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SUBJECT: EYEWITNESS REPORTS FROM THE - KILLINGS SITE

REF: (A) LIMA 3492
     (B) LIMA 3532
     (C) LIMA 3587

1.  - ENTIRE TEXT

2.  SUMMARY: A JOURNALIST RECENTLY RETURNED FROM THE SCENE OF THE HUANUCO JUNGLE MASSACRE IN THE

UNCLASSIFIED
HUALLAGA VALLEY GAVE A MOVING ACCOUNT OF THE DEATH AND DESTRUCTION CAUSED BY A MAJOR ARMY OPERATION AGAINST SENDERO LUMINOSO'S STRONGEST MILITARY COLUMNS. THE JOURNALIST AND SEVERAL OTHER COLLEAGUES, THE ONLY OUTSIDE GROUP TO HAVE PENETRATED INTO THE CONTESTED AREAS TO DATE, WERE CAREFUL TO STATE THAT THEY ONLY SAW SEVEN BODIES AND TWO GRAVES. WHILE THE CASUALTY TOLL MAY BE SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER, THEY ARE CONCERNED THAT UNPROVEN REPORTS OF "HUNDREDS OF DEAD" MAY DAMAGE THE CREDIBILITY OF CHARGES AGAINST THE ARMY AND MINIMIZE THE IMPACT OF THE INCIDENT. STILL, THE JOURNALIST COLLECTED AUDIO AND VIDEO EVIDENCE FROM AN ARMY OFFICER OF INDIFFERENT MILITARY ACTION THAT KILLED WOMEN, CHILDREN AND AGED PERSONS, AS TROOPS BURNED VILLAGES AND USED HELICOPTERS WITH ROCKETS AND MACHINE GUNS IN WHAT MAY BE AN ONGOING ARMY OPERATION.

END SUMMARY.

HUANUCO HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE (A MEMBER ORGANIZATION OF THE COORDINADORA).

4. IN TINGO MARIA, THE DELEGATION MET WITH THREE REFUGEES FROM THE AUCAYACU AREA WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE SURVIVED AN ARMY OFFENSIVE IN THE AREA. THEY SAID THE MILITARY USED HELICOPTERS TO FIRE ROCKETS AND STRAFE THE POPULATION OF THE HAMLETS

5. THE COORDINADORA DELEGATION RETURNED TO LIMA APRIL 18, BUT THE FIVE JOURNALISTS DECIDED TO INVESTIGATE FURTHER AFTER THE STORY OF THE MASSACRE WAS FURTHER BACKED BY INFORMATION THAT JOURNALISTS FROM TINGO MARIA HAD COLLECTED, BUT HAD NOT REPORTED DUE TO SECURITY CONCERNS.

6. THE JOURNALISTS TRAVELED OVERLAND TO ANDA, A HAMLET NEAR AUCAYACU ON APRIL 17 (SOME 50 KM

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DESPERATE FLIGHT FROM THE ARMY ALONG THE HUALLAGA

7. ACCORDING TO THESE Alleged EYEWITNESSES, ARMY HELICOPTERS ENTERED INTO THE AREA AND OPENED FIRE WITH ROCKETS AND MACHINE GUNS ON "ANYONE THEY SAW." THE FARMERS AND THEIR WORKERS, RAN FOR THE RIVER IN A DESPERATE SCRAMBLE TO RETURN TO THEIR HAMLET. GROUPS OF PEOPLE BEGAN TO CONGREGATE ON SEVERAL RIVER BANKS ALONG THE HUALLAGA AT POINTS WHERE THEY COULD TRY TO SWIM ACROSS. THE ARMY HELICOPTERS SWEEPED UP THE RIVER AND ATTACKED THE

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ABOUT TEN OF THEM WERE EVENTUALLY CAUGHT AND KILLED, INCLUDING [REDACTED] LATER CONVINCED THE SEVERELY FRIGHTENED FARMHAND TO TAKE HER ACROSS THE RIVER AT NIGHT TO FIND HER HUSBAND’S BODY AND BRING IT BACK FOR BURIAL.

GOING BACK FOR THE DEAD: SORROW AND FEAR

8. IMPRESSED BY THE STORY, THE JOURNALIST ASKED IF SOMEONE COULD TAKE THEM ACROSS THE RIVER TO CONFIRM THE EVENTS FIRST HAND, BUT FOUND THAT NOT ONE OF THE FAMILY MEMBERS WOULD TAKE THEM FOR FEAR OF RUNNING INTO THE ARMY. THEY WERE ABLE TO FIND THE FARMHAND AND, AFTER MUCH CAJOLING AND PAYMENT OF USD 10.00, CONVINCED HIM TO TAKE THEM ACROSS THE RIVER. TO THEIR SURPRISE, SOME TEN FAMILY MEMBERS DECIDED TO JOIN THEM ONCE THEY SAW THAT THE JOURNALISTS WERE GOING ACROSS THE RIVER.


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VILLAGERS RACED PAST THE JOURNALISTS, YELLING AND WAVING THEIR ARMS IN AN EFFORT TO DRIVE THE BUZZARDS OFF WHAT THE JOURNALISTS SUDDENLY REALIZED WERE SEVEN MOUNDS OF ROTTING, HALF-EATEN CORPSES.

10. THE VILLAGERS, CRYING AND WAILING, RAN FROM ONE CORPSE TO THE NEXT, TRYING TO IDENTIFY THE BODIES. [______] HAD ACCOMPANIED THE GROUP TO FIND [______] HIS 17-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER. HE KNEEL NEXT THE BODY OF A WOMAN, FACE UP AND SPREAD EAGLE, HER DRESS MATTED UP AROUND HER WAIST AND NAKED FROM HER HIPS DOWN. THE FACE HAD BEEN EATEN AWAY, BUT NEXT TO THE BODY WAS A BAG WITH SOME CLOTHING. INSIDE THE BAG, HE PULLED OUT A T-SHIRT WITH A MICKEY MOUSE LOGO, WHICH HE HAD GIVEN [______] AS A PRESENT. ANOTHER FATHER WAS REDUCED TO PRYING OPEN THE MOUTHS OF THE BODIES, HOPING TO RECOGNIZE HIS CHILD'S DENTAL WORK. DESPITE THE UNBEARABLE STENCH, [______] PUT HIS DAUGHTER'S BODY INTO A LARGE PLASTIC BAG.

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ACTION ARA-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 ACDE-00 AID-01 AMAD-01 A-01 CA-02
CCO-00 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 CTME-00 C-01 OASY-00
DOE-00 DOTE-00 DS-00 EB-01 EUR-01 OIGO-01 FAAE-00
FBI-00 HA-09 H-01 IMMC-01 INM-02 TEDE-00 INR-00
INSE-00 IO-16 L-01 ADS-00 M-00 NRCE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 OIC-02 OIS-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-00 PRS-01
P-01 RP-10 SCT-03 SNP-00 SP-00 SR-00 SS-00
STR-01 TRSE-00 T-00 USIE-00 USSS-00 ASDS-01 RPE-01
PMB-00 /080W

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6465
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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11. IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS TRAGIC SCENE, THE
    GROUP WAS STARTLED TO HEAR THE SOUND OF A LIGHT
    PLANE FLYING PAST THE AREA. PANICKED THAT THE
    ARMY MIGHT BE RETURNING, THE VILLAGERS STARTED A
    MAD DASH TO THE RIVER, THE JOURNALISTS BARELY
    ABLE TO KEEP UP WITH THEM. THE PATH, A MUCH
    ROUGHER MUD-CLOGGED BARELY-DISCERNABLE TRAIL,
    TOOK THEM BACK TO THE BEACH IN ABOUT 15 MINUTES.

ONE OF THE JOURNALISTS WITNESSED ____________________________

REFUSAL TO LEAVE HIS DAUGHTER'S BODY BEHIND,
DESPITE HIS TERROR THAT THE ARMY HAD RETURNED.
STRUGGLING THROUGH THE KNEE-HIGH MUD AND
STUMBLING OVER THE BROKEN TERRAIN, HE RAN WITH
THE BODY OVER HIS SHOULDER ALL THE WAY TO THE
BEACH.

12. DESPITE HIS GRIEF, __________________________ IS UNWILLING
    TO COME FORWARD. HE TOLD ONE REPORTER THAT HE
    WAS ESPECIALLY AFRAID BECAUSE HE HAD ONCE BEEN
    FORCED BY SENDERO LUMINOSEO TO BE THE SENDERO
    LOCAL DELEGATE. HE FEARS THAT THE ARMY MAY KNOW
    THIS AND COME AFTER HIM AND THE REST OF HIS
    FAMILY.

13. AT THE SITE, THE JOURNALISTS FOUND WHAT THEY
    SAID WERE CANS OF TUNA FISH SIMILAR TO THE KIND
    EATEN BY THE ARMY AS FOOD RATIONS. THEY ALSO
    FOUND FLYERS FROM THE ARMY CALLING ON TERRORISTS
    TO JOIN THE REPENTED TERRORIST PROGRAM.
14. THE JOURNALISTS RETURNED TO TINGO MARIA AND WENT TO THE LOS LAURELES ARMY BASE. AN UNWITTING ARMY NCO, APPARENTLY IMPRESSED BY SOME OF THE JOURNALISTS' CREDENTIALS, ALLOWED THE GROUP INTO THE ARMY COMPOUND AND EVEN INTRODUCED THEM TO LT. COL. JAVIER RIVAS RAMIREZ, WHO TOOK THEM INTO HIS OFFICE. THE GROUP ASKED COL. RIVAS ABOUT THE CAYUMBA INCIDENT. HE CLAIMED THAT SENDERO HAD EXECUTED THE VILLAGERS AT CAYUMBA FOR HAVING HELPED THE ARMY. HE THEN MENTIONED THAT THIS WAS QUITE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT WAS HAPPENING ACROSS THE RIVER FROM TINGO MARIA, WHICH HE CLAIMED WAS OUT OF HIS JURISDICTION. UNBEKNOWNST TO HIM, ONE OF THE CAMERA CREWS FILMED ON AS HE EXPLAINED THE CURRENT OPERATION AGAINST SENDERO IN THAT PART OF THE HUALLAGA.

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ROLLING FRONT HAD REACHED THE HAMLETS OF MOLLUMA, MOENA AND CARMEN ALTO BY APRIL 8, WITH VIRTUALLY EVERY HAMLET ALONG THE RIVER BEING "SEARCHED" BY THE ARMY. THE OPERATION WAS ONGOING WHEN THE JOURNALIST LEFT THE AREA ON APRIL 18.

17. THE OPERATION MAY HAVE BEEN SPARKED BY COMRADE MANCO'S HUNTING DOWN OF REPENTED FORMER SENDERISTAS. RIVAS CLAIMED THAT 15 "ARREPENTIDOS" HAD BEEN KILLED IN HUAMALIES AND 15 IN MANCHURIA IN THE MONZON VALLEY.

18. LT. COL. RIVAS WAS REPORTEDLY RECORDED AS

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INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 ACDE-00 AID-01 AMAD-01 A-01 CA-02
CCO-00 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 CTME-00 C-01 OASY-00
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INSE-00 IO-16 L-01 ADS-00 M-00 NRCE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 OIC-02 OIS-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-00 PRS-01 PRS-01
P-01 RP-10 SCT-03 SNP-00 SP-00 SR-00 SS-00
STR-01 TRSE-00 T-00 USIE-00 USSS-00 ASDS-01 RPÈ-01
PMB-00 /080W

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O 201936Z APR 94
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6466
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
USMISSION GENEVA
DIA WASHDC
USCINCST QUARRY HEIGHTS PM

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HE ADMITTED THAT THE ARMY USED HELICOPTER-FIRED
ROCKETS AGAINST VILLAGE STRUCTURES WHICH ARMY
INTELLIGENCE HAD PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED CONCEALED
SL ARMS CACHES AND HOUSED SL SYMPATHIZERS. HE
THEN ADDED THAT THE ENTIRE ZONE CONSISTED OF A
SENDERO "OPEN POPULAR COMMITTEE," THAT THE
MASSES SUPPORTED SENDERO AND THAT THEY WERE, IN
THEIR MAJORITY, ARMED CIVILIANS (I.E. LEGITIMATE
TARGETS). ASKED HOW THE ARMY DIFFERENTIATED THE
SMALL CHILDREN FROM THEIR LEGITIMATE TARGETS,
RIVAS REPORTEDLY REPLIED THAT THEY WERE ALL
SENDERO.

ANGER WITH THE COORDINADORA

19. OUR SOURCE WAS ANGRY AT THE HUMAN RIGHTS
COORDINADORA FOR HAVING "RUINED THE STORY." THE
JOURNALIST ACCUSED HUANUCO HUMAN RIGHTS WORKER

OF HAVING USED A SHORT CONVERSATION
WITH THE ONE OF THE JOURNALISTS AS THE BASIS FOR
A PARTIAL AND INCOMPLETE REPORT TO HUMAN RIGHTS
GROUPS IN LIMA. THE INFORMATION WAS LEAKED TO
THE CENTER LEFT DAILY "LA REPUBLICA," WHICH
INCORRECTLY REPORTED THE EVENTS AND EXAGGERATED
THE DEATH TOLL (REF C). OUR SOURCE WAS EMPHATIC
THAT THE GROUP COULD ONLY ACCOUNT FOR SEVEN
BODIES, TWO GRAVES AND FOUR CREDIBLE REPORTS OF
DISAPPEARANCE IN CONNECTION WITH THE ARMY
OPERATION. GIVEN THE SIZE AND LENGTH OF THE

UNCLASSIFIED
ANGRY THAT THE IMPACT OF THE REPORT HAD BEEN LOST -- A CORRECTION THAT JOURNALISTS COULD ONLY ACCOUNT FOR 13 CASUALTIES VICE THE HUNDREDS ORIGINALLY REPORTED MIGHT WELL LET THE ARMY OFF THE HOOK IN THE PUBLIC'S MIND.

20. THE JOURNALIST WAS ALSO INCENSED THAT THE COORDINADORA HAD SENT ATTORNEY GENERAL BLANCA NELIDA COLAN A LETTER ON APRIL 18 DEMANDING THAT SHE INVESTIGATE THE CASE. THE JOURNALISTS WERE STILL IN THE AREA AT THE TIME AND THE ARMY COULD HAVE TRIED TO STOP THEM FROM COMING BACK TO LIMA OR PERHAPS CONFISCATE THEIR AUDIO AND VIDEO TAPES.

21. COMMENT: JOURNALISTS HAVE PROMISED TO GIVE US FULL ACCESS TO VIDEO AND AUDIO TAPES TAKEN AT THE SITE OF THE MASSACRE. WE WILL ALSO MEET IN LIMA ON APRIL 20 WITH A PRIEST FROM THE AREA FOR TO OBTAIN HIS VIEWS ON WHAT HAPPENED AND CURRENT CONDITIONS IN THE AREA. THE COMBINATION OF ACCUSATIONS BY FAMILY MEMBERS AND INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM WILL INCREASE CALLS FOR A GOP INVESTIGATION.

BRAYSHAW