY, CITING
THE FACT THAT SALAZAR IS AN EMPLOYEE OF BARUCH IVCHER. PM
BUSTAMANTE CLAIMED TO AMBASSADOR MAY 26 THAT THE INCIDENT IS
A HOAX. WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO FIND OUT WHAT REALLY
HAPPENED. END SUMMARY

SALAZAR'S STORY

3. (SBU) EARLY MAY 25, CABLE TV STATION CHANNEL 8 RAN A
HOSPITAL BEDSIDE INTERVIEW WITH JOURNALIST AND PUBLIC
CONFIDENTIAL

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RELATIONS CONSULTANT FABIAN SALAZAR, WHO ALLEGED HE HAD BEEN
TORTURED BY FOUR SIN AGENTS THE PREVIOUS EVENING. SALAZAR
SAID HE HAD RECEIVED FROM SECRET SOURCES SENSITIVE MATERIALS
INCLUDING SEVERAL VIDEOS SHOWING ELECTIONS COMMISSION (JNE)
OFFICIALS, JOURNALISTS, AND POLLSTERS ARRIVING AT SIN
HEADQUARTERS TO MEET DE FACTO SIN CHIEF MONTESINOS. SALAZAR
SAID THE FOUR MEN TIED HIM TO A CHAIR, BEAT HIM, AND USED A
SAW TO CUT HIS WRIST TO THE BONE TO COERCE HIM INTO NAMING
HIS SOURCES. AT SOME POINT IN THE INTERROGATION, THE
ASSAILANTS ALSO BURNED SALAZAR. SALAZAR SAID THEY USED
GASOLINE TO START A FIRE, AND THEN FLED HIS OFFICE WHEN
NEIGHBORS PHONED THE FIRE DEPARTMENT. IN A SUBSEQUENT
INTERVIEW MAY 25, SALAZAR SAID HE HAD IN A SAFE PLACE
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION HE WOULD RELEASE LATER THAT WOULD
CONFIRM HIS EARLIER ALLEGATIONS ABOUT SIN CONTACTS WITH
ELECTION OFFICIALS. HE ALSO NAMED CPI POLLSTER MANUEL
SAAVEDRA, PRO-GOVERNMENT JOURNALIST JORGE MORELLI, AND
OTHERS AS THOSE WHO HAD MET WITH MONTESINOS.

REACTION FROM HUMAN RIGHTS COMMUNITY

4. (SBU) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] SALAZAR WAS VISIBLY SHAKEN
BUT LUCID ENOUGH TO EXPLAIN WHAT HAD HAPPEN. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] VISITED SALAZAR THAT AFTERNOON IN HIS HOSPITAL

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ROOM AND HE WAS ALERT AND IN STABLE CONDITION. ACCORDING TO DOCTORS, HE HAD RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY ON HIS ARM AND WAS CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 LIMA 03204 01 OF 03 311256Z RECEIVING BURN TREATMENT. [REDACTED] THERE WAS A CONTRACTED SECURITY GUARD IN FRONT OF HIS DOOR, AND THAT POLICE AND A LOCAL PROSECUTOR HAD ARRIVED TO TAKE A STATEMENT. [REDACTED] CONFIRMED TO US MAY 26 THAT A POLICE INVESTIGATION OF THE ATTACK HAD BEGUN AND THAT [REDACTED] WOULD UNDERTAKE AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION. [REDACTED] SALAZAR WOULD FILE ASSAULT CHARGES AND WAS CONSIDERING FILING A COMPLAINT TO THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TO ASK FOR MEASURES TO GUARANTEE HIS AND HIS FAMILY'S SECURITY AND TO EXPEDITE AN OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION. (MAY 28 NEWS REPORTS CONFIRMED THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION HAD FORMALLY CALLED ON PERU TO PROTECT SALAZAR AND TO INVESTIGATE HIS ALLEGATIONS.) SALAZAR WAS ALSO CONSIDERING TAKING A TRIP WITH HIS FAMILY OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY, AND HE MOVED TO A DIFFERENT HOSPITAL MAY 27 BASED ON SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS.

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5. (SBU) LED BY OPPOSITION CONGRESSWOMAN ANEL TOWNSEND, A GROUP OF PARLIAMENTARIANS PRESENTED A MOTION TO REQUEST TESTIMONY FROM PM BUSTAMANTE ON THE SIN'S ROLE IN THE ATTACK. CONGRESS HAS NOT HAD A QUORUM OF MEMBERS FOR SEVERAL DAYS, AND THE MEASURE HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN UP BY THE PLENARY. (COMMENT: GIVEN THE GOVERNMENT'S COMFORTABLE MAJORITY IN CONGRESS, IT APPEARS UNLIKELY THE OPPOSITION HAS THE VOTES TO PASS SUCH A MOTION.)

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VCE-00 AC-01 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 OPIC-01
PA-00 PM-00 PRS-00 ACE-00 P-00 SP-00 SSO-00
STR-00 TRSE-00 USIE-00 SNIS-00 NISC-00 PMB-00 DSCC-00
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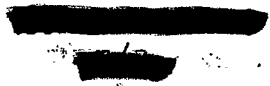
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GOVERNMENT QUESTIONS CREDIBILITY

6. (C) THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT ISSUED A STATEMENT ON THE CASE, BUT PRIVATELY IT IS PORTRAYING SALAZAR'S CLAIMS AS A HOAX (REFTEL). PRO-GOVERNMENT CABLE STATION 10 INVITED POLLSTER MANUEL SAAVEDRA TO JOIN HOST JORGE MORELLI'S SHOW ON THE EVENING OF MAY 25. SAAVEDRA DENIED EVER HAVING BEEN TO SIN HEADQUARTERS AND POINTED TO APPARENT CONTRADICTIONS IN SALAZAR'S STORY. IN PARTICULAR, SAAVEDRA QUESTIONED HOW SALAZAR, AFTER ALLEGEDLY BEING TORTURED, COULD HAVE APPEARED IN AN OPPOSITION DAILY LA REPUBLICA PHOTOGRAPH STANDING BESIDE FIREMAN AFTER HAVING BEEN TORTURED, COMPARED TO A HOSPITAL PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN OF HIM BY DAILY OF RECORD EL COMERCIO, WHICH SHOWED HIM INCAPACITATED. (NOTE: SAAVEDRA'S OBSERVATION BEARS EXAMINATION, BUT A CURSORY LOOK AT THE REPUBLICA PHOTO INDICATES THAT SALAZAR'S ARM IS HEAVILY BANDAGED, HIS CLOTHES ARE STAINED WITH WHAT LOOKS TO BE BLOOD, AND HE STANDING IN A DISHEVELED ROOM.) SAAVEDRA SAID HE AND SALAZAR HAD HELD A LONGTIME FEUD AND RAISED SALAZAR'S TIES TO FORMER TV STATION OWNER BARUCH IVCHER, WHOM SAAVEDRA AND MORELLI IMPUGNED AS TRYING TO USE SALAZAR TO DISCREDIT THE GOVERNMENT.

7. (SBU) PRO-GOVERNMENT DAILY EXPRESO RAN A TWO-PAGE STORY



MAY 27 CHALLENGING SALAZAR'S CREDIBILITY, EMPHASIZING HIS TIES TO IVCHER, AND POINTING OUT WHAT IT SAW AS INCONSISTENCIES IN SALAZAR'S STORY. SALAZAR AGREED IN AN
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INTERVIEW WITH AN EXPRESO REPORTER TO SHOW HIS WOUND, WHICH THE INTERVIEWER, NOTING THE LACK OF BRUISES AND SWELLING, FOUND UNIMPRESSIVE. CONCERNING SALAZAR'S ABILITY TO MOVE HIS FINGERS, SALAZAR SAID THE SURGEONS HAD REPAIRED DAMAGED TENDONS, MAKING IT POSSIBLE TO MOVE THE FINGERS WITH SOME DISCOMFORT. IN RESPONSE TO THE REPORTER'S REQUEST FOR HIS MEDICAL RECORDS, SALAZAR SAID THE RECORDS WOULD APPEAR IN OPPOSITION WEEKLY CARETAS.

8. (SBU) THE GOVERNMENT'S CAMPAIGN TO DISCREDIT SALAZAR'S STORY CONTINUED DURING THE WEEKEND OF ELECTIONS, AS MORE OFFICIALS NAMED BY SALAZAR ISSUED DENIALS. ON MAY 28, HEAD OF THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS OFFICE (ONPE) JOSE PORTILLO DENIED HE HAD EVER BEEN TO SIN HEADQUARTERS, WHILE JNE MEMBER ALIPIO MONTES DE OCA SAID HE HAD BEEN IN MILITARY MEETINGS WITH MONTESINOS BUT NOT DURING HIS TENURE AS A JNE OFFICIAL. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT SALAZAR DURING A MAY 29 CNN ESPANOL INTERVIEW, PRESIDENT FUJIMORI SAID THERE WOULD BE AN INVESTIGATION OF THE JOURNALIST'S CLAIMS, AND THAT SALAZAR SHOULD PRESENT EVIDENCE, INCLUDING SHOWING HIS WOUND, TO BOLSTER THE CREDIBILITY OF HIS CASE.

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE?

9. (C) ATTENTION HAS NOW TURNED TO SALAZAR'S PUBLIC MAY 25 CLAIMS THAT HE HAS ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE OF SIN CONTACTS AND WOULD PRESENT THEM MAY 26. EMBASSY CONTACTS TELL US HE HAS RECONSIDERED, GIVEN THE POTENTIAL RISK TO HIS FAMILY AND WILL DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH THESE MATERIALS AT A FUTURE
CONFIDENTIAL

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DATE. ON MAY 26, SALAZAR APPEARED AT A CONFERENCE WITH TORTURE VICTIM AND FORMER ARMY INTELLIGENCE (SIE) AGENT LEANOR LA ROSA WHO WAS LEFT PARALYZED BY SIN TORTURERS. (NOTE: LA ROSA ARRIVED IN LIMA MAY 25 FOR A TWO-DAY "FAMILIAL VISIT." SHE HAS REFUGEE STATUS AND REPORTEDLY WILL RETURN TO SWEDEN. IN ASSERTING THAT THE SALAZAR INCIDENT IS A HOAX (REFTEL), PM BUSTAMANTE POINTED TO THE IMPROBABILITY OF A NEW TORTURE INCIDENT RECURRING ON THE



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

VERY DAY LA ROSA ARRIVED IN LIMA.) THE MAY 27 EDITION OF CARETAS PRESENTED PHOTOS OF SEVERAL DOCUMENTS LISTING MATERIALS ALLEGEDLY CONFISCATED FROM SALAZAR BY SIN AGENTS. SOURCES CLOSE TO SALAZAR TELL US HE HAS ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS THAT SUBSTANTIATE HIS CLAIMS BUT HE HAS NOT DECIDED WHETHER TO PRESENT THEM PUBLICLY.

10. (C) COMMENT: NOTWITHSTANDING SALAZAR'S OBVIOUS OPPOSITION TIES, THE BRUTAL ASSAULT AGAINST HIM COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MORE ILL TIMED FOR THE GOVERNMENT. COMING JUST A DAY BEFORE THE JNE'S CONTROVERSIAL DECISION NOT TO POSTPONE ELECTIONS, SALAZAR'S ALLEGATIONS THAT JNE OFFICIALS HAD MET WITH THE SIN ADDS CREDENCE, IF ONLY THINLY, TO OPPOSITION CLAIMS OF ELECTORAL FRAUD. OPPOSITION FORCES WILL CONTINUE TO USE HIS CASE AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ABUSE OF AUTHORITY AND POOR HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD. OPPOSITION PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ALEJANDRO TOLEDO LET LITTLE TIME PASS BEFORE HE MADE THE DRAMATIC DETAILS OF SALAZAR'S STORY AS

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WELL AS LA ROSA'S RETURN TO PERU PART OF HIS CAMPAIGN
RHETORIC. ELECTORAL POLITICS ASIDE, THE CASE REPRESENTS A
SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERN. AMBASSADOR SPOKE MAY 30 WITH

[REDACTED]

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WE WILL STAY IN TOUCH WITH THE [REDACTED]
OFFICE TO MONITOR SALAZAR'S CASE, THE GOVERNMENT'S
INVESTIGATION, AND DO OUR BEST TO LEARN WHAT HAPPENED.

HAMILTON

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