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ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-
H-01 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 HA-09 L-03 PH-10
PA-01 OMB-01 INM-07 INRE-00 USIE-00 SP-02 SNP-01
PRS-01 DS-01 DSE-00 SCT-02 /050 W
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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7361
INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
USAFSO HOWARD AFB PH
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PH
DEA HQS WASHDC

DEPARTMENT OF STATE		IS/FPC/CDR <i>dy</i>	Date: 8/26/96
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELEASE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DECLASSIFY	MR Cases Only:	
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCISE	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLASSIFY	EO Citations: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> DENY	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PART	_____ TS authority to:	
<input type="checkbox"/> DELETE Non-Responsive Info		<input type="checkbox"/> CLASSIFY as	<input type="checkbox"/> S or
FOIA Exemptions _____		<input type="checkbox"/> DOWNGRADE TS to	<input type="checkbox"/> S or
PA Exemptions _____			

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DEA FOR OF, PS, OC, OI
PANAMA FOR ADS
USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, PTER, PHUM, PE
SUBJECT: POLICE RAID UNIVERSITIES

1. (U) THE INTERIOR MINISTRY ANNOUNCED FEBRUARY 13 THAT A JOINT POLICE FORCE HAD RAIDED A SERIES OF UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES (NOW ON VACATION) IN THE LIMA AREA DURING THE PRE-DAWN CURFEW HOURS. ACCORDING TO INITIAL PRESS REPORTS AND APRA SECRETARY NEGREIROS' COMMENTS TO THE AMBASSADOR EARLY FEBRUARY 13, RAIDS INVOLVED HUNDREDS OF POLICEMEN (POLICE SAY 4,500 SUPPORTED BY POLICE ARMORED VEHICLES). CAMPUSES RAIDED INCLUDED UNIVERSITIES OF SAN MARCOS, SAN FERNANDO, CANTUTA, AND THE NATIONAL ENGINEERING UNIVERSITY, AS WELL AS THE
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CONFIDENTIAL

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SAN MARCOS MEDICAL SCHOOL AND SAN MARCOS STUDENT HOUSING.

[REDACTED]

THERE ARE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT ONE POLICEMAN DIED IN THE OPERATION. POLICE REPORT ONE STUDENT KILLED, ONE SL LEADER CAPTURED, AND MORE THAN 1,000 PERSONS DETAINED. EXPLOSIVES AND WEAPONS WERE SEIZED.

2. (U) IN A RADIO INTERVIEW, PRESIDENT GARCIA JUSTIFIED THE ACTION AS NECESSARY TO ASCERTAIN REPEATED REPORTS THAT TERRORISTS (BOTH SL AND MRTA) HAD TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF UNIVERSITY AUTONOMY (I.E., LACK OF POLICE PRESENCE) TO MANUFACTURE AND STORE SUBVERSIVE MATERIEL, PLAN ATTACKS, AND HIDE FROM THE LAW. THE INTERIOR MINISTRY HAS PROMISED TO SHOW THE MEDIA THE RESULTS OF THE RAIDS AT A 5 P.M. PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY.

3. (C) COMMENT: CONSERVATIVES AND SECURITY FORCES HAVE LONG CHAFED AT WELL FOUNDED REPORTS THAT TERRORISTS WERE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF UNIVERSITY AUTONOMY. BOTH THE GARCIA AND BELAUNDE GOVERNMENTS HAD REFRAINED FROM TAKING CORRECTIVE ACTION THAT COULD PRODUCE A NEGATIVE RESPONSE FROM THE LEFT, INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF RADICAL STUDENT GROUP VIOLENCE. PUBLIC CONCERN ABOUT TERRORISM HAS RISEN SHARPLY IN RECENT WEEKS, HOWEVER, AND THE GOP IS NOT LIKELY TO FACE AN ADVERSE REACTION FROM THE PUBLIC AT LARGE. THE LEFT CAN BE EXPECTED TO REACT SHARPLY AND WILL PROBABLY SEE IN GARCIA'S ACTION FURTHER EVIDENCE OF A DESIRE TO RESTRICT INDEPENDENCE OF NON-EXECUTIVE BRANCH INSTITUTIONS. WATSON

[REDACTED]