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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PHUM, PTER, PGOV, PE
SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS CASES
IN PERU

REF: STATE 254374

1. (U) POLOFF MET AUGUST 25 WITH DR. JUAN CARLOS ROMAN TORERO OF THE PERUVIAN FISCALIA'S (ATTORNEY GENERAL) HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE TO DISCUSS RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS CASES (REF A). ROMAN CONFIRMED HIS OFFICE HAD RECEIVED COMPLAINT ABOUT THE FOUR PERSONS (NAVARRO, RAMIREZ, GUTIERREZ, PIZARRO) REPORTEDLY DETAINED JUNE 26 IN VILCASHUAMAN PROVINCE, AYACUCHO. HE HAD SENT OFFICIAL INQUIRIES ABOUT THESE PERSONS, AS WELL AS ANOTHER DISAPPEARANCE CASE (INDALECIO HUAMANI), TO THE POLITICAL MILITARY COMMAND IN AYACUCHO, BUT HAD YET TO RECEIVE A REPLY.

2. (U) ROMAN SAID THREE OTHER REPORTED DETAINEES -- MAXIMO ANTESANA ESPEZA, FELIX CASTRO MONTES, AND JULIAN LANAZCA ESPEZA -- HAD BEEN RELEASED BY SECURITY FORCES AFTER FOUR DAYS ON JULY 9. ROMAN SAID ARRESTS HAD RESULTED FROM ACCUSATIONS BY OTHER PEASANTS INTERESTED

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IN OBTAINING DETAINEES' LAND. FELIX CASTRO LATER SENT ROMAN'S OFFICE A SWORN STATEMENT CLAIMING THAT HE HAD

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SAM A. MOSKOWITZ
DATE/CASE ID: 9 AUG 1999 199902275

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BEEN BEATEN DURING DETENTION; ROMAN HAD BEEN UNABLE TO VERIFY ABUSE. ROMAN ADDED THAT HIS OFFICE HAD RECEIVED 150 CASES OF DISAPPEARANCES REPORTED SINCE JULY 1985, AND IN 90 CASES HAD LOCATED THE ALLEGED VICTIM (USUALLY FREED AFTER A SHORT PERIOD OF DETENTION). HIS OFFICE HAD ALSO RESOLVED 210 OF THE 1,300 PLUS DISAPPEARANCE CASES REPORTED BEFORE JULY 28, 1985.

3. (U) ROMAN HAD NO INFORMATION ON DISAPPEARANCE OF TEOFILO RIMAC CAPCHA. WE HAVE ASKED LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS ABOUT RIMAC'S CASE, BUT HAVE YET TO RECEIVE A RESPONSE.

4. (C) ROMAN CLAIMED THAT RECENT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL VISIT HAD GONE WELL FROM GOP'S VIEW. HE DOWNPLAYED POSSIBILITY THAT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL MIGHT ISSUE A NEGATIVE REPORT. ROMAN STATED HIS OFFICE WOULD NOT LOOK INTO JUNE PRISON DEATHS, AS "FISCALES PROVINCIALES" WERE INVESTIGATING. LIMA PROVINCE FISCAL WAS MORE AGGRESSIVE, HAVING ALREADY FILED CHARGES AGAINST GENERAL RABANAL ET AL FOR LURIGANCHO PRISON DEATHS. EL FRONTON PRISON WAS IN CALLAO PROVINCE, AND THE FISCAL PROVINCIAL THERE HAD NOT, TO ROMAN'S KNOWLEDGE, OPENED AN INVESTIGATION OF THE EL FRONTON DEATHS.
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