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TAGS: PIRB, PGOV, PHUM, PINS, PE
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT GARCIA WINS BROAD SUPPORT FOR RAIDS
PRINCIPLE GUARANTEED BY THE CONSTITUTION (ARTICLE 31)
BECAUSE "UNIVERSITIES ARE NOT A STATE WITHIN THE STATE."
EDITORIALS IN "EL COMERCIO" AND "HOY" ON FEBRUARY 15
CHARACTERIZED THE INCURSIONS AS A "DEPLORABLE BUT AWAITED
MEASURE" AND AS "PAINFULLY NECESSARY," RESPECTIVELY.
NEVERTHELESS, BOTH EDITORIALS PLACED MOST OF THE BLAME
FOR THEM NOT ON THE GOP BUT ON THE UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES
FOR PERMITTING THEIR INSTITUTIONS TO BECOME "REFUGE AND
HEADQUARTERS" ("EL COMERCIO") OF TERRORISTS. ON FEBRUARY
16, DAILY "EXPRESO" HAD A SIMILAR EDITORIAL IN WHICH IT
CALLED ON UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TO IMPEDE THE RETURN OF
TERRORISTS TO THE UNIVERSITIES AS WELL AS URGED LEFTIST
LEADERS AND UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES TO CEASE THEIR WITTING
OR UNWITTING COVER-UP OF THESE ACTIVITIES. MARXIST "LA
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VUZ HAS BEEN MOST CRITICAL OF THE RAIDS, CHARACTERIZING
THEM AS "EXAMPLES OF FASCISM" AND ACCUSING THE GOP OF
FABRICATING THE EVIDENCE FOUND AT THE SITES.

5. (U) THE RECTORS AND LEFTIST LEADERS HAVE COME UNDER
JOURNALISTIC CRITICISM BECAUSE OF THEIR IMMEDIATE AND
STRONG CONDEMNATION OF THE RAIDS. UNI RECTOR IGNACIO
LOPEZ SORIA HAS BEEN THE MOST VOCAL CRITIC. HE CALLED THE
RAIDS "EXAMPLES OF FASCISM" AND CHARGED THAT "THERE IS NO
DEMOCRACY IN PERU." SAN MARCOS UNIVERSITY RECTOR JORGE
CAMPOS RAY DE CASTRO TERMED THE RAIDS A "VIOLATION OF
UNIVERSITY AUTONOMY" AND CHARGED THE AUTHORITIES WITH
CAUSING CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE TO PROPERTY DURING THE
INCURSIONS. ALBERIO FUJIMORI, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL
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ASSEMBLY OF RECTORS, ALSO CRITICIZED THE RAIDS, POINTING OUT THAT "UNIVERSITY PREMISES ARE INVOLVED." LEADERS CLAIM MOST OF THE 273 PERSONS BEING DETAINED ARE NOT TERRORISTS BUT LEADERS OR MEMBERS OF PUM OR OTHER IU PARTIES. IU SENATOR ENRIQUE BERNALDEZ (PSR) ALSO QUESTIONED CHARGES LEVELED AGAINST MOST OF THE DETAINEES. SOME, HE SAID, WERE SOUGHT BY THE AUTHORITIES FOR HAVING PARTICIPATED IN STRIKES AND DEMONSTRATIONS OR FOR VAGRANCY AND SEXUAL MOLESTATION. TO JUSTIFY THE OPERATION, THE GOVERNMENT WANTS TO ACCUSE MORE THAN 122 UNIVERSITY STUDENTS OF BEING TERRORISTS," BERNALDEZ CHARGED. IU CONGRESSMAN GUSTAVO ESPINOZA (PCP) HAS IDENTIFIED TWO OF THE DETAINEES -- HECTOR ZEGARRA MORI AND JAVIER DURAND TACHUKI -- AS HAVING BEEN HELD IN LURICANCHO PRISON ACCUSED OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES AT THE TIME OF THE JUNE 1985 PRISON RIOTS. THE TWO WERE LIVING AT THE UNIVERSITY HOME BECAUSE THEY LACKED THE MEANS TO LIVE ELSEWHERE, ESPINOZA CLAIMED.

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5. (U) THE RAIDS HAVE CAUSED SOME SMALL DISTURBANCES NEAR THE THREE UNIVERSITIES AND IN DOWNTOWN LIMA. DEMONSTRATIONS ON FEBRUARY 13 AND 15 WERE DISPERSED BY POLICE USING MINIMUM FORCE AND RESULTED IN APPROXIMATELY 52 ARRESTS, ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS. LIMA WAS QUIET ON FEBRUARY 14 AND 15. STUDENT LEADERS SUSPENDED CLASSES INDEFINITELY AT THE AFFECTED UNIVERSITIES. THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF RECTORS IS EXPECTED TO MEET BY MID-WEEK TO DISCUSS THE RAIDS AND WHAT PROTEST ACTIONS TO UNDERTAKE IN THEIR WAKE.

7. (C) COMMENT: WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE UNIVERSITY RECTORS, IU LEADERS AND PUM-LED GROUPS OF PROTESTING STUDENTS, IT APPEARS THAT A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF PERUVIANS BELIEVE THAT PRESIDENT GARCIA WAS JUSTIFIED IN ORDERING THE FEBRUARY 13 RAIDS AND THAT THEY WERE CARRIED OUT WITHIN ESTABLISHED LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL PARAMETERS. SHOWING PUBLIC FRUSTRATION OVER TERRORISM, AS WELL AS THE ADEPT HANDLING OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS ASPECT OF THIS OPERATION BY PRESIDENT GARCIA AND OTHERS, MAY HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO APPARENT PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE RAIDS. PUBLIC APPEARANCES BY THE PRESIDENT, MINISTER SALINAS, AND APRA SECRETARY GENERAL LUIS NEGRETICS TO EXPLAIN THE RAIDS, THE LEGAL BASES FOR THEM, AND TO KEEP THE COUNTRY INFORMED OF THE FATE OF THE DETAINEES UNDOUBTEDLY CONTRIBUTED TO A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE ISSUE AS WELL AS TO A PERCEPTION THAT THE GOP ACTED DEMOCRATICALLY AND DECISIVELY AGAINST TERRORISM. THE DEATH OF THE MEXICAN TEACHER REMAINS TO BE FULLY EXPLAINED AS TO CHARGES OF ABUSE PERPETRATED AGAINST SOME OF THE DETAINEES AT THE TIME OF

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ARREST. WE SUSPECT THAT THE [REDACTED] WILL ATTEMPT TO [REDACTED]
THESE ISSUES TO CAUSE HEADACHES [REDACTED] IN THE [REDACTED]
FUTURE AS RETRIBUTION FOR THESE RAIDS. WATSON
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