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PAGE 01  
ACTION ARA-00

LIMA 01825 01 OF 02 172130Z

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE		IS/FPG/CDR	Date: 8/26/96
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SECTION 01 OF 02 LIMA 01825

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PTER, PGOV, PHUM, PINS, PE  
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT GARCIA WINS BROAD SUPPORT FOR RAIDS  
AGAINST THREE UNIVERSITIES

REF: (A) LIMA 1758, (B) LIMA 1781

1. (C) SUMMARY: OF 793 PERSONS DETAINED DURING THE FEBRUARY 13 ANTI-TERRORIST RAIDS AGAINST THREE LIMA UNIVERSITIES, 273 PERSONS WERE STILL BEING DETAINED ON FEBRUARY 16. THESE DETAINEES ARE SUSPECTED TERRORISTS, HAVE PRIOR ARREST RECORDS FOR SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES, OR LACK IDENTIFICATION. THREE POLICEMEN WERE WOUNDED AND ONE NIGHT WATCHMAN WAS KILLED IN THE SAN MARCOS RAID. THE RAIDS APPEAR TO ENJOY WIDESPREAD SUPPORT IN SECTORS OTHER THAN IU. PRESS COVERAGE OF THE RAIDS HAS BEEN GENERALLY FAVORABLE. SOME DISTURBANCES CAUSED BY PROTESTING PUM-LED STUDENTS HAVE TAKEN CONFIDENTIAL  
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PAGE 02 LIMA 01825 01 OF 02 172130Z

PLACE; MORE COULD BE EXPECTED. ADEPT HANDLING OF PUBLIC

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RELATIONS ASPECT OF THIS OPERATION SEEMS TO HAVE CONVINCED CITIZENRY THAT RAIDS WERE NEEDED AND THAT THEY WERE UNDERTAKEN LEGALLY. END SUMMARY.


2. (U) ON FEBRUARY 13 (FRIDAY), MORE THAN 4,000 POLICEMEN RAIDED SAN MARCOS, "ENRIQUE GUZMAN VALLE" (LA CANTUTA) AND NATIONAL ENGINEERING (UNI) UNIVERSITIES IN LIMA SEARCHING FOR TERRORISTS AND WEAPONS. THE DAWN RAIDS RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF A UNIVERSITY WATCHMAN, BULLET WOUNDS TO THREE POLICE OFFICERS, AND THE DETENTION OF 793 PERSONS ON A VARIETY OF CHARGES. POLICE UNCOVERED EXPLOSIVES, WEAPONS, AND A QUANTITY OF MRTA AND SENDERO LUMINOSO (SL) PROPAGANDA MATERIAL. THE DETAINEES WERE TAKEN TO A POLICE SCHOOL OUTSIDE OF LIMA FOR IDENTIFICATION AND INITIAL INTERROGATION. BY THE AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 16 (MONDAY), 520 OF THE DETAINEES HAD BEEN RELEASED. VICE MINISTER OF INTERIOR AGUSTIN MANTILL TOLD NEWSMEN THE SAME DAY THAT THE REMAINING 273 PERSONS HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED TO OTHER DETENTION FACILITIES BECAUSE THEY WERE SUSPECTED TERRORISTS, HAD PRIOR ARREST RECORDS FOR SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES, OR LACKED IDENTIFICATION. CONGRESSMEN AND UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES HAVE HAD PERSONAL ACCESS TO THE DETAINEES. RELATIVES HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO EXCHANGE NOTES WITH THEM. LISTS OF THOSE WHO WILL NOT BE RELEASED AND EXPLANATIONS FOR THEIR CONTINUED DETENTION HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE PRESS.

3. (U) SINCE THE RAIDS, THE GOP HAS SUCCESSFULLY CARRIED OUT A PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORT INFORMING THE CITIZENRY OF ITS ACTIONS AND SEEKING SUPPORT FOR THEM. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD THE AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 13, INTERIOR MINISTER ABEL SALINAS EXPLAINED THAT THE RAIDS WERE NOT CONFIDENTIAL  
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03

LIMA 01825 01 OF 02 172130Z

DIRECTED AGAINST THOSE WHO ARE IN THE UNIVERSITIES TO LEARN OR TO TEACH BUT TO ESTABLISH WHETHER THESE THREE UNIVERSITIES WERE BEING USED AS SANCTUARY AND STAGING AREAS BY TERRORIST ELEMENTS. THE RAIDS, HE POINTED OUT, WERE CONDUCTED WITHIN ESTABLISHED LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL PARAMETERS. THE PRINCIPLE OF "UNIVERSITY AUTONOMY" ONLY REFERS TO ECONOMIC, ADMINISTRATIVE, AND ACADEMIC FREEDOMS AND HAD NOT BEEN VIOLATED. "UNIVERSITIES DO NOT HAVE EXTRATERRITORIAL RIGHTS," HE ARGUED. SIMILAR COMMENTS WERE MADE TO THE PRESS OVER THE WEEKEND BY PRESIDENT



GARCIA, APRA SECRETARY GENERAL LUIS NEGREIROS, PRIME MINISTER LUIS ALVA CASTRO, PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT JUAN VICENTE UGARTE, AND OTHER LEADING APRISTAS. THE PRESIDENT UNDERScoreD THE FACT THAT THE GOP HAD NOT ACTED PRECIPITOUSLY IN DEALING WITH REPORTS OF TERRORIST PRESENCE IN THE UNIVERSITIES RAIDED AND THAT THE FINDING OF WEAPONS AND EXPLOSIVES THERE PROVED THAT THE RAIDS WERE NECESSARY. "THE UNIVERSITIES ARE PLACES OF STUDY AN NOT PLACES IN WHICH TO STORE WEAPONS, UNIFORMS, OR SUBVERSIVE PROPAGANDA OR TO SERVE AS SANCTUARY FOR SUBVERSIVES," HE NOTED. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE RAIDS HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW, AN OPINION SHARED BY SUPREME COURT PRESIDENT UGARTE IN A SEPARATE INTERVIEW ON FEBRUARY 14. SPOT INTERVIEWS WITH CITIZENS ON THE STREETS CONDUCTED BY TELEVISION AND RADIO STATIONS SHOWED WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FOR THE GOP ACTION.

4. (U) THE RAIDS WERE ALSO DEFENDED BY SENATOR FELIPE OSTERLING (PPC) AND RECEIVED FAVORABLE HEADLINE AND EDITORIAL TREATMENT IN VIRTUALLY EVERY NEWSPAPER, EXCEPT MARXIST "LA VOZ." SENATOR OSTERLING DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE RAIDS HAD VIOLATED THE "UNIVERSITY AUTONOMY"

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PAGE 01  
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SECTION 02 OF 02 LIMA 01825

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PTER, PGOV, PHUM, PINS, PE  
SUBJECT: *PRESIDENT GARCIA WINS BROAD SUPPORT FOR RAIDS*

*PRINCIPLE GUARANTEED BY THE CONSTITUTION (ARTICLE 31)*  
BECAUSE "UNIVERSITIES ARE NOT A STATE WITHIN THE STATE."  
EDITORIALS IN "EL COMERCIO" AND "HOY" ON FEBRUARY 15  
CHARACTERIZED THE INCURSIONS AS A "DEPLORABLE BUT AWAITED  
MEASURE" AND AS "PAINFULLY NECESSARY," RESPECTIVELY.  
NEVERTHELESS, BOTH EDITORIALS PLACED MOST OF THE BLAME  
FOR THEM NOT ON THE GOP BUT ON THE UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES  
FOR PERMITTING THEIR INSTITUTIONS TO BECOME "REFUGE AND  
HEADQUARTERS" ("EL COMERCIO") OF TERRORISTS. ON FEBRUARY  
16, DAILY "EXPRESO" HAD A SIMILAR EDITORIAL IN WHICH IT  
CALLED ON UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TO IMPEDE THE RETURN OF  
TERRORISTS TO THE UNIVERSITIES AS WELL AS URGED LEFTIST  
LEADERS AND UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES TO CEASE THEIR WITTING  
OR UNWITTING COVER-UP OF THESE ACTIVITIES. MARXIST "LA  
CONFIDENTIAL  
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PAGE 02

LIMA 01825 02 OF 02 172132Z

VOZ" HAS BEEN MOST CRITICAL OF THE RAIDS, CHARACTERIZING  
THEM AS "EXAMPLES OF FASCISM" AND ACCUSING THE GOP OF

FABRICATING THE EVIDENCE FOUND AT THE SITES.

5. (U) THE RECTORS AND LEFTIST LEADERS HAVE COME UNDER JOURNALISTIC CRITICISM BECAUSE OF THEIR IMMEDIATE AND STRONG CONDEMNATION OF THE RAIDS. UNI RECTOR IGNACIO LOPEZ SORIA HAS BEEN THE MOST VOCAL CRITIC. HE CALLED THE RAIDS "EXAMPLES OF FASCISM" AND CHARGED THAT "THERE IS NO DEMOCRACY IN PERU." SAN MARCOS UNIVERSITY RECTOR JORGE CAMPOS REY DE CASTRO TERMED THE RAIDS A "VIOLATION OF UNIVERSITY AUTONOMY" AND CHARGED THE AUTHORITIES WITH CAUSING CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE TO PROPERTY DURING THE INCURSIONS. ALBERTO FUJIMORI, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF RECTORS, ALSO CRITICIZED THE RAIDS, POINTING OUT THAT "UNIVERSITY PREMISES ARE INVIOLEABLE." PUM LEADERS CLAIM MOST OF THE 273 PERSONS STILL DETAINED ARE NOT TERRORISTS BUT LEADERS OR MEMBERS OF PUM OR OTHER IU PARTIES. IU SENATOR ENRIQUE BERNALES (PSR) ALSO QUESTIONED CHARGES LEVELED AGAINST MOST OF THE DETAINEES. SOME, HE SAID, WERE SOUGHT BY THE AUTHORITIES FOR HAVING PARTICIPATED IN STRIKES AND DEMONSTRATIONS OR FOR VAGRANCY AND SEXUAL MOLESTATION. "TO JUSTIFY THE OPERATION, THE GOVERNMENT WANTS TO ACCUSE MORE THAN 100 UNIVERSITY STUDENTS OF BEING TERRORISTS," BERNALES CHARGED. IU CONGRESSMAN GUSTAVO ESPINOZA (PCP) HAS IDENTIFIED TWO OF THE DETAINEES -- HECTOR ZEGARRA MORI AND JAVIER DURAND TACUCHI -- AS HAVING BEEN HELD IN LURIGANCHO PRISON ACCUSED OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES AT THE TIME OF THE JUNE 1986 PRISON RIOTS. THE TWO WERE LIVING AT THE UNIVERSITY NOW BECAUSE THEY LACKED THE MEANS TO LIVE ELSEWHERE, ESPINOZA CLAIMED.

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PAGE 03

LIMA 01825 02 OF 02 172132Z

6. (U) THE RAIDS HAVE CAUSED SOME SMALL DISTURBANCES NEAR THE THREE UNIVERSITIES AND IN DOWNTOWN LIMA. DEMONSTRATIONS ON FEBRUARY 13 AND 16 WERE DISPERSED BY POLICE USING MINIMUM FORCE AND RESULTED IN APPROXIMATELY 50 ARRESTS, ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS. LIMA WAS QUIET ON FEBRUARY 14 AND 15. STUDENT LEADERS SUSPENDED CLASSES INDEFINITELY AT THE AFFECTED UNIVERSITIES. THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF RECTORS IS EXPECTED TO MEET BY MID-WEEK TO DISCUSS THE RAIDS AND WHAT PROTEST ACTIONS TO UNDERTAKE IN THEIR WAKE.

7. (C) COMMENT: WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE UNIVERSITY

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RECTORS, IU LEADERS AND PUM-LED GROUPS OF PROTESTING STUDENTS, IT APPEARS THAT A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF PERUVIANS BELIEVE THAT PRESIDENT GARCIA WAS JUSTIFIED IN ORDERING THE FEBRUARY 13 RAIDS AND THAT THEY WERE CARRIED OUT WITHIN ESTABLISHED LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL PARAMETERS. GROWING PUBLIC FRUSTRATION OVER TERRORISM, AS WELL AS THE ADEPT HANDLING OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS ASPECT OF THIS OPERATION BY PRESIDENT GARCIA AND OTHERS, MAY HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO APPARENT PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE RAIDS. PUBLIC APPEARANCES BY THE PRESIDENT, MINISTER SALINAS, AND APRA SECRETARY GENERAL LUIS NEGREIROS TO EXPLAIN THE RAIDS, THE LEGAL BASES FOR THEM, AND TO KEEP THE COUNTRY INFORMED OF THE FATE OF THE DETAINEES UNDOUBTEDLY CONTRIBUTED TO A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE ISSUE AS WELL AS TO A PERCEPTION THAT THE GOP ACTED DEMOCRATICALLY AND DECISIVELY AGAINST TERRORISM. THE DEATH OF THE NIGHT WATCHMAN REMAINS TO BE FULLY EXPLAINED, AS DO CHARGES OF ABUSES PERPETRATED AGAINST SOME OF THE DETAINEES AT THE TIME OF ARREST. WE SUSPECT THAT THE LEFT WILL ATTEMPT TO EXPLOIT THESE ISSUES TO CAUSE HEADACHES FOR THE GOP IN THE NEAR FUTURE AS RETRIBUTION FOR THESE RAIDS. WATSON

