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DIST 5 AUGUST 1967

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs
(C)

COUNTRY : PERU

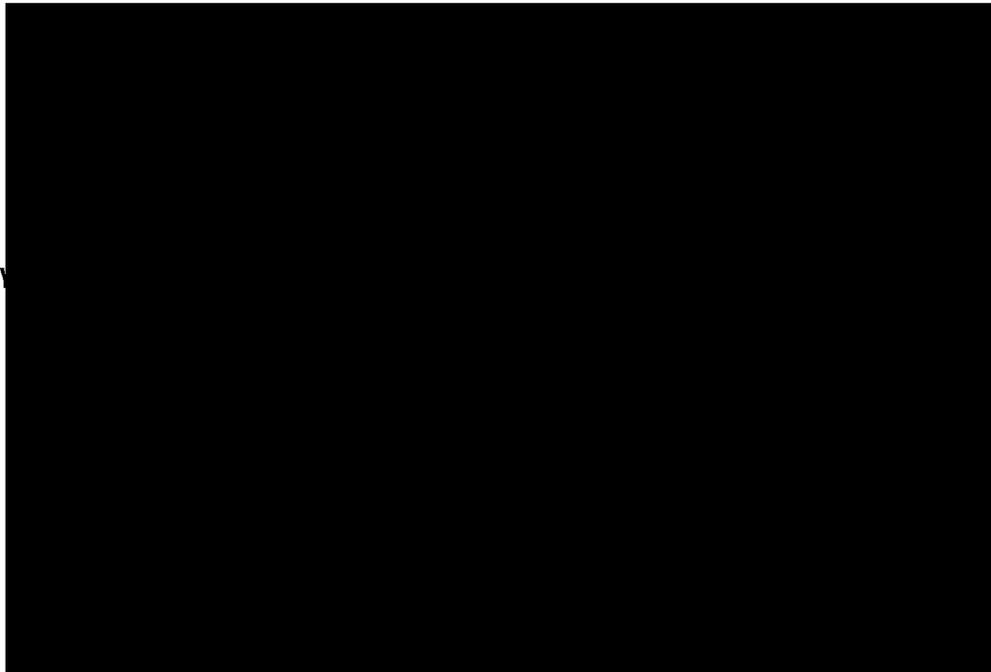
DOI : 2-4 AUGUST 1967

SUBJECT : ATTITUDE OF PRESIDENT BELAUNDE AND THE POPULAR
ACTION-CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY ALLIANCE TOWARD
THE CONGRESSIONAL CRISIS.

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PADA :

SOURCE :



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(C)

1. [REDACTED] COMMENT : THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION APPEARS TO

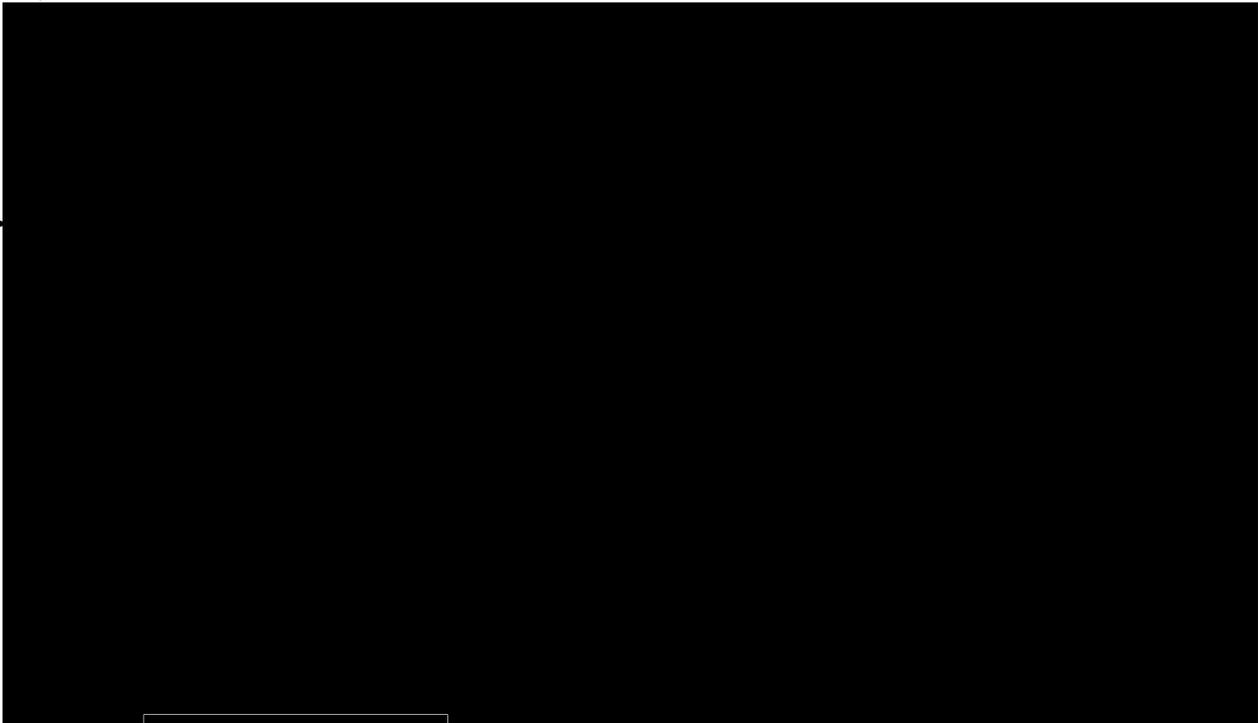
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2. [REDACTED] PRESIDENT BELAUNDE MET WITH A GROUP OF

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SENIOR ARMY GENERALS, ALL OF WHOM AGREED TO SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT IN ANY DECISION HE MAKES, INCLUDING THE CLOSING OF CONGRESS SHOULD IT BE DEEMED NECESSARY. THE GENERALS INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT ANY ACTION TAKEN MUST BE WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF THE CONSTITUTION.

[REDACTED] ADMIRAL LUIS PONCE ARENAS WAS PLANNING TO MEET WITH SENIOR NAVY ADMIRALS TO EXACT FROM THEM SIMILAR GUARANTEES OF SUPPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT. [REDACTED] COMMENT: IT WAS PUBLICLY AN-

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NOUNCED ON 4 AUGUST THAT ADMIRAL PONCE, WHO HAS BEEN BOTH MINISTER OF THE NAVY AND ACTING MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT, HAS BEEN NAMED MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT. ADMIRAL RAUL DELGADO ESPANTOSA HAS BEEN NAMED MINISTER OF THE NAVY.) ADVISORS CLOSE TO PRESIDENT BELAUNDE CLAIM THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL PROBABLY KEEP CONGRESS IN A STATE OF RECESS UNTIL A PRETEXT CAN BE FOUND TO CLOSE CONGRESS PERMANENTLY, AT WHICH POINT THE CIVIL GUARD WOULD BE EMPLOYED FOR THE TASK. NEVERTHELESS AT PRESENT THE PRESIDENT IS CONTINUING TO REMAIN PUBLICLY DISTANT FROM THE CRISIS IN ORDER TO AVOID BECOMING A PRINCIPAL IN THE DISPUTE.

3. ALLIANCE FORCES ARE CONVINCED THAT THEY STILL HAVE ENOUGH SENATORIAL SUPPORT TO PREVENT THE APRA-NATIONAL ODRIISTA UNION (UNO) FROM CONVENING CONGRESS AND INSTALLING THE SENATE. IN ADDITION TO THE 19 ALLIANCE SENATORS, INDEPENDENT SENATORS TEODORO BALAREZO LIZARZABURU, MANUEL BURGA PUELLES, AND OSCAR ARTETA TERZI ARE BELIEVED TO BE FIRMLY IN THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMP. BALAREZO, WHO IS CONSIDERED A POSSIBLE WEAK LINK, MET PRIVATELY WITH PRESIDENT BELAUNDE ON THE EVENING OF 2 AUGUST AND AGREED NOT TO RETURN TO LIMA FROM PIURA UNTIL ASKED TO BY PRESIDENT BELAUNDE. WHEN BALAREZO LEFT ON 3 AUGUST TO FLY TO PIURA, HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A CIVIL

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GUARD ESCORT, AND THE CIVIL GUARD IN PIURA HAS BEEN ISSUED ORDERS TO MAINTAIN GUARD ON BALAREZO AND PREVENT ANY EXCESSIVE COALITION PRESSURES FROM BEING APPLIED TO HIM.

4. ALL MEMBERS OF THE POPULAR ACTION (AP) - CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC (DC) CONGRESSIONAL GROUP ARE IN ACCORD AS TO THE DEISRABILITY OF CLOSING OR SUSPENDING CONGRESS IF NECESSARY. NEVERTHELESS THE PRESIDENT HAS GIVEN HIS APPROVAL FOR THE CONTINUATION OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE COALITION, AND MUCH OF THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR NEGOTIATIONS HAS BEEN GIVEN TO AP SENATOR MIGUEL DAMMERT MUELLE, WHO WILL PROBABLY BE THE ALLIANCE'S CHOICE FOR PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE IF THE DECISION IS TAKEN TO WITHDRAW THE CLAIM OF PRIME MINISTER DANIEL BECERRA DE LA FLOR.

5. A MEETING OF GOVERNMENT AND ALLIANCE LEADERS HAS BEEN CALLED FOR THE EVENING OF 4 AUGUST TO PREPARE A MEMORANDUM FOR PRESIDENT BELAUNDE OUTLINING THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF HAVING CONGRESS CLOSED OR IN RECESS. AMONG THOSE ATTENDING WILL BE PONCE; OSCAR TRELLES; JAVIER ALVA ORLANDINI; FERNANDO SCHWALB LOPEZ ALDANA; CARLOS CABIESE LOPEZ; JOSE MARIA DE LA JARA URTETA; AND JULIO CESAR QUINTANILLA. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE RESULT OF THIS MEETING MAY BE A UNITED EFFORT TO CONVINCING THE PRESIDENT

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OF THE NEED TO CLOSE CONGRESS.)

6.  DISSEM STATE ARMY NAVY AIR AID CINCSO.

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