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ACTION SCT-02

LIMA 10504 01 OF 07 181945Z

EXCISE

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-07	SS-00	CIAE-00	EB-00
H-01	NSCE-00	ARA-00	NSAE-00	COME-00	SSD-00	HA-09	
L-03	CTME-00	NRCE-00	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-01	FAAE-00	
CCD-00	DMB-01	INRE-00	CA-02	CG-00	USSS-00	USIE-00	
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R 181938Z JUL 89  
 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0269  
 INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
 AMEMBASSY QUITO  
 USAFSD HOWARD AFB PM  
 USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM  
 AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
 DIA WASHDC

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPC/CDR *MB* Date: *9/3/96*

( ) RELEASE ( ) DECLASSIFY  
 (X) EXCISE (X) DECLASSIFY  
 ( ) DENY IN PART  
 ( ) DELETE Non-Responsive Info  
 FOIA Exemptions *B1*  
 PA Exemptions

MR Cases Only:  
 EO Citations \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ TS authority to.  
 ( ) CLASSIFY as ( ) S or  
 ( ) DOWNGRADE TS to ( ) S or

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DEPT OF STATE APPEALS REVIEW PANEL (ARP)

DIA FOR DAH-5/OSC-2D/DB-6D2/JSI-4B/DB-3C1

FOIA/PA

Mandatory Review

( ) Release  
 (X) Excise  
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( ) Declassify  
 ( ) Declassify in Part  
 ( ) Class. Ret/Renew

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD JOHN YOULE

Exemptions *B1*  
 ARP Action Cert. *MB*

Date *02-1798*

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
 TAGS: PTER, PGOV, PINR, PHUM, PE  
 SUBJECT: RODRIGO FRANCO COMMAND NEARS FIRST  
 ANNIVERSARY MARK

REFS: (A) 88 LIMA 9898, (B) 88 LIMA 12894,  
 (C) LIMA 5959, (D) LIMA 8336, (E) 88 LIMA 16252

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

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SUMMARY

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2. PERU'S UPCOMING NATIONAL DAY ON JULY 28 WILL MARK THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE APPEARANCE OF THE RODRIGO FRANCO COMMAND (CRF), A SELF-NAMED PARAMILITARY GROUP. TAKING ITS NAME FROM A POPULAR YOUNG APRA LEADER MURDERED IN 1987 BY PRESUMED SENDERO LUMINOSO ELEMENTS, THE CRF BROKE INTO THE HEADLINES WITH THE ASSASSINATION ON JULY 28, 1988 OF ATTORNEY MANUEL FEBRES FLORES, DEFENDER OF SL LEADER OSMAN MOROTE. SINCE THEN, THE COMMAND HAS TAKEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR -- OR IS SUSPECTED IN -- A LONG LIST OF DEATH THREATS, HARASSMENTS, BOMBINGS, AND MURDERS.

3. RUMORS ALLEGE THAT THE POWER BEHIND THE CRF EMANATES FROM THE TOP ECHELON OF THE PERUVIAN POLICE AND MINISTER OF INTERIOR MANTILLA. THE BAND'S TARGETS, WHICH INITIALLY INCLUDED SL OR SL SYMPATHIZERS, HAVE BEEN EXPANDED TO TAKE IN PERCEIVED ENEMIES OF THE APRA GOVERNMENT, AND MORE RECENTLY, EVEN "BAD APRISTAS". ONE JOURNALIST'S SOURCE SAYS THE CRF IS RUN OUT OF A WELL-ORGANIZED LIMA OFFICE. OTHER SPECULATION SAYS THAT IT OPERATES AS A LOOSE NETWORK THROUGH EXISTING SECURITY FORCES' CHANNELS, COVERING A WIDE SWATH OF PERUVIAN TERRITORY BY MEANS OF THE POLICE'S CURRENT PRACTICE OF FREQUENT PERSONNEL TRANSFERS IN THE EMERGENCY ZONES.

4. APRA'S VIOLENT HISTORY, BEGINNING WITH THE "BUFALOS" OF THE 1930'S, AND MOST RECENTLY ITS  
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SUSPECTED ROLE IN THE 1987 AND 1989 BOMBING OF THE PRO-SL "EL DIARIO" AND TWO LARGE INTERIOR MINISTRY WEAPONS PURCHASES IN 1988

DI PR B HEIGHTEN  
SUSPICIONS THAT APRA LEADERS ARE NOT BEYOND SANCTIONING THE ACTIVITIES OF PARAMILITARY THUGS. REACTING TO PUBLIC PRESSURE, THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES PRESIDENT ON JUNE 8 FORMED AN INVESTIGATORY COMMISSION TO LOOK INTO THE CRF. }

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-----  
INTRODUCTION  
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5. FOR NEARLY A YEAR, A PARAMILITARY GROUP CALLING ITSELF THE RODRIGO FRANCO COMMAND (CRF) HAS OPERATED THROUGHOUT MUCH OF PERU. ALTHOUGH MOST OF THE CRF'S ACTIONS FALL INTO THE CATEGORY OF DEATH THREATS, THE GROUP HAS SHOWN ITSELF WILLING TO COMMIT BRUTAL ASSASSINATIONS AND BOMBINGS FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES. VIEWED AS MORE THAN JUST ANOTHER TERRORIST GROUP IN PERU'S INCREASINGLY VIOLENT CLIMATE WHERE THE SENDERO LUMINOSO (SL) AND TUPAC AMARU REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT (MRTA) ACT WITH IMPUNITY, THE CRF IS WIDELY SUSPECTED TO BE RUN FROM WITHIN THE APRA GOVERNMENT.

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WHO WAS RODRIGO FRANCO?  
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6. THE CRF (WHICH FOR A TIME CALLED ITSELF THE RODRIGO FRANCO DEMOCRATIC COMMAND) TAKES ITS NAME  
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R 181938Z JUL 89  
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0270  
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
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USAFSD HOWARD AFB PM  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 07 LIMA 10504

DIA FOR DAH-5/DSC-2D/DB-6D2/JSI-4B/DB-3C1

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD JOHN YOULE

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PTER, PGOV, PINR, PHUM, PE  
SUBJECT: RODRIGO FRANCO COMMAND NEARS FIRST

FROM A POPULAR APRA LEADER WHO WAS ASSASSINATED IN  
AUGUST 1987, PRESUMABLY BY THE SENDERO LUMINOSO.  
AT THE TIME OF HIS DEATH, RODRIGO FRANCO, 29,  
HEADED A GOVERNMENT FOOD IMPORT AND MARKETING  
AGENCY. HE WAS CONSIDERED THE BRIGHTEST AND MOST  
ATTRACTIVE APRA LEADER IN THE GENERATION BEHIND  
ALAN GARCIA. FRANCO'S WIDOW HAS COMMENTED TO THE  
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PRESS THAT SHE RESENTS DEEPLY THE TERRORISTS' USE  
OF THE NAME OF HER HUSBAND, A MAN WHO SHE SAYS DID

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**NOT COUNTENANCE VIOLENCE.**

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**THE CRF'S INITIAL APPEARANCE**  
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7. THE CRF, IN AN EVENT THAT MARKED A NEW STAGE IN PERU'S TERRORIST CONFLICT, FIRST MADE ITS EXISTENCE KNOWN WITH THE MURDER OF SL LEADER OSMAN MOROTE'S ATTORNEY, MANUEL FEBRES FLORES, ON JULY 28, 1988 (REF A). MOROTE, SL'S SECOND-IN-COMMAND, HAD BEEN ACQUITTED OF SOME CHARGES ON JULY 20, 1988 IN A COURT DECISION THAT SPARKED SHARP CRITICISM BY PROMINENT CITIZENS, NEWSPAPER EDITORIALS, POLITICIANS, AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. PRESIDENT GARCIA CALLED THE ACQUITTAL A "SCANDAL". FEBRES, WHO HAD RECEIVED NUMEROUS TELEPHONIC DEATH THREATS IN THE WAKE OF THE JUDGMENT, WAS ABDUCTED BY FOUR ARMED MEN IN THE LIMA DISTRICT OF MIRAFLORES EARLY IN THE MORNING OF JULY 28 AND KILLED SHORTLY AFTER IN AN EXECUTION-STYLE MURDER. THE "RODRIGO FRANCO DEMOCRATIC COMMAND" CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY THROUGH NOTES AND TELEPHONE CALLS TO SEVERAL LIMA NEWSPAPERS. NONETHELESS, THE ASSOCIATION OF DEMOCRATIC ATTORNEYS TO WHICH FEBRES BELONGED -- AN SL FRONT GROUP -- ATTRIBUTED THE MURDER TO THE APRA GOVERNMENT.

8. SINCE ITS APPEARANCE, THE CRF HAS CARRIED OUT SEVERAL OTHER ASSASSINATIONS, BOMBINGS, AND HARASSMENTS AND HAS MADE NUMEROUS DEATH THREATS  
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AGAINST JOURNALISTS, ATTORNEYS, AND OTHERS. THE FOLLOWING IS A CHRONOLOGY OF THE MAJOR INCIDENTS ATTRIBUTED TO THE CRF OR CLAIMED BY INDIVIDUALS USING THE NAME OF THE CRF:

----- THE GRAVE OF SL HEROINE EDITH LAGOS WAS BOMBED IN AYACUCHO ON AUGUST 9, 1988.

- -- THE CRF TOOK RESPONSIBILITY FOR KIDNAPPING (ON AUGUST 13, 1988) AND MURDERING MRTA MEMBERS LUIS MIGUEL PASACHE AND JAVIER SOCRATES PORTAL

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SOLANO, SAYING THAT THEY WERE EXECUTED FOR THEIR ROLES IN THE 1987 MURDER OF RODRIGO FRANCO.

- -- THE PARISH OF BISHOP LUIS BAMBAREN GASTELUMENDI IN CHIMBOTE WAS BOMBED AUGUST 22, 1988.

- -- ON NOVEMBER 11, 1988, THE HOMES OF "OIGA" EDITOR FRANCISCO IGARTUA, FRENCH PRIEST JEAN MONDET, AND UNITED LEFT (IU) MEMBER FERNANDO FUCHS WERE BOMBED.

- -- THE SAME DAY, TELEVISION PERSONALITIES CESAR HILDEBRANDT AND ROXANA CANEDO, AND SODE (SOLIDARITY AND DEMOCRACY) LEADER JAVIER SILVA RUETE RECEIVED THREATENING NOTES SIGNED BY THE CRF.

- -- SAUL CANTORAL (SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE FEDERATION OF PERUVIAN MINeworkERS) AND A FEMALE COMPANION, CONSUELO GARCIA, WERE KIDNAPPED AND MURDERED ON FEBRUARY 13, 1989, SUPPOSEDLY BY THE CRF.

- -- ON APRIL 19, 1989, TINGO MARIA RADIO JOURNALIST (AND IU ACTIVIST) GUILLERMO LOPEZ SALAZAR WAS MURDERED, PRESUMABLY BY THE CRF OR  
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MILITARY ELEMENTS WITH SIMILAR SYMPATHIES.

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JUSE-00	FBIE-00	SP-02	DC-01	DOEE-00	M-01	SNP-01	
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R 181938Z JUL 89  
 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0271  
 INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
 AMEMBASSY QUITO  
 USAFSO HOWARD AFB PM  
 USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM  
 AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
 DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 07 LIMA 10504

DIA FOR DAH-5/OSC-2D/DB-6D2/JSI-4B/DB-3C1

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD JOHN YOULE

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
 TAGS: PTER, PGOV, PINR, PHUM, PE  
 SUBJECT: RODRIGO FRANCO COMMAND NEARS FIRST

- -- THE GRF (AS WELL AS LEFTIST TERRORISTS) ARE  
 SUSPECTED IN THE APRIL 27, 1989 ASSASSINATION OF IU  
 DEPUTY ERIBERTO ARROYO MIO.

-----  
 WHO IS BEHIND THE GRF?  
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9. MORE AND MORE FINGERS ARE POINTING TO PERU'S

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SECURITY FORCES AND/OR APRA THUGS, [

11 9  
] FOR EXAMPLE, LUIS PASACHE WAS PICKED UP WHILE PHONING A RANSOM DEMAND IN THE CASE OF KIDNAPPED BUSINESSMAN HECTOR JERI (REF B). IGARTUA, WHOSE HOME WAS BOMBED, IS THE DIRECTOR OF THE VOCIFEROUSLY ANTI-APRA "DIGA", A WEEKLY MAGAZINE. IGARTUA, HILDEBRANDT AND SILVA RUETE HAD ALL CALLED FOR PRESIDENT GARCIA'S RESIGNATION THE WEEK BEFORE THE CRF INCIDENTS.

[10. REPEATED ALLEGATIONS NAME MINISTER OF INTERIOR AGUSTIN MANTILLA, ALONG WITH DIRCOTE (ANTI-TERRORISM DIRECTORATE) AND POLICE FORCE CHIEFS AS THE PRINCIPAL ARCHITECTS OF THE CRF. MANTILLA, APPOINTED TO HEAD THE PORTFOLIO IN MAY 1989, HAD SERVED AS VICE MINISTER OF INTERIOR SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE GARCIA ADMINISTRATION. AS SUCH, HE HAS BEEN ONE OF THE FEW SURVIVORS OF THE FREQUENT CABINET CHANGES OVER THE LAST FOUR YEARS AND HAS GARCIA'S FULL CONFIDENCE.] INTERVIEWS WITH AN EX-DIRCOTE MEMBER AND A CURRENT DIRCOTE AGENT (CARRIED IN "DIGA" AND PRO-SENDERO "EL DIARIO", RESPECTIVELY) ACCUSE TOP SECURITY OFFICIALS SUCH AS  
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GEN. FERNANDO REYES ROCA (DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL OPERATIONS OF THE TECHNICAL POLICE AND SUPPOSEDLY MANTILLA'S RIGHTHAND MAN), NATIONAL POLICE COL. JAVIER PALACIOS (DIRCOTE OPERATIONS CHIEF), DIRCOTE CHIEF GEN. JUAN SALAS CORNEJO, AND GEN. VICTOR GASTELU (STATE SECURITY CHIEF). [

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11. **C**

IN THE CASE OF TINGO MARIA RADIO JOURNALIST LOPEZ SALAZAR, THE EIGHT ASSASSINS SOUGHT TO AVOID RECOGNITION BY THE USE OF MASKS AND ACTED UNDER THE COVER OF DARKNESS (REF C). IN CONTRAST, SL TERRORISTS, OPERATING WITH VIRTUAL IMPUNITY IN THE UPPER HUALLAGA VALLEY, FOR SOME TIME HAVE FELT NO NEED TO DISGUISE THEIR IDENTITIES. THE KILLINGS IN JUNE 1989 OF THE TINGO MARIA AND AUCAYACU MAYORS BOTH OCCURRED IN BROAD DAYLIGHT. MOREOVER, USUALLY RELIABLE "EL COMERCIO" REPORTED THE LOPEZ SALAZAR INCIDENT WITHOUT IDENTIFYING THE GROUP RESPONSIBLE -- AN INDICATION THAT THE EDITORIAL BOARD SUSPECTED A PARAMILITARY CONNECTION IN THE MURDER.

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EVOLVING TACTICS  
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12. OVER THE PAST YEAR, THE CRF'S TARGETS HAVE COME TO TAKE IN AN EVER-EXPANDING CIRCLE OF ENEMIES. THE COMMAND'S FIRST ACTIONS, SUCH AS THE SLAYING OF FEBRES FLORES, WERE AIMED TO HIT AT THE SL. IN THE NEXT STAGE, CRF THREATS AND ACTIONS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 04 OF 07 LIMA 10504

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WENT AFTER INDIVIDUALS CRITICAL OF THE GARCIA  
 ADMINISTRATION. MOST RECENTLY, A CRF LEAFLET  
 REPORTEDLY APPEARED IN THE TOWN OF HUACHO, WARNING  
 THAT THE COMMAND'S STRUGGLE WOULD NOW INCLUDE "BAD  
 APRISTAS WHO FOSTER DISUNITY."

13. THE CRF HAS TRIED INCREASINGLY TO BEAT THE SL  
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AT ITS OWN GAME. KNOWN TO SOW ITS OWN BRAND OF  
 TERROR, THE COMMAND HAS ADOPTED THE TACTIC OF

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FOLLOWING BEHIND THE SL IN AN ATTEMPT TO CONVINCING INHABITANTS THAT THEY SHOULD BE MORE FEARFUL OF THE CRF. INDEED, THE CRF HAS BECOME ESPECIALLY ACTIVE IN AYACUCHO -- THE SL'S BIRTHPLACE AND STRONGHOLD. AYACUCHO MAYOR FERMIN AZPARRENT RECENTLY CLAIMED PUBLICLY THAT THE PEOPLE OF AYACUCHO "ARE LIVING BETWEEN TWO FIRES." IN A SIMILAR VEIN, AFTER SENDERO PASSED OUT FLYERS ON THE MORNING OF JUNE 5 IN HUANCAMELICA ORDERING AN ARMED STRIKE, CRF LEAFLETS BEGAN CIRCULATING IN THE AFTERNOON, WARNING THAT ANYONE HONORING THE STRIKE WOULD BE PUNISHED (REF D). IN THIS TUG-OF-WAR, SL'S WORSE REPUTATION WON OUT AND SHUT DOWN THE TOWN. THERE WERE NO REPORTS OF CRF REPRISALS.

14. THE WIDE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF CRF INCIDENTS HAS PROMPTED THE QUESTION OF HOW TIGHTLY THE COMMAND IS CONTROLLED.

PLAUSIBLE HYPOTHESIS IS THAT THE CRF OPERATES THROUGH THE SECURITY FORCES AS A LOOSE NETWORK UNDER A FREE HAND TO TAKE CARE OF "PROBLEMS" AS SI

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15. WE HEARD OTHER LESS BELIEVABLE RUMORS THAT THE RODRIGO FRANCO COMMAND IS RUN OUT OF A BUILDING IN LIMA THAT HAS ALL THE TRAPPINGS OF AN OFFICE. IN LATE 1988 A LOCAL STRINGER WROTE A STORY BASED ON INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM A SOURCE WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN RECRUITED BY THE CRF. ACCORDING TO THE SOURCE, HE WAS TAKEN TO THE COMMAND'S HEADQUARTERS AND WHILE THERE, SAW THE TYPICAL COMPLEMENT OF OFFICE EQUIPMENT IN USE, SUCH AS TELEPHONES, COMPUTERS, AND TYPEWRITERS.

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FARFETCHED AS THE ARTICLE MIGHT SEEM, IT MAY HAVE TOUCHED ON SOME NERVES. THE REPORTER HAS TOLD EMBASSY OFFICIALS THAT FOLLOWING THE PUBLICATION OF THE STORY, HE RECEIVED THREATS OVER THE TELEPHONE -- WHICH HE SAYS HE RECORDED -- FROM INDIVIDUALS CLAIMING TO REPRESENT THE CRF.

16. COMPLICATING THE SEARCH FOR THOSE BEHIND THE COMMAND ARE NUMEROUS INCIDENTS PERPETRATED BY CRF COPYCATS. RECENT EVIDENCE, FOR EXAMPLE, SHOWS THAT THE SL SOMETIMES TARGETS ITS VICTIMS TO MAKE THE KILLINGS LOOK LIKE THE WORK OF THE CRF (REF C).

WE SUSPECT BY THE



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OTHER ALLEGATIONS OF APRA PARAMILITARY ACTIVITIES  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 05 OF 07 LIMA 10504

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17. ALTHOUGH APRA'S COMPLICITY IN THE CRF REMAINS TO BE PROVEN, [ DURING THE 1930'S AND 40'S, THE LEGENDARY APRA "BUFALOS" ACTIVELY EMPLOYED STRONG-ARM TACTICS. FORMER PRIME MINISTER ARMANDO VILLANUEVA, AMONG OTHERS, HAS A LONG ASSOCIATION WITH THE "BUFALOS." IN JUNE 1988, (NOW MINISTER OF  
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FOREIGN RELATIONS) SENATOR GUILLERMO LARCO COX CAUSED A SENSATION WHEN HE TOLD AN INTERVIEWER THAT

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HE SUPPORTED THE CREATION OF ARMED SELF-DEFENSE BRIGADES WITHIN THE RULING PARTY. LARCO COX'S STATEMENT WAS APPARENTLY TOO BLUNT.

THE PALACE WAS FURIOUS WITH SUCH AN INDISCRETION AFTER ITS CONGRESS IN DECEMBER 1988, APRA ANNOUNCED THE FORMATION OF A NATIONAL SECRETARIAT FOR DEFENSE. DEPUTY BARBA CABALLERO FELT COMPELLED TO EXPLAIN TO THE PRESS THAT THIS BODY WOULD ONLY STUDY THE USE OF WEAPONS BY PARTY MEMBERS AND THAT THE FIGHT AGAINST SUBVERSION WOULD BE HANDLED BY THE ARMED FORCES AND THE POLICE. IN THE PAST THE "BUFALOS" WERE PART OF THE DEFENSE SECRETARIAT.

18. RECENT INFORMATION PROVIDED BY A POLICE SOURCE ADDS MORE WEIGHT TO CHARGES OF APRA PARAMILITARY INVOLVEMENT AND MAKES THE ATTEMPTED BOMBING OF PRO-SL "EL DIARIO" IN OCTOBER 1987 LOOK LIKE THE PRECURSOR OF CRF ACTIVITIES. IN THAT INCIDENT, AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE DETONATED PREMATURELY, KILLING TWO OF THE WOULD-BE BOMBERS AND INJURING A THIRD. THE SURVIVOR, FIRST IDENTIFIED BY POLICE AUTHORITIES AS EDWIN DE LA TORRE UGARTE THEN AS JESUS MIGUEL "CHITO" RIOS SAENZ, WAS TAKEN TO LIMA'S POLICE HOSPITAL AND EVENTUALLY RELEASED WITHOUT LEGAL CHARGES FILED AGAINST HIM. THE SOURCE ALSO CLAIMS THAT THE SISTER OF ONE OF THE DECEASED COMPLAINED ABOUT THE SMALL AMOUNT THE FAMILY WAS RECEIVING FROM THE GOVERNMENT AS A "SURVIVOR'S PENSION". WEEKLIES "SI" AND "OIGA" REPORTED THE THREE YOUNG MEN WERE MEMBERS OF ARE (REVOLUTIONARY STUDENT

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ALLIANCE) -- THE MOST VIOLENT OF THE ORGANIZATIONS LINKED TO APRA.

□

19. ANOTHER PRE-CRF EVENT HINTS AT THE APRA'S PREDISPOSITION TOWARD ARMED TACTICS. IN TWO SEPARATE INCIDENTS ON APRIL 21, 1988, 20 YOUTHS WERE DETAINED BUT QUICKLY ORDERED RELEASED. IN

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THEIR POSSESSION HAD BEEN FOUND FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, HOMEMADE BOMBS, DYNAMITE CHARGES, HOODS AND ARE PROPAGANDA. ONE OF THE YOUTHS, LATER INTERVIEWED BY "OIGA", CLAIMED SUCH ARSENALS WERE NECESSARY TO DEFEND APRISTA STUDENTS FROM SENDERO.

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MANTILLA AND THE WEAPONS SCANDALS  
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20. ARMS PURCHASES BY THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR ALSO FIGURE INTO RUMORS OF APRA'S PARAMILITARY PROCLIVITIES. IN EARLY MARCH 1988, NEARLY 306 TONS OF NORTH KOREAN WEAPONS -- LISTED AS "BATTERIES AND ACCESSORIES" ON THE BILL OF LADING -- WERE UNLOADED FROM THE PERUVIAN SHIP "SABOGAL". ACCORDING TO SPECULATION, AT LEAST SOME OF THE ARMS WERE DESTINED FOR APRA THUGS. MANTILLA'S ADMISSION OF DECEPTION IN THE BILL OF LADING (HE SAID IT WAS DONE AT THE REQUEST OF THE NORTH KOREANS) DID LITTLE TO EASE SUSPICIONS. MORE FUEL WAS ADDED TO THE FIRE IN JULY 1988 WHEN THE VENEZUELAN ARMED FORCES DETAINED THE POLISH SHIP "KUZNICA" CARRYING SIX TONS OF ARMS (INCLUDING RIFLES, AUTOMATIC

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ACTION ARA-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-07	SS-00	CIAE-00	EB-
H-01	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	COME-00	SSO-00	HA-09	L-03	
CTME-00	NRCE-00	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-01	FAAE-00	CCD-00	
DMB-01	INRE-00	CA-02	CG-00	USSS-00	USIE-00	JUSE-00	
FBIE-00	SP-02	OC-02	DOEE-00	M-01	SNP-01	FAIM-01	
PRS-01	DS-01	SCT-02	P-02	T-01	( AS-01	OC-02 )	

/050 W

-----056425 201506Z /22

R 181938Z JUL 89  
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0274  
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
USAFSD HOWARD AFB PM  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 06 OF 07 LIMA 10504

DIA FOR DAH-5/DSC-2D/DB-6D2/JSI-4B/DB-3C1

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD JOHN YOULE

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PTER, PGOV, PINR, PHUM, PE  
SUBJECT: RODRIGO FRANCO COMMAND NEARS FIRST

WEAPONS, SILENCERS, AMMUNITION, AND EXPLOSIVES) OF  
APPARENT SOVIET-BLOC ORIGIN BUT LACKING PROPER  
DOCUMENTATION. PERU'S INTERIOR MINISTRY QUICKLY  
ISSUED AN OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE STATING THE SHIPMENT  
WAS INTENDED FOR THE POLICE FORCES, AND NEGOTIATED  
FOR THE SHIP'S RELEASE. ACCORDING TO THE EMBASSY'S

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POLICE LIAISON, MANY OF THE WEAPONS IN THESE TWO  
SHIPMENTS WERE DISTRIBUTED TO THE VARIOUS POLICE

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[REDACTED] 7 MOREOVER, ALTHOUGH A PRIVATE SECURITY COMPANY HAS A CONTRACT WITH THE PERUVIAN INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SECURITY (IPSS) TO PROVIDE BODYGUARDS -- ARMED WITH OFFICIALLY-SUPPLIED WEAPONS -- FOR SOME PERUVIAN OFFICIALS, THESE ARMS ACCOUNT FOR ONLY A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF MOI PURCHASES.

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RECENT DEVELOPMENTS  
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21. IN MAY 1989, PUBLIC OUTRAGE OVER THE ESCALATING SPIRAL OF VIOLENCE PROMPTED SOME APRISTA ADMINISTRATION POSTURING ON THE ISSUE OF THE RODRIGO FRANCO COMMAND. NUMEROUS LETTERS FROM AMERICAS WATCH, OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND PRIVATE CITIZENS TO THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS A PETITION PRESENTED TO CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES PRESIDENT HECTOR VARGAS HAYA PROVIDED ADDITIONAL PRESSURE. (THE PETITION, PRESENTED BY IU DEPUTY MANUEL PIQUERAS, REQUESTED A FORMAL INQUIRY INTO THE CRF, AND WAS BACKED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, ORGANIZED LABOR, AND THE EQUIVALENT OF THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION IN LIMA.) ON MAY 17, MANTILLA BECAME THE FIRST HIGH-LEVEL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY TO CONCEDE THAT THE CRF EXISTS. HE CHARACTERIZED THE CRF AS A TERRORIST GROUP, WHILE CATEGORICALLY DENYING THE OPERATION OF STATE-SPONSORED PARAMILITARY GROUPS IN PERU. A FEW DAYS LATER, PRESIDENT GARCIA ANNOUNCED  
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HE HAD INSTRUCTED MANTILLA TO FIND OUT WHO WAS BEHIND THE COMMAND.

22. THE INTERIOR MINISTER PRODUCED SOME SPEEDY [ RESULTS. ON MAY 21 THE MINISTRY RELEASED AN OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE TOUTING THE FIRST ARREST OF THREE CRF SUSPECTS IN YURIMAGUAS (LORETO DEPARTMENT). SIXTEEN DAYS LATER, THE DETAINEES WERE ORDERED RELEASED BY THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR FOR LORETO, PRESUMABLY FOR LACK OF EVIDENCE. OUR POLICE SOURCES SAY THE THREE HAD NO LINKS TO THE

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THE INVESTIGATORY COMMISSION AND ITS PROBLEMS  
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23. THE PETITION INTRODUCED BY PIQUERAS, AS WELL AS THE CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC PRESSURE FOR AN INQUIRY INTO THE CRF, LED THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES ON JUNE 8, 1989 TO INSTALL AN INVESTIGATORY COMMITTEE. APRA DEPUTY ABDON VILCHEZ MELO HEADS THE GROUP. OTHER DEPUTIES NAMED TO THE PANEL WERE MANUEL PIQUERAS, HECTOR HUERTO MILLA (APRA), VICTOR CARRANZA MARINOS (APRA), GUSTAVO ESPINOZA MONTESINOS (IU), AND CELSO SOTOMARINO (PPC). THE COMMISSION, WHICH FIRST CALLED MANTILLA AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE (RET.) GEN. JULIO VELASQUEZ GIACARINI TO TESTIFY, ALSO PLANS TO HEAR FROM DIRCOTE CHIEFS, JOURNALISTS WHO HAVE BEEN THREATENED BY THE CRF, AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE CHURCH AND HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS. DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF JULY, SEVERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS TRAVELED TO AYACUCHO AND HUANCAYO TO INTERVIEW SOME OF THE MANY RECIPIENTS OF CRF DEATH THREATS IN THOSE AREAS.

24. INDICATIONS SURFACED QUICKLY THAT THE  
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COMMISSION WILL BE CONSUMED BY CONTROVERSY.

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ACTION SCT-02

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-07	SS-00	CIAE-00	EB-00
H-01	NSCE-00	ARA-00	NSAE-00	COME-00	SSO-00	HA-09	
L-03	CTME-00	NRCE-00	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-01	FAAE-00	
CCO-00	DMB-01	INRE-00	CA-02	CG-00	USSS-00	USIE-00	
JUSE-00	FBIE-00	SP-02	OC-01	DOEE-00	M-01	SNP-01	
FAIM-01	PRS-01	DS-01	P-02	T-01	/047 W		
-----		340104	191140Z	/22			

R 181938Z JUL 89  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 07 OF 07 LIMA 10504

DIA FOR DAH-5/OSC-2D/DB-6D2/JSI-4B/DB-3C1

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SUBJECT: RODRIGO FRANCO COMMAND NEARS FIRST

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE CONSTITUTION OF THE  
PANEL, PIQUERAS CRITICIZED IT FOR BEING DOMINATED  
BY APRA MEMBERS. NEXT VILCHEZ DREW FIRE AS THE  
WRONG CHOICE TO HEAD A PROBE INTO A PARAMILITARY  
GROUP BECAUSE OF THE LONGSTANDING AND NUMEROUS  
ALLEGATIONS OF HIS INVOLVEMENT IN VIOLENT  
EPISODES. THEN, LESS THAN A WEEK AFTER THE

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COMMISSION'S FORMATION, APRA MEMBER CARRANZA  
RESIGNED, SAYING HE NEEDED TIME TO START COLLECTING

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SIGNATURES FOR HIS REELECTION BID. THE REMAINING MEMBERS PLAN TO CONTINUE TO HEAR TESTIMONY BUT APPARENTLY WILL BE UNABLE TO SUBMIT ANY FINDINGS TO THE LEGISLATURE UNTIL A REPLACEMENT FOR CARRANZA IS NAMED (NOT EXPECTED TO HAPPEN UNTIL AUGUST).

25. SINCE THE COMMISSION'S INAUSPICIOUS BEGINNING, ONLY ONE PRELIMINARY STATEMENT HAS BEEN MADE BY A PANEL MEMBER. VILCHEZ -- PRESIDENT OF THE GROUP TASKED WITH DETERMINING WHO IS BEHIND THE CRF -- HAS STATED THAT THERE ARE "INDICATIONS" OF THE EXISTENCE OF MORE THAN ONE PARAMILITARY GROUP. HE NAMED THE "MANUEL SANTANA CHIRI COMMAND" AND A GROUP CALLED "HAYA LIVES". VILCHEZ' REVELATIONS ARE NOTHING NEW. THREATS AGAINST A PRIEST IN ICA -- ACCOMPANIED BY THE NAME OF THE SANTANA CHIRI COMMAND -- FIRST APPEARED IN AUGUST 1988.

26. WHILE THE COMMISSION GOES ABOUT ITS TASK, INTIMATIONS OF GOP INVOLVEMENT IN THE CRF CONTINUE. ON JUNE 16, THREE MEN CLAIMING TO REPRESENT 70 PERCENT OF THE NATIONAL POLICE -- WEARING MASKS AND POLICE UNIFORMS -- HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE THAT PREPARATIONS WERE UNDERWAY TO ORGANIZE A POLICE STRIKE AND TO DENOUNCE SEVERAL POLICE OFFICIALS AS CRF CHIEFTAINS. THE MEN'S CLAIM TO BE MEMBERS OF THE POLICE HAS SINCE BEEN DISPUTED. MORE RECENTLY, ON JULY 3, LEFTIST "LA REPUBLICA" REPORTED THAT LEADERS OF THE STRIKING MINISTRY OF HEALTH DOCTORS (ON STRIKE SINCE LATE MAY) SAY THAT THEY HAVE BEGUN  
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RECEIVING DEATH THREATS FROM THE COMMAND.

27. COMMENT: IT MAY BE A LONG TIME, IF EVER, BEFORE ANYTHING RESEMBLING CONCLUSIVE PROOF ABOUT THE RODRIGO FRANCO COMMAND IS FOUND, BUT WE THINK OBSERVATIONS MADE OVER THE PAST YEAR PERMIT US TO MAKE SOME TENTATIVE JUDGMENTS ON SEVERAL KEY QUESTIONS.

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4 SECOND, THE CRF EXISTED AS AN INFORMAL CLIQUE EVEN BEFORE THE FEBRES MURDER. THIRD, WE BELIEVE THAT THE CRF IS A LOOSELY-KNIT GROUP THAT MAKES USE OF [ ] EXISTING NETWORKS AND TECHNIQUES SUCH AS SURVEILLANCE. FINALLY, THE CRF RUBRIC PROBABLY IS BEING USED BY OTHER GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS FOR A VARIETY OF PURPOSES.

28. WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE THAT THE COMMITTEE'S INVESTIGATION INTO THE CRF WILL PRODUCE ANY SMOKING GUNS. ALREADY THE PANEL HAS GIVEN INDICATIONS THAT IT PLANS TO LIBERALLY REDEFINE THE TASK AT HAND. A CASE IN POINT IS VILCHEZ' STATEMENT THAT OTHER ARMED GROUPS BESIDES THE CRF EXIST. ALTHOUGH HE MAY BE CORRECT, THE PRONOUNCEMENT SUGGESTS THAT SEARCHING FOR THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COMMAND WILL NOT BE THE OVERRIDING CONCERN.

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