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 ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00
	EAP-01	EB-01	HA-09	H-01	INM-02	TEDE-00	INR-00
	IO-19	L-03	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01
	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SIL-00	SNP-00	SP-00
	SR-00	SS-00	STR-17	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	RPE-01

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-----B6226A 212306Z /38

O 212302Z APR 93
 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7683
 INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
 AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
 AMEMBASSY QUITO
 AMEMBASSY TOKYO
 USMISSION GENEVA
 DIA WASHDC
 USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM

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USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
 TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, MOPS, PE
 SUBJECT: PERUVIAN MILITARY CHIEF DECLARES
 - HE WILL NOT TOLERATE CONGRESS
 - CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

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 - INSULTING THE ARMED FORCES

REF: A. LIMA 4491, B. LIMA 4372 (BOTH
 - NOTAL)

1. (C) SUMMARY: THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT FORCES COMMAND, GEN. NICOLAS DE BARI HERMOZA, BLASTED OPPOSITION MEMBERS OF THE CCD APRIL 20 FOR WHAT HE CALLED AN ORCHESTRATED CAMPAIGN TO DISCREDIT THE MILITARY AND IMPLICATE ARMY OFFICERS IN THE DISAPPEARANCES OF STUDENTS AND A PROFESSOR FROM LIMA'S "LA CANTUTA" UNIVERSITY.

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HERMOZA ACCUSED CCD MEMBERS OF BEING "IN COLLUSION WITH TERRORISTS" AND SAID THE MILITARY WOULD NOT TOLERATE THAT SORT OF TREATMENT FROM THE CONGRESS. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CCD'S SPECIAL COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING THE DISAPPEARANCES SAID HERMOZA HAD CLAIMED IN TESTIMONY THAT THIRD PARTIES WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ABDUCTIONS, BUT TOLD THE MEDIA THAT MILITARY ELEMENTS HAD APPARENTLY BEEN INVOLVED IN A "ROGUE" OPERATION. HERMOZA'S COMMENTS PRESAGED THE APRIL 21 ARMY COMMUNIQUE THAT TOLD CONGRESS IT "WILL NOT TOLERATE" ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE ARMY (SEPTTEL). END SUMMARY.

HERMOZA BLASTS CCD

2. (U) FOLLOWING HIS APPEARANCE BEFORE THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE CONSTITUENT CONGRESS

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 (CCD) THAT IS INVESTIGATING THE DISAPPEARANCES OF A PROFESSOR AND NINE STUDENTS FROM LIMA'S "LA CANTUTA" UNIVERSITY, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ARMED FORCES' JOINT COMMAND BLASTED THOSE WHO HAVE ALLEGED THAT THE MILITARY IS BEHIND THE ABDUCTIONS. GEN. NICOLAS DE BARI HERMOZA ASSERTED TO THE MEDIA THAT THERE IS A CAMPAIGN LED BY OPPOSITION MEMBERS OF THE CCD TO DAMAGE THE IMAGE OF PERU'S ARMED FORCES, "WHICH COULD PUT THE STABILITY OF THE COUNTRY IN DANGER....WE ARE NOT GOING TO PERMIT THIS KIND OF GAME UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES."

3. (U) SPEAKING IN A DELIBERATE, CONTROLLED TONE, HERMOZA SAID THAT "THESE OPPONENTS OF THE REGIME RESORT TO USING FALSE, ANONYMOUS AND NOTORIOUSLY COUNTERFEIT DOCUMENTS TO IMPLICATE ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL IN ACTS THAT VIOLATE THE LAW." HERMOZA SEEMED PARTICULARLY ANGRY ABOUT DOCUMENTS THAT HE SAID NAMED ARMY OFFICERS, THUS "EXPOSING THEM TO TERRORIST BULLETS." HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF SOME OPPOSITION CCD MEMBERS WERE "IN COLLUSION WITH THE HOMICIDAL TERRORISTS." THE JOINT FORCES CHIEF DECLARED THAT HE RESPECTED THE AUTONOMY OF

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THE CONGRESS AND FOR THAT REASON HE HAD APPEARED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE, BUT THAT SOME CONGRESSMEN HAD CONFUSED HIS RESPECT AND THINK "THEY HAVE BEEN GIVEN CARTE BLANCHE TO INSULT AND TRAMPLE ON THE PERUVIAN ARMY AND THE ARMED FORCES. I WILL NOT STAND FOR THAT!"

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CCD MEMBERS REACT

4. (U) ROGER CACERES VELASQUEZ, CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING THE LA CANTUTA DISAPPEARANCES, TOLD THE PRESS THAT HERMOZA HAD INSISTED IN HIS TESTIMONY THAT THE ABDUCTIONS HAD NOT BEEN ORDERED BY "THE ARMY HIERARCHY" AND WERE THE ACTIONS OF "THIRD PARTIES." CACERES NOTED THAT THE COMMITTEE WOULD MEET APRIL 21 TO EVALUATE HERMOZA'S TESTIMONY.

5. (U) HENRY PEASE, CCD MEMBER OF THE

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AMEMBASSY TOKYO
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 DEMOCRATIC LEFT MOVEMENT, REACTED STRONGLY TO
 HERMOZA'S COMMENTS TO THE PRESS, DECLARING THAT
 THE GENERAL HAD OFFENDED THE CONGRESS AND
 TRANSGRESSED AGAINST THE CONSTITUTION. PEASE
 SAID HE WOULD PRESENT A MOTION CALLING FOR
 DEFENSE MINISTER VICTOR MALCA TO EXPLAIN
 HERMOZA'S COMMENTS IN PERSON BEFORE THE CCD.
 PEASE TOLD THE MEDIA THAT A DEMOCRACY CANNOT
 FUNCTION WHEN A HIGH-RANKING OFFICIAL ATTACKS A
 CONSTITUTIONAL BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT. PEASE
 ALSO SAID THAT "A FEW DAYS AGO PRESIDENT CLINTON
 HAD EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT THE AUTONOMY OF THE
 CONGRESS AND DEMOCRACY IN PERU" AND THAT
 HERMOZA'S STATEMENTS CONFIRMED PRESIDENT
 CLINTON'S DOUBTS.

6. (C) HERMOZA'S COMMENTS ARE NOTHING MORE THAN
 "A POLITICAL TRICK," ACCORDING TO LUZ MARIA
 CERRON, STAFF ASSISTANT TO THE CCD'S HUMAN
 RIGHTS COMMITTEE AND THE SPECIAL "LA CANTUTA"
 COMMITTEE. CERRON NOTED THAT HERMOZA HAD BEEN
 GRILLED FOR OVER THREE HOURS IN A CLOSED SESSION
 OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE. HUMAN RIGHTS CONTACTS
 ALSO UNIFORMLY CONDEMNED HERMOZA'S ASSERTIONS.

COMMENT

7. (C) HERMOZA DELIVERED A CLEAR THREAT TO
 CONGRESS TO TREAD CAREFULLY IN ITS
 INVESTIGATIONS. HIS COMMENTS ABOUT THE NEED TO

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OBSERVE PROPER RESPECT FOR THE MILITARY ARE A
NOT-SO-SUBTLE REMINDER THAT THE MILITARY CAN AND
HAS MOVED TO PROTECT ITS IMAGE.

8. (C) PERHAPS THE APPEARANCE OF ANOTHER
ANONYMOUS REPORT, THIS TIME ACCUSING THE
MILITARY OF THE DISAPPEARANCES OF UNIVERSITY
STUDENTS FROM HUANCAYO (SEPTTEL), IS WHAT SET
HERMOZA OFF. IN ADDITION, THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS
WERE PROBABLY NOT DISPOSED TOWARD POLITENESS IN
THEIR SESSION WITH HIM SINCE HE HAD FAILED TO
TURN UP AT LEAST TWO PREVIOUS TIMES HE HAD BEEN
SUMMONED. WHATEVER GOT HERMOZA UPSET, HIS
CONTENTION THAT THE OPPOSITION IS IN LEAGUE WITH
THE TERRORISTS IS DANGEROUS. HERMOZA'S
ALLEGATIONS PRESAGED THE APRIL 21 ARMY
COMMUNIQUE, WHICH, UNDERSCORED BY TANK
MOVEMENTS, SAID THE ARMY "WILL NOT TOLERATE"
FURTHER ATTACKS ON THE INSTITUTION (SEPTTEL).
BRAYSHAW

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