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Current Class:

Current Handling: n/a

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Channel: n/a

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1.5(D), B1

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INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 AID-01 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 C-01 OASY-00 DODE-00 DOEE-00 EAP-01 EB-01 EUR-01 HA-09 H-01 TNM-02 L-03TEDE-00 INR-00 IO-19 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-16 TRSE-00 T - 00USIE-00 RPE-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9327
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
USEC BRUSSELS

USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, PREL, PE

SUBJECT: LA CANTUTA

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LIMA 06963 221627Z - ENTIRE TEXT

2. SUMMARY: A WELL CONNECTED, PRO-GOVERNMENT JOURNALIST SAYS THAT HIS ARMY SOURCES TOLD HIM THAT THE LA CANTUTA GROUP WAS KILLED BY AN ARMY OFFICER WHO LOST CONTROL DURING A COUNTER-INSURGENCY OPERATION. JOURNALIST WAS TOLD BY CONGRESS PRESIDENT JAIME YOSHIYAMA THAT MILITARY COURT EXAMINING THE CASE WOULD HAVE TO FIND SOME OFFICERS RESPONSIBLE. THIS COULD, OF COURSE, BE A FORMULA FOR PROTECTING HIGHER RANKING OFFICIALS WHO MAY HAVE SOME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DEATHS

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J. OLSON DATE/CASE ID: 2 AUG 2001 200003853

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OF THE LA CANTUTA GROUP. END SUMMARY		и, а
THAT HIS SOURCES AT THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SIN) HAD GIVEN HIM A BRIEF ON WHAT HAD	B1, 1.5(D)
SOURCES ADMITTED THAT THE PROFESSOR AND NINE STUDENTS HAD BEEN ABDUCTED BY AN ARMY UNIT COMMANDED BY MAJOR MARTIN RIVAS, THE PERSON IDENTIFIED AS COMMANDER OF THE OPERATION BY GENERAL RODOLFO ROBLES		
4. THE OPERATION WAS MADE TO LOOK LIKE AN MRTA ABDUCTION WITH THE PURPOSE OF STIRRING UP TROUBLE BETWEEN MRTA AND SENDERO LUMINOSO. THE TEN WERE TAKEN TO THE DESERT SOUTH OF LIMA AT LURIN FOR INTERROGATION AND INTIMIDATION. IN THE COURSE OF THE ACTION, ONE OF THE DETAINEES ADMITTED TO	erto	
PAGE 03 LIMA 06963 221627Z BEING A MEMBER OF SENDERO LUMINOSO. MAJ. RIVAS, WHO HAD LOST A BROTHER IN COMBAT WITH SL, LOST CONTROL AND SMASHED THE PERSON'S HEAD WITH HIS RIFLE BUTT. HE DIED. RIVAS THEN ORDERED THE KILLING OF THE REST OF THE DETAINEES IN ORDER TO GET RID OF WITNESSES. IT HAD NOT BEEN INTENDED, SIN SOURCES SAID, TO KILL THEM. THEY WERE BURIED IN THE DESERT WHERE THEY WERE KILLED.	B1, 1.5(D)	
THAT THIS VERSION IS KNOWN TO A NUMBER OF PERUVIANS OUTSIDE THE ARMY. HE ASSUMED THAT CCD PRESIDENT JAIME YOSHIYAMA KNEW IT SINCE YOSHIYAMA HAD TOLD THE LA CANTUTA CASE WAS A GRAVE INCIDENT THAT REQUIRED THE DISCIPINING OF A NUMBER OF ARMY OFFICERS. YOSHIYAMA TOLD THIS WAS BE THE LIKELY OUTCOME OF THE MILITARY COURT (CSJM) INVESTIGATION OF LA CANTUTA.	B1, 1.5(D)	
6. COMMENT: IS WELL CONNECTED AND HIGHLY SYMPATHETIC TO THE GOVERNMENT.	B1, 1.5(D)	٠
THE LEAKING OF THE VERSION OF EVENTS TO BY THE SIN		
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INDICATES THAT THIS IS WHAT THE GOP PLANS TO
DO. ANOTHER INDICATION OF WHAT THE GOP MAY PLAN
TO DO ABOUT LA CANTUTA IS A VERSION CIRCULATED
BY CAMBIO 90/NUEVA MAYORIA MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.
FIRST THEY POINT OUT THAT NO ONE KNOWS WITH
CERTAINTY THE LA CANTUTA GROUP IS DEAD. THEN,



PAGE 04 LIMA 06963 221627Z THEY SUGGEST IT MAY HAVE BEEN AN MRTA OPERATION.

7. TO ASSESS WHERE THIS ISSUE IS GOING, WE WILL HAVE TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS IN THE CSJM. BLAMING MAJOR RIVAS FOR HAVING "LOST HIS HEAD" MAY BE A WAY TO SHIELD SOME HIGHER RANKING OFFICIALS WHO MAY SHARE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DEATHS OF THE PROFESSOR AND NINE STUDENTS FROM LA CANTUTA. CHARGE HAS RECENTLY UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF LA CANTUTA WITH PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER SANTIAGO FUJIMORI; HE WILL DO THE SAME WITH CONGRESS PRESIDENT YOSHIYAMA.

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