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DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

SPOT COMMENTARY

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Peru Hostage Crisis:

Negotiations Update

The Fujimori government has issued no statements about negotiations and there is no evidence of activity on the part of the ICRC officer chosen as the mediator [redacted]

Peruvian TV says MRTA rebels have set a Saturday deadline to end talks with the Peruvian government, but did not specify what actions would be taken if the deadline passes. This message was relayed by telephone from an unspecified person outside the Japanese ambassador's residence, according to the press.

- A sign in the window of the residence indicated that more hostages would be released soon, but did not specify when or how many. Another sign offered a Japanese NHK television crew an exclusive interview with the terrorists, but Japan ordered the journalists not to enter the residence, according to press reports.

International Reaction

A Brazilian newscast quoted a source in Cuba who said Havana sent a team of negotiators yesterday to Lima to help find a solution to the crisis [redacted]

- Latin American governments have condemned the takeover, calling on Fujimori not to use force. Ecuador President Bucaram publicly refuted earlier remarks by his Chief of Staff Miguel Salem that Ecuador would offer asylum to MRTA

Rebels [redacted]

Prepared by: [redacted]

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