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ACTION ARA-01

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	H-01	INM-02	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-19	L-03	ADS-00
	NEA-01	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OES-09	OIC-02	OMB-01
	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SDEL-00	SIL-00	SNP-00
	SP-00	SR-00	SS-00	STR-17	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00
	SA-01	RPE-01	/096W				

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O 222158Z APR 93
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7712
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION GENEVA
DIA WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM

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USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, PE
SUBJECT: THE STORY OF GENERAL HERMOZA'S CCD
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- TESTIMONY ON THE LA CANTUTA
- DISAPPEARANCES

REF: A. LIMA 4558, B. LIMA 4561

1. [REDACTED] - ENTIRE TEXT

2. SUMMARY: IN HIS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE CCD SPECIAL COMMITTEE, AN EVASIVE GEN. HERMOZA INSISTED THAT THE MILITARY HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE "LA CANTUTA" DISAPPEARANCES. HERMOZA THEORIZED THAT THE DISAPPEARANCES HAD BEEN THE

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WORK OF "THIRD PARTIES"; THAT THIS WAS A CASE OF "SELF-DISAPPEARANCE"; OR THAT SOME PARA-MILITARY GROUP HAD BEEN RESPONSIBLE. HE ASSERTED THAT THE AUTHORS OF THE "FABRICATED" ANONYMOUS DOCUMENT THAT IMPLICATED THE MILITARY SHOULD BE PUNISHED. HERMOZA ALSO INSINUATED THAT THE MILITARY WOULD NEVER HAVE OPENED AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE ABDUCTIONS IF IT HAD NOT BEEN FOR A "PROPAGANDA" EFFORT BY THE CCD AND THE MEDIA. A COMMITTEE MEMBER TOLD US THAT THE EVIDENCE ACCUMULATED BY THE COMMITTEE IS SO FAR INCONCLUSIVE, BUT POINTS TO THE MILITARY AS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LA CANTUTA ABDUCTIONS. END SUMMARY.

3. GLORIA HELFER, MEMBER OF THE CCD COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING THE "LA CANTUTA" DISAPPEARANCES, MET WITH US APRIL 22, ALONG WITH THE CHIEF STAFF MEMBER OF THE CCD COMMITTEE, TO RECOUNT JOINT ARMED FORCES COMMAND CHAIRMAN GEN. HERMOZA'S

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 APRIL 20 TESTIMONY.

FEIGNING ILLNESS?

4. HELFER NOTED THAT HERMOZA HAD FAILED TO SHOW UP FOR TWO PREVIOUS APPOINTMENTS IN WHICH HE WAS TO HAVE TESTIFIED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE. ON THE SECOND OCCASION, HE HAD SENT A NOTE FROM HIS DOCTOR ASSERTING THAT HERMOZA WAS EXPECTED TO BE ILL FROM APRIL 14 UNTIL APRIL 18. THE INCREDULOUS STAFFER WONDERED ALOUD HOW HERMOZA KNEW HE WOULD BE SICK FOR EXACTLY FOUR DAYS.

OPENING STATEMENT: WE ARE INNOCENT

5. WHEN HERMOZA FINALLY SHOWED UP TO TESTIFY THE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 20, HE APPEARED "GLASSY-EYED," ACCORDING TO HELFER. THE STAFFER ADDED THAT HE APPEARED INEBRIATED. HE PERSPIRED PROFUSELY DURING THE THREE-HOUR CLOSED SESSION.

6. HERMOZA PROCEEDED TO READ A PREPARED OPENING STATEMENT (HELPER GAVE US A COPY) IN WHICH HE

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ASSERTED THAT THE ARMED FORCES WERE DEEPLY INTERESTED IN GETTING TO THE BOTTOM OF THE "LA CANTUTA" DISAPPEARANCES. "ADDITIONALLY," THE NOTE GOES ON, "AND NO LESS IMPORTANT, IS THE ATTITUDE ASSUMED BY MY COMMAND WITH REGARD TO RECENT PUBLICATIONS IN THE MEDIA, WHICH ACCEPT

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HARDLY SERIOUS VERSIONS (OF THE STORY) AND CONTENTIOUSLY INCRIMINATE MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES FOR HAVING PARTICIPATED IN THE SUPPOSED ABDUCTION AND SUBSEQUENT EXECUTION OF A PROFESSOR AND SEVERAL STUDENTS OF LA CANTUTA... BASED ON A 'DOCUMENT' FOR WHICH NOBODY ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITY FOR ITS AUTHORSHIP." THE STATEMENT GOES ON TO STATE THAT, "IN DEFENSE OF THE PRESTIGE OF A TUTELARY INSTITUTION OF THE STATE," THE MILITARY JUSTICE SYSTEM WILL CARRY OUT A FULL INVESTIGATION TO IDENTIFY AND PUNISH THE AUTHORS OF THE ANONYMOUS DOCUMENT. "ADMINISTRATIVELY," THE STATEMENT GOES ON, "THROUGH THE ARMY'S OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL, THE UNOBJECTIONABLE CONCLUSION HAS BEEN REACHED

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| | NEA-01 | NRRC-00 | NSAE-00 | NSCE-00 | OES-09 | OIC-02 | OMB-01 |
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O 222158Z APR 93
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7713
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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 THAT NEITHER THE ARMY NOR ANY PARTICULAR MEMBER
 OF THE FORCES OF ORDER HAD ANY PARTICIPATION IN
 THE SUPPOSED DISAPPEARANCES."

AVOIDING SOME OF THE QUESTIONS

7. HELPER DESCRIBED HERMOZA AS "EVASIVE" DURING
 QUESTIONING; HE WOULD NOT ANSWER ANY QUERY FOR
 WHICH HE DID NOT HAVE A PREPARED RESPONSE.
 EVERY REPLY HE MADE WAS READ DIRECTLY OFF
 SEVERAL PAGES HE HELD IN HIS HAND. HE WAS
 PARTICULARLY UNCOOPERATIVE WITH COMMITTEE MEMBER
 CARLOS CUARESMA, WHO HAD APPEARED ON A TV NEWS
 PROGRAM TWO DAYS BEFORE, WAVING THE "SLEEPING
 LION" DOCUMENT AND CHIDING HERMOZA FOR NOT
 APPEARING AT HIS PREVIOUS APPOINTMENTS WITH THE
 COMMITTEE. HELPER COMMENTED THAT HERMOZA JUST
 REPLIED "I CANNOT ANSWER THAT QUESTION" EACH
 TIME CUARESMA PUT A QUERY TO HIM.

HERMOZA'S HYPOTHESES ON WHO DONE IT

8. WHEN ASKED WHO HE THOUGHT WAS RESPONSIBLE
 FOR THE DISAPPEARANCES, HERMOZA PRESENTED THREE
 "THEORIES" ACCORDING TO HELPER. IN ORDER OF
 LIKELIHOOD, HERMOZA SAID THAT THE DISAPPEARANCES
 MAY HAVE BEEN COMMITTED BY THIRD PARTIES, SUCH
 AS SUBVERSIVES; THAT THE PROFESSOR AND STUDENTS

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MAY HAVE DISAPPEARED ON PURPOSE, PERHAPS GOING

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OFF TO THE HILLS TO JOIN THE SUBVERSIVES; OR
(THE LEAST LIKELY SCENARIO) PARA-MILITARY
PERSONNEL WERE RESPONSIBLE. IN ANY CASE,
HERMOZA ASSERTED, THE ARMED FORCES WERE NOT
RESPONSIBLE AS NO ORDER HAD EVER BEEN GIVEN TO
ABDUCT STUDENTS AT LA CANTUTA UNIVERSITY.

"PROPAGANDA" PROMPTED MILITARY TO OPEN INQUIRY

9. HELPER SAID THAT SHE ASKED HERMOZA WHY THE
MILITARY HAD WAITED SO LONG TO OPEN AN
INVESTIGATION INTO THE DISAPPEARANCES, AND WHY IT
WAS DOING SO IF, AS HERMOZA ASSERTED, NO ARMED
FORCES PERSONNEL WERE INVOLVED. AT THAT POINT,
SHE SAID, HERMOZA LOST HIS COMPOSURE, REPLYING
"BECAUSE OF ALL THE PROPAGANDA ON THE CASE|"
SHE SAID HERMOZA PICKED UP A MAGAZINE AND SHOOK
IT AT THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS, EXCLAIMING, "THE
PRESS AND THE CONGRESS ARE TRYING TO DAMAGE THE
IMAGE OF THE ARMED FORCES. I DO NOT EVEN WANT TO
READ THE ARTICLES. THAT IS WHY WE HAVE OPENED AN
INVESTIGATION." HELPER CONFIDED THAT SHE
INTERPRETED HERMOZA'S COMMENTS TO MEAN THAT
HERMOZA REALLY DID NOT CARE ABOUT THE CASE
ITSELF, AND HE WAS WILLING TO GO TO GREAT LENGTHS
TO PROTECT THE MILITARY'S IMAGE ABOVE ALL ELSE.

10. HELPER SAID THAT THE SESSION SEEMED TO END
IN A NORMAL MANNER, AND HERMOZA, THOUGH HE
APPEARED IRRITATED, DID NOT GIVE ANY HINT THAT

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HE WAS ABOUT TO DENOUNCE AND THREATEN THE
CONGRESS.

DEFMIN SHOULD EXPLAIN HERMOZA'S REMARKS

11. THE CCD PLENARY SESSION ON APRIL 23 WILL

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CONSIDER A MOTION PUT FORWARD BY CCD MEMBER HENRY PEASE TO HAVE DEFENSE MINISTER VICTOR MALCA APPEAR BEFORE CONGRESS AND EXPLAIN HERMOZA'S BEHAVIOR. HELPER BELIEVES THE MOTION WILL PASS, THOUGH THE WORDING MAY HAVE TO BE TONED DOWN FROM "SUMMONING" MALCA TO THE CCD TO "INVITING" HIM. SHE WAS CONFIDENT THAT MALCA WOULD APPEAR IN THE CCD PERHAPS NEXT WEEK TO "EXPLAIN AND CLARIFY" HERMOZA'S COMMENTS.

COMMENT

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12. HERMOZA CLEARLY DID NOT WANT TO TESTIFY
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE; THOSE PRESENT AT HIS
TESTIMONY FELT THAT HE SEEMED TO THINK IT WAS
BENEATH HIM. FROM HELFER'S RECOUNTING OF
EVENTS, IT SOUNDS LIKE HERMOZA'S ASSERTION THAT
HE WAS VERBALLY HARASSED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS IS
ALSO NOT ENTIRELY ACCURATE.

13. AS FAR AS THE COMMITTEE'S INVESTIGATION IS
GOING, HELFER AFFIRMED THAT ITS MEMBERS ARE NOT
CLOSE YET TO REACHING A CONCLUSION. SHE DID
CONFIDE, HOWEVER, THAT SO FAR, ALL THE EVIDENCE
SEEMS TO IMPLICATE THE MILITARY. IT MAY BE THIS
FACT MORE THAN ANY OTHER THAT LED TO HERMOZA'S
AND THE ARMY COMMAND'S SEVERE REACTION.
BRAYSHAW##

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