

IMMEDIATE

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INCOMING 15

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
ARA/NEA REARCS

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INFO: PE (02) DAND (01) SPA (01) PNC (01) RJ (01) RSG (01) ARA (01)  
PPC (01) OAS (01) PPA (01) CO (02) VE (02) BL (02) EG (02)  
----- 05/0005Z A1 LM (TOTAL COPIES: 019)

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LESS-THAN THOROUGH INVESTIGATION PETERS OUT. THE PROSECUTOR ASSIGNED TO THE CASE, WITH NO ONE TO CHARGE, WILL THEN EITHER CLOSE THE CASE OR RETURN THE FILE TO THE POLICE FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS. LIVIA THOUGHT THAT ANY REAL INVESTIGATION WOULD "LOGICALLY" LEAD TO THE MILITARY OR POLICE SECURITY UNITS. HOWEVER, THE "NECESSARY POLITICAL WILL," HE SHRUGGED, DID NOT EXIST FOR AN IN-DEPTH INVESTIGATION OF THE SECURITY FORCES.

ACTION SCT-03  
INFO LOG-00 ACDA-13 AID-00 ARA-00 A-00 CA-02 CCO-00  
CG-00 CIAE-00 SJK-01 COME-00 CTME-00 DODE-00 DOEE-00  
DS-00 EB-00 FFAE-00 FBIE-00 HA-09 IMMC-01 INRE-00  
INR-01 INSE-00 JUSE-00 L-00 ADS-00 M-01 NRCE-00  
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIS-01 PA-01 PM-00 P-01 SSO-00  
SS-00 TRSE-00 USIE-00 USSS-00 /043W  
----- 038000 042358Z /63 66

RELEASED IN PART

CHANGING PROSECUTORS IN MID-STREAM 1, 1.5(D)

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0 042201Z DEC 91  
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3800  
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
USAFSO HOWARD AFB PM  
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM

SECRET LIMA 16981

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD  
HA FOR MIKE JACOBSON

E.O. 12356: DECI: OADR  
TAGS: PTER, PHUM, PE  
SUBJECT: BARRIOS ALTOS MASSACRE:  
ONE MONTH LATER

REFS: A) LIMA 15498 B) LIMA 15735

1. (C) SUMMARY: THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE NOVEMBER 3 BARRIOS ALTOS MASSACRE APPEARS TO BE WINDING DOWN TO AN INCONCLUSIVE END. THE GOP HAS SHOWN LITTLE "POLITICAL WILL" TO FIND THE CULPRITS, WHOM MOST OBSERVERS NOW BELIEVE WERE ROGUE ELEMENTS IN THE SECURITY FORCES. LEADING CREDENCE TO THIS, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE TOOK THE CASE AWAY FROM A PROSECUTOR SPECIALIZING IN TERRORISM AND ASSIGNED IT TO A COMMON CRIMES PROSECUTOR. FURTHER, IT NOW SEEMS CLEAR THAT THE PERPETRATORS DID USE SILENCERS, CONTRARY TO PREVIOUS REPORTS. THE CONFUSION OVER THE USE OF SILENCERS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO OBFUSCATE THE FACTS AND DIVERT SUSPICION FROM SECURITY FORCES, WHO ARE KNOWN TO USE SILENCERS. END SUMMARY.

2. (C) A MONTH AFTER THE NOVEMBER 3 BARRIOS ALTOS MASSACRE, THE GOP HAS MADE LITTLE PROGRESS IN GETTING TO THE BOTTOM OF THE KILLINGS. ONE LEADING DAILY BASICALLY SUMMED THINGS UP: "INVESTIGATION OF THE KILLINGS AT BARRIOS ALTOS PARTY CONTINUES AT NAUGHT." THE FOLLOWING IS AN UPDATE ON THE CURRENT STATE OF PLAY.

INVESTIGATION COMING TO A STANDSTILL

3. (C) THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE NOVEMBER 3

BARRIOS ALTOS MASSACRE (REF A) IS COMING TO AN INCONCLUSIVE DEAD-END, ACCORDING TO DR. PEDRO LIVIA, A PROSECUTING ATTORNEY RECENTLY REMOVED FROM THE CASE. THE POLICE WILL LIKELY DECLARE THE CRIME'S AUTHORS TO BE "UNKNOWN" AS A

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4. (C) LIVIA IS ONE OF TWO LIMA PROVINCE PROSECUTORS ASSIGNED TO HANDLE TERRORISM CASES. FROM THE OUTSET BOTH LIVIA AND DR. VICTOR CUBAS VILLANUEVA, A COMMON CRIMES PROSECUTOR, HAD BEEN FOLLOWING THE CASE. ACCORDING TO LIVIA, ONE OF PERU'S BEST TERRORISM PROSECUTORS, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE TOOK HIM OFF THE CASE AROUND NOVEMBER 25 AND ASSIGNED EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION OVER IT TO CUBAS. DR. RAMIRO ARRATRAN, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, EXPLAINED DISINGENUOUSLY THAT NO ONE COULD YET PRESUME THAT TERRORISTS HAD

CARRIED OUT THE MASSACRE; THEREFORE THE CASE PROPERLY BELONGED WITH A COMMON CRIMES PROSECUTOR. ARRATRAN DID NOT EXPLAIN WHY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TOOK SOME 20 DAYS TO FINALLY DECIDE WHICH PROSECUTOR WOULD INVESTIGATE THE CASE.

SILENCERS WERE USED IN MASSACRE

5. (C) IN AN APPARENTLY DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO OBFUSCATE THE SITUATION, AT LEAST ONE POLICE REPORT WIDELY QUOTED BY THE MEDIA DENIED THAT THE ASSAILANTS HAD USED SILENCERS. SUBSEQUENT INFORMATION FROM A VARIETY OF CONTACTS CONFIRMED THAT SILENCERS AVAILABLE TO THE POLICE OR MILITARY, WERE USED. A POLICE CONTACT WITH EXTENSIVE COUNTER-TERRORISM FIELD EXPERIENCE SURVEYED THE SCENE WITH POLOFFS AND CONCLUDED THAT THE MASSACRE HAD TO HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT BY ELEMENTS WITHIN THE POLICE. HE CLAIMED NO INSIDE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE INCIDENT. HOWEVER, HE ARGUED THAT THE IMMEDIATE PROXIMITY OF FOUR POLICE FACILITIES MADE IT HIGHLY IMPROBABLE THAT ANY OTHER SECURITY FORCES DID IT.

SENATE MAY NAME COMMISSION INTO THE KILLINGS

6. (SECRET/NOFORN) SEVERAL CONGRESSIONAL INTERPOLATIONS OF THE MINISTERS OF INTERIOR AND

DEFENSE BASICALLY CAME UP WITH NOTHING AS THE GOVERNMENT WITNESSES FUMBLLED WITH UNCONVINCING ANSWERS. THE SENATE IS REPORTEDLY CONSIDERING CREATING AN INVESTIGATING COMMISSION INTO THE MASSACRE. INFORMED SPECULATION SUGGESTS LEFTIST SENATOR JAVIER DIEZ CANSECO WILL EITHER HEAD THE COMMISSION OR BE A MEMBER. DIEZ CANSECO PREVIOUSLY LEAKED GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS TO THE PRESS INDICATING THE THE SECURITY FORCES HAD HAD THE SITE OF THE MASSACRE UNDER SURVEILLANCE SEVERAL MONTHS BEFORE THE KILLINGS.

DEPT OF STATE APPEALS REVIEW PANEL (ARP)

FOIA/PA  
( ) Release  
( ) Excise  
( ) Deny  
( ) Exemptions  
Mandatory Review  
( ) Declassify  
( ) Declassify in Part  
( ) Class. Ret/Renew

Date: 02/30/02  
ARP Action Cert. [Signature]

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THERE IS SOME QUESTION AS TO WHETHER  
THE SECURITY FORCES WERE ACTUALLY ENGAGED IN  
SURVEILLANCE.)

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NO HUMAN RIGHTS COMPLAINTS FROM THE KILLINGS

7. (C) A STAFFER FOR THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS  
COORDINATOR SAID IT HAD NOT BEEN ASKED TO TAKE A  
FORMAL ROLE IN THIS CASE. THE STAFFER OFFERED  
THAT THIS COULD INDICATE THAT THE VICTIMS WERE  
IN FACT MEMBERS OF SENDERO LUMINOSO (SL).  
FAMILY OF SL MEMBERS, SAID THE STAFFER, WERE  
LESS LIKELY THAN OTHERS TO DENOUNCE THE DEATHS  
OF FALLEN SL MEMBERS TO HUMAN RIGHTS  
ORGANIZATIONS.

8. (C) COMMENT: THERE IS NO HIGH LEVEL  
POLITICAL PRESSURE TO ROOT OUT THE CULPRITS IN

THIS CASE. PRESIDENT FUJIMORI HAS NOT MADE A  
PUBLIC ISSUE OF IT, NOR HAS THE CONGRESS SO FAR  
INSISTED ON RESULTS. THE POLICE HAVE OBFUSCATED  
KEY ASPECTS OF THE CRIME AND THE ATTORNEY  
GENERAL'S OFFICE APPARENTLY NOW HAS DECIDED TO  
PUT IT ON THE BACK BURNER. IN-HOUSE MILITARY  
INVESTIGATIONS ARE ONGOING, BUT THERE IS NO  
GUARANTEE THAT THE CULPRITS, EVEN IF DISCOVERED,  
WOULD BE PUBLICLY PUNISHED. UNLESS THE  
PRESIDENT AND HIS SECURITY CHIEFS DECIDE TO GET  
TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS CASE, IT IS LIKELY TO FADE  
AWAY AS ANOTHER UNRESOLVED ABUSE. END COMMENT.  
QUAINTON

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