

[REDACTED]
Case Number: S200200010

RELEASED IN FULL

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ACTION SS-00

INFO LOG-00 OASY-00 ADS-00 CORE-00 /000W
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P 282057Z OCT 93
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2447

[REDACTED] LIMA 11678

DECAPTIONED


E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PHUM, KJUS, PREL, EAID, PTER, US, PE
SUBJECT: ANOTHER POSSIBLE LEAD ON DEATH SQUAD
AND LA CANTUTA

REF: A) LIMA ; B) LIMA


1. [REDACTED] ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY: A JOURNALIST TOLD US IN CONFIDENCE A MEMBER OF THE ARMY INTELLIGENCE UNIT THAT CARRIED OUT THE BARRIOS ALTOS AND LA CANTUTA CASE IS WILLING TO COME FORWARD. SOURCE IS ALLEGED TO HAVE MORE COMPLETE INFORMATION ON THE ORIGINS AND ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING KILLINGS, NOT PREVIOUSLY ATTRIBUTED TO THE UNIT. JOURNALIST PROMISED TO SHARE DETAILS WITH US SHORTLY. THE SOURCE CLAIMS GOP IS NEGOTIATING PRISON TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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WITH SOME OFFICERS RESPONSIBLE FOR LA CANTUTA. JOURNALIST WANTS TO KNOW IF SOURCE COULD TRAVEL TO THE U.S. SHOULD HE MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENTS ABOUT THE DEATH SQUAD, AND SAID THE SOURCE MIGHT WANT TO DISCUSS HIS INFORMATION WITH A MEMBER OF THE EMBASSY. END SUMMARY.

3. A JOURNALIST TOLD POLCOUNS OCTOBER 20 HE HAD LOCATED A MEMBER OF THE "LA COLINA" ARMY INTEL


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DEATH SQUAD THAT CARRIED OUT THE BARRIOS ALTOS KILLINGS AND LA CANTUTA DISAPPEARANCES. THIS SOURCE, WHOM HE DID NOT IDENTIFY, REPORTEDLY HAS DEBRIEFED THE REPORTER'S COLLEAGUES EXTENSIVELY ON LA COLINA'S ORIGINS AND ACTIVITIES. HE CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN AN EYE-WITNESS TO THE LA CANTUTA DISAPPEARANCES, AND THAT THIS OPERATION BEGAN AS AN ARMY INTELLIGENCE DIRECTORATE (DINTE) APPROVED EFFORT TO DETAIN THE SUSPECTED AUTHORS OF THE TARATA CARBOMB. MAJOR SANTIAGO MARTIN, WHO HEADED THE UNIT, DECIDED ON HIS OWN TO KILL THE SUSPECTS. THE SOURCE ALSO CLAIMED THAT "LA COLINA" HAD KILLED A JOURNALIST IN HUACHO IN 1992 (YAURI) AND OTHER PERSONS IN HUARAL, ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM UNNAMED PERSONS IN THE GOP. HE CLAIMED THE 1991 BARRIOS ALTOS KILLINGS WERE ALSO CARRIED OUT ON ORDERS FROM ABOVE. SOURCE REPORTEDLY HAS INFORMATION ON THE LOCATION OF OTHER VICTIMS' BODIES. THE JOURNALIST INVITED POLCOUNS TO MEET WEEK OF OCTOBER 25 TO GO OVER NOTES OF HIS SESSIONS WITH HIS SOURCE.




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4. THE JOURNALIST SAID THE SOURCE IS WILLING TO BE IDENTIFIED PUBLICLY, EVEN THOUGH THIS WILL RUIN HIS CAREER. HIS REASON FOR TESTIFYING IS A FEAR HE WILL BE CONVICTED ANYWAY AS A SCAPEGOAT FOR "LA COLINA," AS WELL AS RESENTMENT OVER MARTIN'S LEADERSHIP OF THE UNIT.

5. THE JOURNALIST SAID HIS SOURCE HAD HEARD THE GOP HAD PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING PUNISHMENT TO SELECTED MEMBERS OF THE DEATH SQUAD: FOUR YEARS IN PRISON, BUT WITH LIBERAL LIBERTY PRIVILEGES OUTSIDE THE JAIL AFTER THE FIRST SIX MONTHS; AN UNDISCLOSED AMOUNT OF CASH; AND RELOCATION OF THE MEMBERS' FAMILIES ABROAD.

6. THE JOURNALIST ASKED POLCOUNS IF THE SOURCE COULD TRAVEL TO THE U.S. FOR A BRIEF PERIOD AFTER HAVING MADE PUBLIC STATEMENTS ABOUT THE ARMY DEATH SQUAD ACTIVITIES. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE SOURCE MIGHT WISH TO MEET WITH A MEMBER OF



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THE EMBASSY AT SOME POINT.

7. COMMENT: THE JOURNALIST IS REPUTABLE. IT IS POSSIBLE HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES HAVE ENCOUNTERED A DEATH SQUAD MEMBER WILLING TO TALK. THE ALLEGATION THAT THE GROUP CARRIED OUT OTHER KILLINGS IS CONCEIVABLE. IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT THE GOP IS NEGOTIATING SENTENCES WITH SOME OF THE PERSONNEL RESPONSIBLE FOR LA CANTUTA.

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8. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON POSSIBILITY OF TRAVEL OF SOURCE TO U.S., AND EVENTUAL TREATMENT OF HIM IF HE STATES HE CAN NOT RETURN TO PERU DUE TO THREATS TO HIS SAFETY.
BRAYSHAW

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