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ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	A-01	CA-02	CCO-00	CG-00
	CIAE-00	COME-00	CTME-00	C-01	OASY-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00
	DS-00	EB-01	FAAE-00	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	INM-02
	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00	IO-19	JUSE-00	L-03	ADS-00
	M-01	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OIS-01	OMB-01
	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00
	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-01	CORE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000
INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
USMISSION GENEVA
DIRFBI WASHDC//OLIA//
DIA WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM

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MONTEVIDEO FOR LEGATT; USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PHU/, PGOV, PTER, PB
SUBJECT: PERUVIAN POLICE CLAIM HUMAN REMAINS
- ARE A TERRORIST HOAX

REF: A. LIMA 7671, B. LIMA 7615 AND PREV

1. (LOU) SUMMARY: COUNTER-TERRORISM POLICE
ANNOUNCED THAT EVIDENCE WAS FOUND LINKING
SENDERO LUMINOSO TO THE DISCOVERY OF HUMAN
REMAINS OUTSIDE LIMA JULY 9-11. POLICE FOUND AN

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IDENTICAL MAP TO THE ONE PRINTED BY "SI" IN A RAID ON A HOUSE WHERE A SENDERO LUMINOSO PROPAGANDA TEAM WAS CAPTURED. POLICE CONCLUDED THAT THE BONE PITS AND THE ATTEMPT TO LINK THEM TO THE LA CANTUTA DISAPPEARANCES WERE PART OF A HOAX DESIGNED TO DISCREDIT THE GOP AND THE ARMY. MEANWHILE, THE GRAVESITE RE/AINS UNGUARDED AND THE GOP HAS NOT RESPONDED TO INTERNATIONAL OFFERS OF FORENSICS ASSISTANCE. END SUMMARY. POLICE CLAIM TERRORISTS HAD GRAVESITE MAP

2. (U) PERUVIAN COUNTER-TERRORISM POLICE (DINCOTE) ANNOUNCED WITH HEAVY MEDIA PLAY JULY 13 THAT ITS AGENTS HAD CAPTURED EIGHT ALLEGED TERRORISTS LINKED TO THE HUMAN REMAINS FOUND JULY 9-11 NEAR CIENEGUILLA ON THE EASTERN OUTSKIRTS OF LIMA (REFTELS). AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, DINCOTE DECLARED THAT IT HAD ARRESTED THE EIGHT ON J/LY

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10. ACCORDING TO THE POLICE SPOKESMAN, THE DETAINEES FORMED A "PROPAGANDA TEAM" FOR SENDERO LUMINOSO, AND WERE CAUGHT WITH A PRESS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT ABOUT TO PUBLISH THE INSURGENTS' CLANDESTINE NEWSPAPER, "EL DIARIO." DINCOTE SAID IT HAD BEEN TAILING THE SUSPECTS FOR SEVERAL WEEKS, AND SHOWED VIDEOS OF THE SURVEILLANCE WITH JUNE DATES SUPERIMPOSED ON THEM.

3. (U) AMONG THE ITEMS POLICE SAID THEY DISCOVERED AT THE HOUSE WHERE THE DETAINEES WERE ARRESTED IS A MAP WITH DIRECTIONS SHOWING HOW TO FIND THE GRAVES SITE. THE MAP IS IDENTICAL TO THE ONE THAT "SI" MAGAZINE USED TO LOCATE THE GRAVES, DINCOTE ASSERTED. POLICE HANDWRITING SPECIALISTS HAD DETERMINED THAT BOTH MAPS WERE DRAWN BY THE SAME PERSON, THE SPOKESMAN WENT ON. THE MAP PRESENTED BY POLICE HAS INSTRUCTIONS ON IT ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONGRESS'S HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE, ROGER CACERES. CACERES LATER DENIED HE HAD RECEIVED A COPY OF THE MAP.

4. (U) DINCOTE ALSO CLAIMED IT HAD FOUND A PHOTO OF FOOTPRINTS MADE WITH ARMY BOOTS, ASSERTING THAT THE SENDERO PROPAGANDISTS WERE GOING TO USE

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THE PHOTO IN "EL DIARIO" TO "PROVE" THE ARMY HAD BEEN TRAMPING AROUND THE GRAVESITES AND WAS THEREFORE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KILLINGS.

A TERRORIST HOAX OR A GOVERNMENT MANEUVER?

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5. (U) THE CONCLUSION REACHED BY THE POLICE, ACCORDING TO THE DINCOTE SPOKESMAN, IS THAT SENDERO LUMINOSO HAD TRIED TO PULL A HOAX IN ORDER TO DISCREDIT THE GOVERNMENT AND THE ARMED FORCES.

6. (U) MARIA FLORES ESTRADA OF THE NGO "PRO-HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION" (APRODEH) TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE SPEED WITH WHICH POLICE HAD BEEN ABLE TO FIND A LINK BETWEEN THE GRAVES AND SENDERO LUMINOSO WAS SURPRISING. "WE HOPE THIS IS NOT A MANEUVER BY THE GOVERNMENT TO IMPEDE THE IMPARTIAL INVESTIGATION THAT THE COUNTRY IS DEMANDING," SHE SAID, NOTING HOW QUICKLY THE POLICE HAD REACHED THE APPARENT CONCLUSION THAT SUBVERSIVES WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR KILLING WHOEVER

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MONTEVIDEO FOR LEGATT; USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: PHU/, PGOV, PTER, PE
 SUBJECT: PERUVIAN POLICE CLAIM HUMAN REMAINS
 WAS BURIED IN CIENEGUILLA. SHE ALSO COMPLAINED
 THAT THE FOREIGN FORENSICS EXPERTS WHO HAD
 ARRIVED IN PERU (REF A) HAD NOT BEEN ALLOWED TO
 EXAMINE THE REMAINS.

NO PUBLIC INFORMATION ON MORGUE EXAMINATION

7. (LOU) SEPARATELY, THE DIRECTOR OF LIMA'S
 CENTRAL MORGUE TOLD THE PRESS THAT PERUVIAN
 SPECIALISTS HAD BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE HOW MANY
 PEOPLE THE REMAINS BELONGED TO. IT SHOULD BE
 POSSIBLE TO IDENTIFY AT LEAST ONE OF THE DEAD,
 HE ADDED. WHEN PRESSED FOR DETAILS, THE DIRECTOR
 SAID HE COULD PROVIDE THAT INFORMATION ONLY TO
 THE ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL IN CHARGE OF THE
 CASE, VICTOR CUBAS. CUBAS, WHO ALSO HEADED UP
 THE PUBLIC MINISTRY'S FRUITLESS INVESTIGATION
 INTO THE NOVEMBER 1991 BARRIOS ALTOS KILLINGS,
 IS NOT TALKING TO THE PRESS.

8. (LOU) OUR HUMAN RIGHTS CONTACTS HAVE ADVISED
 US THAT, AS OF JULY 13, THE GOP HAS STILL NOT
 ASSIGNED ANYONE TO GUARD THE GRAVESITE.

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THE CASE GROWS MURKIER

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9. (C) COMMENT: CONTRARY TO THE PRACTICE USED AFTER SIMILAR ARRESTS, DINCOTE DID NOT PRESENT THE DETAINEES TO THE PRESS IN THE USUAL STRIPED PRISONER SUITS. NO NON-GOP HANDWRITING ANALYSTS HAVE EXAMINED THE MAPS YET.

10. (C) THERE IS DANGER THAT ALL THE CURRENTLY-UNSUBSTANTIATED THEORIES AND UNANSWERED QUESTIONS WILL DISTRACT FROM THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS: TO DETERMINE AS MANY CIRCUMSTANCES AS POSSIBLE ABOUT THE DEATHS AND THE IDENTITY OF THE VICTIMS. SO FAR THE GOP HAS NOT RESPONDED TO INTERNATIONAL OFFERS OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (INCLUDING OURS) TO HELP WITH THIS TASK. WE UNDERSTAND THAT FISCAL (ATTORNEY GENERAL) BLANCA NELIDA COLAN "FEELS PRESSURED" BY THE EMBASSY TO ACCEPT USG FORENSIC ASSISTANCE. THE REAL PRESSURE ON HER MAY BE COMING FROM OTHER SOURCES. WE WILL ALLOW OUR OFFER TO GESTATE BEFORE PRESSING IT FURTHER.
BRAYSHAW
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