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ACTION ARA-01

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DS-01 HA-09 H-01
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P 252133Z OCT 90
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2528

INFO RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPC/CDR *MJA* Date. *4/21/95*

AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
USAFSD HOWARD AFB PM
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM
USMISSION GENEVA 1513

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LIMA 16362

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PHUM, PINS, PTER, PE
SUBJECT: EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS IN AYACUCHO;
PERUVIAN MILITARY AND SENDERO ARE BLAMED
IN SEPARATE CASES

1. (C) SUMMARY: TWO RECENT ATROCITIES - ONE COMMITTED
BY SENDERO LUMINOSO, ONE BY THE ARMY - GRAPHICALLY
ILLUSTRATE THE "NO HOLDS BARRED" MANNER IN WHICH THE
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BATTLE FOR CONTROL OF PERU'S AYACUCHO DEPARTMENT IS
WAGED. THE FUJIMORI GOVERNMENT IS THUS PRESENTED WITH
THE FIRST TEST CASE OF ITS COMMITMENT, AND ABILITY, TO
PROSECUTE MILITARY PERSONNEL RESPONSIBLE FOR GROSS HUMAN
RIGHTS ABUSES. THE SENDERISTAS IMPLICATED IN THE OTHER
ATTACK, HOWEVER, REMAIN AT LARGE. END SUMMARY.

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SENDERO EXECUTES 16

2. (U) A SENDERO COLUMN SUMMARILY EXECUTED 16 TRAVELERS AT A RURAL ROADBLOCK IN AYACUCHO DEPARTMENT ON OCTOBER 15. THE HEAVILY-ARMED COLUMN INTERCEPTED INTER-PROVINCIAL TRAFFIC ON THE ROAD NEAR SAN FRANCISCO (ON THE BORDER OF LA MAR AND HUANTA PROVINCES) AND DETAINED DOZENS OF TRAVELERS. AT LEAST 18 PERSONS, MOSTLY YOUTHS, WERE SINGLED OUT AND ACCUSED OF PARTICIPATING IN THE LOCAL CIVILIAN SELF-DEFENSE FORCES ("RONDAS CAMPESINAS"). AFTER A QUICK "POPULAR TRIAL," THE ACCUSED WERE LINED UP ALONG THE ROAD AND SHOT, ONE BY ONE. TWO YOUTHS SURVIVED THEIR WOUNDS. MARTINA MIGUEL ROJAS AND MAXIMILIANA CHOQUE MANAGED TO HIDE OUT AND WALK FOR SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE REACHING HELP. THEY ARE BOTH NOW RECEIVING TREATMENT AT A HOSPITAL IN AYACUCHO'S CAPITAL CITY, HUAMANGA.

ARMY COMMANDER "CENTURION" KILLS 17

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3. (U) A SERIES OF MASS GRAVES, CONTAINING SEVENTEEN BODIES, WAS RECENTLY DISCOVERED IN AYACUCHO'S HUANTA PROVINCE. THE THREE GRAVES WERE FORMALLY DISINTERRED FROM A RAVINE IN CHILCAHUAYCCO, IN HUANTA'S SAN PEDRO CACHI DISTRICT, ON OCTOBER 18. THEY HAD FIRST BEEN DISCOVERED BY LOCAL PEASANTS SOME TWO WEEKS EARLIER. THE FORMAL EXHUMATIONS TOOK PLACE IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE NEW REGIONAL GOVERNMENT (LIBERTADORES-WARI), FORENSIC MEDICINE SPECIALISTS, PLUS THE LOCAL JUDGE, DISTRICT ATTORNEY ("FISCAL"), AND TECHNICAL POLICE CHIEF, AS WELL MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND ANXIOUS FAMILY MEMBERS OF RECENTLY DETAINED LOCALS. THE INDIVIDUALS EXHUMED (TEN WOMEN, SEVEN MEN) ALL APPEARED TO HAVE DIED FROM FAL (7.62MM) OR PISTOL (9MM) SHOTS TO THE HEAD. THE BODIES HAD BEEN PARTIALLY BURNED BEFORE BEING DUMPED IN THE SHALLOW GRAVES. NOT ALL OF THE BODIES RECOVERED WERE COMPLETE; SEVERAL HANDS AND FEET WERE RECOVERED FROM THE SURROUNDING AREA.

4. (C) ACCORDING TO FORMAL LEGAL COMPLAINTS

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("DENUNCIAS") PREVIOUSLY FILED WITH THE FISCAL'S OFFICE IN AYACUCHO; AT LEAST THIRTY-SEVEN PERSONS, INCLUDING THE THREE EXHUMED BODIES THUS FAR POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED FROM CHILCAHUAYCCO, WERE DETAINED BY MILITARY AND "RONDEROS" IN THREE VILLAGES SEPTEMBER 21 AND 22, FOLLOWING A SEPTEMBER 21 SENDERO ATTACK AGAINST RONDEROS NEARBY. THE MILITARY PATROL IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN FROM THE CASTROPAMPA BARRACKS, OPERATING UNDER THE CONTROL OF A LOCAL MILITARY OFFICIAL WHO GOES BY THE NOM DE GUERRE "CENTURION." (NOTE: EMBASSY HAS HEARD SEVERAL PREVIOUS REPORTS OF AN ARMY OFFICIAL NAMED "CENTURION" OPERATING WITH IMPUNITY

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IN HUANTA, WHERE HE IS SAID TO BE IN CHARGE OF DEVELOPING THE RONDAS. VARIOUS CONTACTS - RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY, WE DO NOT KNOW - HAVE REFERRED TO "CENTURION" AS THE RIGHT-HAND MAN OF AYACUCHO'S POLITICAL-MILITARY COMMANDER, GENERAL PETRONIO FERNANDEZ-DAVILA. END NOTE..)

5. (U) SEVERAL MEMBERS OF A WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

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USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM
USMISSION GENEVA 1514

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LIMA 16362

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PHUM, PINS, PTER, PE
SUBJECT: EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS IN AYACUCHO;

(WCC) HUMAN RIGHTS DELEGATION CURRENTLY IN PERU (SEPTEL)
WERE IN HUAMANGA, AYACUCHO WHEN WORD ARRIVED OF THE
GRUESOME DISCOVERY. ACCORDING TO IONA VICTORIA CAPAGNOLO
(FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA AND A
CABINET MINISTER UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF PIERRE TRUDEAU),
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A WOMAN REPORTED TO THE FISCAL'S OFFICE THAT SHE AND
NEIGHBORS HAD FOUND A MASS GRAVE. WHEN TOLD THE FISCAL
NEEDED CONVINCING PROOF BEFORE HE WOULD UNDERTAKE THE
LONG JOURNEY TO THE GRAVE SITE, THE WOMAN LATER RETURNED
WITH WHAT TURNED OUT TO BE PART OF HER DAUGHTER'S BRAIN.
THE WCC MEMBERS SAW THE EXHUMATION PARTY OFF FROM
HUAMANGA AND RECEIVED THEM UPON THEIR RETURN (THE WCC
MEMBERS DID NOT TRAVEL TO CHILCAHUAYCCO AS THEY HAD A

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MEETING SCHEDULED WITH GEN. FERNANDEZ-DAVILA.) THEY TOOK A NUMBER OF EYEWITNESS TESTIMONIES, SAW A VIDEOTAPE OF THE EXHUMATIONS AND RECEIVED THE FISCAL'S REPORT LATE OCTOBER 18. THE FISCAL AND THE REGIONAL PRESIDENT BOTH PUBLICLY CONCLUDED THAT THE MILITARY AND RONDAS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KILLINGS.

6. (U) SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN FROM ACROSS THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM HAVE DENOUNCED THE KILLINGS; MANY HAVE CALLED FOR CIVILIAN PROSECUTION OF THOSE IMPLICATED. THE PUBLIC MINISTRY HAS ASKED THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE FOR THE NAME OF "CENTURION" IN ORDER TO PROCEED WITH ITS CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION. THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE, GENERAL JORGE TORRES ACIEGO, WHO RECENTLY GAVE A LONG PRESS INTERVIEW SAYING HE WOULD "HAVE NO TRUCK" WITH MILITARY PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES, IS TO BE CALLED BEFORE CONGRESS TO EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED AND HIS MINISTRY'S RESPONSE. ON OCTOBER 24 THE SENATE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE CREATION OF A SPECIAL COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE THE KILLINGS.

7. (C) COINCIDENTALLY, LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONTACTS JUST BACK FROM AYACUCHO, REPORT THAT "CENTURION" WAS DETAINED
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SEVERAL WEEKS AGO BY MILITARY OFFICIALS IN AYACUCHO FOR HIS INVOLVEMENT IN A SEPARATE CASE OF KIDNAPPING, TORTURE AND EXTORTION - APPARENTLY INVOLVING A LOCAL NARCO. ALTHOUGH INFORMATION IS STILL SKETCHY, IT SEEMS "CENTURION" MIGHT HAVE ATTEMPTED A "KIDNAPPING FOR PROFIT" - ONLY TO PICK ON SOMEONE WITH CONNECTIONS MORE POWERFUL THAN HIS OWN. THIS MATTER WAS BEING QUIETLY HANDLED IN-HOUSE BY THE MILITARY UNTIL "CENTURION" WAS IMPLICATED IN THE CHILCAHUAYCCO AFFAIR. TO DATE, HOWEVER, NEITHER THE MOD NOR THE POLITICAL-MILITARY COMMAND OF AYACUCHO HAS MADE ANY PUBLIC COMMENTS.

COMMENT

8. ALL THE EVIDENCE POINTS TO CLEAR MILITARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CHILCAHUAYCCO KILLINGS. THE EXHUMATIONS WERE APPARENTLY CONDUCTED IN A COMPETENT

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MANNER; THE ARRAY OF WITNESSES, BOTH OF THE DETENTIONS AND OF THE EXHUMATIONS, IS IMPRESSIVE. THE FORTUITOUS PRESENCE IN AYACUCHO OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES DELEGATION WILL ALSO WORK TO ENSURE THE CASE RECEIVES EXTENSIVE INTERNATIONAL PUBLICITY AND CONTINUING SCRUTINY. (INDEED, THE WCC DELEGATION RAISED THE CASE WITH PRESIDENT FUJIMORI DURING THEIR OCTOBER 24 MEETING.) PRESIDENT FUJIMORI IS THUS FACED WITH THE FIRST REAL TEST OF HIS COMMITMENT - AND ABILITY - TO HOLD THE MILITARY TO ACCOUNT FOR THE MANNER IN WHICH THEY PROSECUTE THE WAR AGAINST SENDERO.

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