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Release in Full
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~~SECRET~~ SECTION 01 OF 03 LIMA 04949

NODIS **DECAPTIONED**

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PHUM, PTER, PREL, SNAR, US, PE
SUBJECT: EX-ARMY OFFICER ALLEGES ARMY/
INTELLIGENCE ROLE IN 1991 LETTER
BOMBINGS OF OPPOSITION

1. ~~SECRET~~ - ENTIRE TEXT. ACTION REQUEST PARA 14.
2. SUMMARY: TWO JOURNALISTS BRIEFED POLCOUNS ON THEIR ONGOING TALKS WITH A FORMER ARMY OFFICER CASHIERED FOR ALLEGED DRUG INVOLVEMENT. THIS SOURCE CLAIMS HE CARRIED OUT THE FIVE 1991 LETTER BOMBINGS OF OPPOSITION, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND TERRORIST FRONT GROUP MEMBERS THAT KILLED TWO PERSONS. HE CLAIMED HE RECEIVED ORDERS FROM A

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COLONEL IN ARMY INTELLIGENCE, AND THAT DE FACTO NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SIN) CHIEF MONTESINOS HAD APPROVED THE TARGETS. HE ALSO CLAIMS TO HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF ARMY INVOLVEMENT IN NARCOTICS CORRUPTION, AND TO HAVE CARRIED OUT THE ASSASSINATION OF A MAYOR IN 1984. JOURNALISTS CANNOT CONFIRM SOURCE'S ALLEGATIONS, BUT HOPE TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL DETAILS IN SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS. THEY SAID SOURCE WAS WILLING TO GO PUBLIC WITH HIS ACCUSATIONS IF HE COULD BE ASSISTED OUT OF PERU. POLCOUNS TOLD JOURNALISTS WE COULD PROVIDE NO ASSURANCES OF USG ASSISTANCE, BUT WOULD CHECK ON ALTERNATIVE NON-GOVERNMENTAL MECHANISMS FOR LEAVING PERU. WE NEED MORE DETAILS BEFORE WE CAN

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DEPT OF STATE APPEALS REVIEW PANEL (ARP)

FOIA/PA	Mandatory Review
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Exemptions

ARP Action Cert. C.S.F. Date 8/20/09

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ASSESS BONA FIDES OF THIS SELF-ADMITTED LETTER BOMB FABRICATOR, BUT GIVEN HISTORY OF BARRIOS ALTOS AND LA CANTUTA, HIS ALLEGATIONS ARE PLAUSIBLE. SOURCE'S MOTIVES FOR TALKING MUST BE EXAMINED CAREFULLY, BUT WE NOTE HE ADMITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR AT LEAST THREE ASSASSINATIONS. SOURCE SUBSEQUENTLY AGREED TO MEET JOINTLY WITH POLCOUNS AND JOURNALISTS; WE WILL DEFER MEETING UNTIL DEPARTMENT PROVIDES GUIDANCE. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST DEPARTMENT A) PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON OUR MEETING WITH THE JOURNALISTS' SOURCE, AND B) SEND US DETAILED INFORMATION ON 1991 FBI INVESTIGATION OF THE LIMA LETTER BOMBINGS. END SUMMARY.

3. POLCOUNS MET ON MAY 18 AND MAY 27 WITH TWO WELL-REGARDED PERUVIAN INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISTS.
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THEY DESCRIBED THEIR CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS WITH A PROMISING NEW SOURCE ON ALLEGED GOVERNMENT SUMMARY EXECUTIONS: A FORMER ARMY OFFICER, CASHIERED FOR ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT WITH NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS, WHO FELT HE HAD BEEN BETRAYED BY ARMY COMMANDER GEN. HERMOZA AND BY DE FACTO SIN CHIEF MONTESINOS.

4. THE ARMY OFFICER SAID HE WAS WILLING TO TESTIFY PUBLICLY ABOUT GOP VIOLATIONS, AS LONG AS HE AND HIS FAMILY WERE FIRST ASSISTED IN LEAVING PERU.

5. THE ARMY OFFICER CLAIMED THAT WHILE HE WORKED IN ARMY INTELLIGENCE IN 1991, HE HAD CARRIED OUT FIVE LETTER BOMBINGS OF THE FOLLOWING PERSONS:

-- LUCAS CACHAY OF THE SAN MARTIN CITIZENS GROUP (FEDEPSM); THE LETTER BOMB NEVER ARRIVED.

-- AUGUSTO ZUNIGA PAZ, OF A HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP; THE BOMB RESULTED IN THE AMPUTATION OF ONE OF ZUNIGA'S ARMS.

-- THE MRTA MAGAZINE "CAMBIO"; THE FIRST BOMB WENT OFF BY MISTAKE IN FRONT OF THE MAGAZINE'S

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OFFICE, WHERE IT KILLED ONE PERSON; A SECOND
LETTER BOMB KILLED MELISA ALFARO, WHO WORKED IN
"CAMBIO."

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-- THEN-CONGRESSMAN RICARDO LETTS, OF THE
RADICAL LEFT PUM POLITICAL PARTY, WHOSE STAFF
ALERTED THE BOMB SQUAD WHEN THE SUSPICIOUS-
LOOKING LETTER ARRIVED.

6. COMMENT: WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE LETTER
BOMB TO CACHAY, WE CAN CONFIRM THAT THESE LETTER
BOMBINGS DID OCCUR. "CAMBIO" WAS A LEGITIMATE
MAGAZINE, BUT CLEARLY A MOUTHPIECE FOR THE MRTA
TERRORIST ORGANIZATION. CACHAY WAS PERCEIVED BY
MANY IN THE ARMY AND POLICE TO BE AN MRTA MEMBER;

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TAGS: PHUM, PTER, PREL, SNAR, US, PE
SUBJECT: EX-ARMY OFFICER ALLEGES ARMY/
WE BELIEVE HE WAS NOT. PUM MEMBERS SUCH AS LETTS
WERE WIDELY BUT ERRONEOUSLY PERCEIVED BY SECURITY
FORCES AND CONSERVATIVES TO BE PRO-TERRORIST;
THE SAME APPLIES FOR MEMBERS OF HUMAN RIGHTS
GROUPS. END COMMENT.

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7. THE OFFICER STATED THAT THE FIRST BOMB USED AN OFFICIAL PERUVIAN COURT SYSTEM ENVELOPE; HE THEN HAD DUPLICATES OF THIS ENVELOPE PRINTED FOR THE OTHER BOMBS. HE ALSO CLAIMED THAT THE LETTER BOMBINGS CEASED AFTER THE ATTEMPT AGAINST LETTS; AT THAT TIME, THERE WERE FIVE TARGETS

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OUTSTANDING: JAVIER DIEZ CANSECO AND CARLOS MALPICA OF THE PUM PARTY; THE CONSERVATIVE BUT ANTI-FUJIMORI MAGAZINE "OIGA," THE CENTER-LEFT AND ANTI-FUJIMORI "SI" MAGAZINE, AND CENTER-LEFT AND ANTI-FUJIMORI "LA REPUBLICA" DAILY.

8. THE OFFICER CLAIMED HE RECEIVED HIS ORDERS AND TARGET LISTS FROM A COLONEL IN ARMY INTELLIGENCE. HE ALSO CLAIMED THAT DE FACTO SIN CHIEF VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS KNEW OF AND APPROVED THE BOMBINGS. HE DID NOT EXPLAIN HOW HE ALLEGEDLY KNEW ABOUT MONTESINOS' PARTICIPATION; THE JOURNALISTS INTEND TO SEEK MORE INFORMATION ON THIS.

9. THE OFFICER ALSO CLAIMED THAT IN 1984, HE CARRIED OUT THE ASSASSINATION OF UNITED LEFT MAYOR OF HUANCAYO SAUL MUNOZ. HE ALSO CLAIMED TO KNOW ABOUT THE BEGINNINGS OF THE BARRIOS ALTOS KILLINGS, AND ABOUT HIGH-LEVEL MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN DRUG TRAFFICKING IN THE HUALLAGA.

10. THE OFFICER ALSO TOLD THE JOURNALISTS THAT A LIEUTENANT COLONEL "NEGRO" SANCHEZ WAS ASSIGNED TO SURVEIL THEM, AND TO EVENTUALLY MAKE THE JOURNALISTS "PAY THEIR DEBTS" FOR PUBLISHING STORIES ON LA CANTUTA THAT HAD UPSET ARMY INTELLIGENCE AND THE SIN. HE CLAIMED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO IMMEDIATE ACTION AGAINST THE JOURNALISTS, BUT RATHER JUST BEFORE OR AFTER THE 1995 ELECTIONS.

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11. POLCOUNS TOLD THE JOURNALISTS WE WOULD LIKE

TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM THE SOURCE THAT COULD ALLOW US TO BETTER ASSESS HIS STATEMENTS. FOR EXAMPLE, WHO ELSE WORKED IN HIS GROUPS? WHAT WAS THE EXACT POSITION OF THE COLONEL HE WORKED FOR? HOW DID HE SUPPOSEDLY KNOW THAT MONTESINOS APPROVED THE OPERATIONS? THE JOURNALISTS AGREED. THEY ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE FACT THAT THE SOURCE HAD BEEN CASHIERED -- OVER DRUGS YET -- MEANT THAT ADDITIONAL CROSS-CHECKING WAS ESSENTIAL. POLCOUNS ASKED IF THE OFFICER COULD BE PART OF A GOP OPERATION TO DECEIVE THE JOURNALISTS. THE JOURNALISTS DID NOT RULE THAT OUT, BUT STATED THAT THE SOURCE HAD NOT GONE TO THEM; RATHER, THEY LEARNED ABOUT THE POTENTIAL AVAILABILITY OF THE SOURCE THROUGH PERSONS CLOSE TO EXILED GEN. RODOLFO ROBLES, WHO SOUGHT POLITICAL ASYLUM AT THE EMBASSY IN MAY 1993 AND DENOUNCED (BASED ON SECOND-HAND INFORMATION) VALDIMIRO MONTESINOS AND ARMY COMMANDER GEN. NICOLAS DI BARI HERMOZA AS THE PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR LA CANTUTA AND OTHER SECURITY SERVICE HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.

12. JOURNALISTS ASKED POLCOUNS IF USG COULD HELP GET THIS OFFICER OUT OF PERU. POLCOUNS SAID HE COULD PROVIDE NO ASSURANCES ON THIS POINT. WE WERE, HOWEVER, VERY INTERESTED IN GETTING TO THE BOTTOM OF ACCUSATIONS OF GOP INVOLVEMENT IN SUMMARY EXECUTIONS. POSSIBLY SOME NGOS COULD

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ASSIST IN RELOCATING THE OFFICER, SHOULD HIS STORY APPEAR GENUINE. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN TALKING DIRECTLY WITH THE OFFICER, SHOULD HE BE WILLING.

13. COMMENT: THE ALLEGATION THAT SOMEONE IN THE GOP CARRIED OUT THE LETTER BOMBINGS IS PLAUSIBLE. OBVIOUSLY WE NEED TO KNOW MORE BEFORE SPECIFIC PERSONS AND GROUPS CAN BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE CRIME. GIVEN THE HISTORY OF BARRIOS ALTOS AND LA CANTUTA, HOWEVER, NOTHING CAN BE RULED OUT. THE JOURNALISTS' SOURCE CLEARLY IS BITTER ABOUT HIS FIRING FROM THE ARMY. WHEN REVENGE ENTERS THE PICTURE, THERE IS THE RISK A SOURCE WILL FABRICATE INFORMATION TO GET EVEN. IN THIS CASE,

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HOWEVER, THE SOURCE HAS ACKNOWLEDGED HIS OWN

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S E C R E T SECTION 03 OF 03 LIMA 04949

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PHUM, PTER, PREL, SNAR, US, PE
SUBJECT: EX-ARMY OFFICER ALLEGES ARMY/
DIRECT ROLE IN AT LEAST THREE KILLINGS, THUS
OPENING HIMSELF TO CRIMINAL PROSECUTION.

14. ACTION REQUESTED:

A) SOURCE HAS SUBSEQUENTLY AGREED TO MEET WITH
THE JOURNALISTS AND POLCOUNS. WE WILL DEFER
UNTIL WE RECEIVE GUIDANCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT
(WE NOTE THAT ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS WHEN SIMILAR
SITUATIONS AROSE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZED US TO
PROCEED WITH SUCH A MEETING; IN NEITHER OF THOSE
CASES DID THE MEETING COME OFF (93 STATE 026790

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AND 93 STATE 345856, BOTH EXDIS).

B) AN FBI TEAM CAME TO PERU IN 1991 TO ASSIST
IN THE INVESTIGATION OF AT LEAST ONE OF THE
LETTER BOMBINGS. REQUEST DEPARTMENT SEND
EMBASSY AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE FROM
THAT INVESTIGATION TO ENABLE US TO ASSESS
FURTHER BONA FIDES OF SELF-ADMITTED LETTER

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BOMB FABRICATOR.
ADAMS##

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