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ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00
	DODE-00	CISA-00	EB-01	EUR-01	HA-09	H-01	INM-02
	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-19	LAB-04	L-03	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	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-17
	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	RPE-01	SNIS-00	/087W	

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O 162321Z APR 93
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7577
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USMISSION GENEVA
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM

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USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, PE
SUBJECT: CONGRESS COMMITTEE ON "LA CANTUTA"
DISAPPEARANCES STONEWALLED

CONFIDENTIAL

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REFS: A) LIMA 3898, B) LIMA 4004

1. (C) SUMMARY: THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING THE JULY 1992 DISAPPEARANCES AT "LA CANTUTA" UNIVERSITY WAS STOOD UP BY ARMY COMMANDER HERMOZA AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE MALCA. HERMOZA SAID HE WAS ILL AND MALCA WAS TRAVELING. THE COMMITTEE WILL CONTINUE REQUESTING THAT HERMOZA APPEAR BEFORE THEM, BUT HAS LITTLE POWER TO FORCE HIM TO COMPLY. PRO-GOVERNMENT LEGISLATORS HAVE TRIED TO DISPARAGE THE "PEASE DOCUMENT" THAT SPARKED THE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: DONALD A. JOHNSTON
DATE/CASE ID: 12 DEC 2001 200102081

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CREATION OF THE INVESTIGATORY COMMITTEE BECAUSE OF THE DOCUMENT'S UNKNOWN AUTHORSHIP. SEPARATE EMBASSY SOURCES CONFIRMED THAT THE ARMY IS "QUIETLY" SENDING TO MOSCOW THE OFFICER WHO ALLEGEDLY LED THE UNIT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LA CANTUTA AND BARRIOS ALTOS DISAPPEARANCES. LIMA'S ESTABLISHMENT DAILY, "EL COMERCIO", CALLED FOR A FULL INVESTIGATION, SAYING DISAPPEARANCES CANNOT BE TOLERATED. END SUMMARY.

INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE STONEWALLED

2. (C) THE CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATORY COMMITTEE INTO THE JULY 1992 DISAPPEARANCES OF TEN STUDENTS AND ONE PROFESSOR FROM "LA CANTUTA" UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN STOOD UP, TWICE IN THE SAME WEEK, BY ARMY CHIEF AND PRESIDENT OF THE JOINT MILITARY COMMAND GEN. NICOLAS HERMOZA AND ONCE

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 BY MINISTER OF DEFENSE GEN. VICTOR MALCA.
 ACCORDING TO OPPOSITION CONGRESSWOMAN GLORIA HELPER, HERMOZA DECLINED TO ATTEND A COMMITTEE MEETING ON APRIL 12 BECAUSE "HERMOZA SAID HE COULD NOT SHOW UP WITHOUT MALCA." MINDEF MALCA HAD INFORMED THE COMMITTEE ON APRIL 12 THAT HE COULD NOT ATTEND THE COMMITTEE SESSION BECAUSE HE HAD TO TRAVEL TO BRAZIL ON PERSONAL BUSINESS.

3. (C) THE COMMITTEE RESPONDED BY INFORMING HERMOZA THAT HE WAS EXPECTED TO APPEAR ON APRIL 15, AND THAT IT WAS NOT NECESSARY FOR HERMOZA TO MAKE A JOINT APPEARANCE WITH MALCA. HOWEVER, HERMOZA MISSED THE APRIL 15 SESSION, PLEADING HEALTH REASONS. ASKED AFTER HERMOZA MISSED THE FIRST SESSION WHAT THE COMMITTEE COULD DO TO FORCE WITNESSES TO APPEAR, HELPER SHRUGGED AND SAID THEY COULD ASK POLITELY. THE COMMITTEE SESSION TO DATE HAVE HEARD TESTIMONY FROM FAMILY MEMBERS OF THE DISAPPEARED AND STUDENTS AT "LA CANTUTA" WHO WITNESSED THE KIDNAPPINGS.

PRO-GOP CONGRESSMEN ATTACK "PEASE" DOCUMENT

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4. (U) REACTION TO THE "PEASE DOCUMENT" (REF B) THAT PURPORTEDLY "EXPOSED" ARMY INTELLIGENCE AS THE AUTHORS OF THE DISAPPEARANCES HAS BROKEN ALONG PARTY LINES. PRO-GOVERNMENT LEGISLATORS, SUCH AS CONGRESS PRESIDENT JAIME YOSHIYAMA, HAS ATTACKED THE DOCUMENT THAT CAUSED THE

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INVESTIGATORY COMMITTEE TO BE FORMED, ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE DOCUMENT WAS NOT SIGNED AND "IS NOT EVEN ON LETTERHEAD PAPER." YOSHIYAMA TOLD A RADIO NEWS SHOW THAT THE DOCUMENT HAD NO MERIT AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE BECAUSE NO ONE HAD TAKEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR WRITING IT. HE QUICKLY ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS PERSONALLY IN FAVOR OF THE COMMITTEE BECAUSE THE "LA CANTUTA" DISAPPEARANCES HAD TO BE FULLY INVESTIGATED. OPPOSITION LEGISLATORS SUCH AS HELFER, AND CONGRESSMAN HENRY PEASE HIMSELF, ARE QUICK TO POINT OUT THAT THE DOCUMENT IS OF UNCERTAIN AUTHORSHIP BUT THAT THE DETAILS ARE SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS THAT HAVE TO BE LOOKED INTO.

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AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
 USMISSION GENEVA
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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
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ESTABLISHMENT DAILY CALLS FOR FULL INVESTIGATION

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5. (U) ON APRIL 16, LIMA'S ESTABLISHMENT DAILY "EL COMERCIO" RAN AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "THE TRUTH IN THE 'LA CANTUTA' CASE," WHICH CALLED FOR A COMPLETE INVESTIGATION INTO THE DISAPPEARANCES. "IT IS NOT ACCEPTABLE THAT IN A STATE THAT, AGAIN, IS ON THE ROAD TO DEMOCRACY, THERE CAN BE 'DISAPPEARANCES' OR OTHER TYPES OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS." LAMENTING THE DIVISIONS DOWN PARTY LINES IN THE CONGRESS REGARDING THE "PEASE DOCUMENT," THE EDITORIAL ALSO CRITICIZES THE REPEATED NO-SHOWS OF ARMY CHIEF HERMOZA. ADMITTING THAT TO DATE NOTHING CONCRETE HAS BEEN PROVED CONCERNING THE AUTHORS OF THE DISAPPEARANCES, THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES THAT "PERU, WITHOUT POLITICAL EXCEPTION, DEMANDS THAT THIS CASE, AS WELL AS OTHERS THAT HAVE BEEN DENOUNCED, BE INVESTIGATED TO THE VERY END."

IMPLICATED OFFICER BEING SHIPPED TO RUSSIA

6. (C) TWO SEPARATE EMBASSY CONTACTS HAVE CONFIRMED THAT MAJOR MARTIN RIVAS, IMPLICATED BY THE PEASE DOCUMENT AS THE SENIOR OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE ARMY'S THAT ALLEGEDLY KILLED THE STUDENTS AND THE PROFESSOR (AS WELL AS CARRIED OUT THE NOVEMBER 1991 BARRIOS ALTOS KILLINGS), IS BEING QUICKLY AND QUIETLY TRANSFERRED TO MOSCOW. A DEPRESSED MARTIN REPORTEDLY TOLD ONE

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CONTACT HE WAS VERY UNHAPPY ABOUT HIS SUDDEN
TRANSFER TO RUSSIA AS HE HAD ONLY BEEN DOING HIS
DUTY. ANOTHER CONTACT SAID MARTIN WAS BEING
REASSIGNED TO THE MILITARY ATTACHE'S OFFICE IN
MOSCOW AND WOULD BE LEAVING WITHIN THE NEXT FEW
WEEKS.

AUTHORSHIP OF THE DOCUMENT

7. (C) A JOURNALIST CONTACT TOLD US THAT THE
"PEASE DOCUMENT" WAS WRITTEN BY THE OFFICERS
IMPRISONED AT THE "REAL FELIPE" MILITARY
INSTALLATION FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE FAILED
NOVEMBER 1992 COUP ATTEMPT. ACCORDING TO THIS
SOURCE, AT THE TIME OF THE JULY 1992
DISAPPEARANCES ALL THE OFFICERS WERE STILL ON
ACTIVE DUTY AND BY POOLING THEIR INFORMATION HAD
SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO PIECE TOGETHER A
COMPLETE VERSION OF THE DISAPPEARANCES AS A WAY
TO STRIKE BACK AT THE FUJIMORI ADMINISTRATION
AND IN PARTICULAR AGAINST VALDIMIRIO MONTESINOS.

8. (C) COMMENT: THE MILITARY'S STONEWALLING
PRESUMABLY WAS APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT. WHILE
WE DO NOT RULE OUT EVENTUAL APPEARANCES IN
CONGRESS BY MALCA AND HERMOZA, THERE IS THUS FAR
NO SIGN THAT THE GOP SUPPORTS A FULL
INVESTIGATION OF THE LA CANTUTA CASE. BOTH THE
STONEWALLING AND THE REPORTED EFFORT TO GET AN
ALLEGED PARTICIPANT OUT OF THE COUNTRY ARE

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REMINISCENT OF PRESIDENT GARCIA'S HANDLING OF
HUMAN RIGHTS CASES. BRAYSHAW##
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