

"THE SITUATION IN PERU"

REMARKS OF AMBASSADOR LUIGI R. EINAUDI
U.S. PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
SPECIAL SESSION OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
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As reported by our distinguished Secretary General, President Fujimori of Peru announced yesterday that he was suspending the constitution, dissolving Congress and disbanding the judiciary. He said his cabinet would draft new laws and hold a plebiscite on a new constitution at an unannounced future date.

-- The United States embassy confirms that legislative leaders, former government ministers and former president Alan Garcia are under house arrest. Troops are in the streets. Some newspapers were taken over and did not publish this morning; some radio stations were closed down after broadcasting comments critical of last night's actions. Armed forces are present at all media services. We have reports that independent journalists have been arrested, among them, for example, Gustavo Gorriti, a man of unquestioned balance and integrity.

This morning, the White House press secretary issued a statement that "the President was very disappointed to learn of the action taken by President Fujimori in suspending the Peruvian Constitution and dissolving the Congress and the judiciary. This is a regrettable step backward for the cause of democracy in the hemisphere."

The Department of State declared that the "United States regards the actions undertaken during the night of April 6 in Peru . . . as unjustified. While we recognize," the statement continued, "that President Fujimori inherited severe problems, we believe these problems do not justify, nor can they be resolved through, unconstitutional means.

"The United States calls for the full restoration of constitutional democracy, which must include:

- Freedom for those detained and full respect for human rights;
- Restoration of a free and independent press and civil liberties; and
- Restoration of independent legislative and judicial branches of government."

I repeat, it is the position of the United States that "any needed reform in Peru's democratic institutions must be pursued within a legal constitutional framework."

In light of the events of last night, we are reviewing our assistance programs for Peru. These programs include:

- For fiscal year 1991, \$237 million in U.S. aid was approved for Peru, of which \$193 million is economic aid, \$24.5 million is anti-narcotics-related military aid, and \$19 million for other anti-narcotics programs.
- Approximately \$30 million in economic aid and \$15 million in military aid remains to be disbursed.
- The administration has requested of Congress \$275 million in aid for Peru for fiscal year 1992.

I am now in a position to announce that, in light of the present situation in Peru, the United States is immediately suspending new assistance to the Government of Peru. This action will not affect humanitarian aid distributed through non governmental and private voluntary organizations -- such as directed feeding and health programs for the poorest.

Our plans for future assistance will be determined as we review our policy in conjunction with developments in Peru. As of now, however, there will be no further disbursements of economic support funds and military assistance.

Representatives may have heard that Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Bernard Aronson arrived in Peru last night. His visit had not been announced for security reasons, but he was leading an inter-agency team on a long-planned visit to discuss the key ongoing issues in our bilateral relations, foremost among them counternarcotics and alternative development, human rights and the threat posed by Sendero Luminoso.

- Mr. Aronson was scheduled to see President Fujimori this afternoon. He decided not to call on the president.
- He plans to return to Washington shortly. I cannot comment on his schedule at this time.
- But I would like to make clear for the record that neither Mr. Aronson nor anyone else in the U.S. Government had any foreknowledge of President Fujimori's actions.

In light of all of these considerations, my government is pleased to join the consensus view expressed here that this Council should ask the Secretary General to convene an ad hoc Meeting of Foreign Ministers in accordance with the terms of Resolution 1080.