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EXCISE

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RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 0652
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() Classify as (X) Extend as () Downgrade to
Date 5/22/02 Declassify on _____ Reason Z5X1

CONTROLS
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SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TEXT
TAGS: PTER, PHUM, PGOV, PREL, PE
COMBINE: COMPLETE

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER ON ~~SENDERO'S~~
EUROPEAN SCENE

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. ACTION REQUEST FOR GENEVA CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPH 12.
3. SUMMARY: ~~A~~ PERUVIAN HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER LIVING IN POLITICAL ASYLUM IN SWEDEN (FOLLOWING ~~A~~

DEPT OF STATE APPEALS REVIEW PANEL (ARP)

FOIA/PA	Mandatory Review
() Release	() Declassify
(X) Excise	() Declassify in Part
() Deny	() Class. Ret/Renew
Exemptions <u>B1</u>	
ARP Action Cert. <u>me</u>	Date <u>1/19/02</u>

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~~E~~ A PRESUMED GOP LETTER BOMB THAT COST HIM ONE

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SUMMARY.

FIRST TRIP BACK HOME

4. POLOFFS MET RECENTLY WITH DR. AUGUSTO ZUNIGA PAZ, A PERUVIAN HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER CURRENTLY LIVING IN SWEDEN AS A POLITICAL ASYLEE. ZUNIGA GAINED ASYLUM AFTER HE RECEIVED A LETTER BOMB IN 1991 THAT COST HIM AN ARM. ZUNIGA, WHO BLAMES THE POLICE FOR THE LETTER BOMB, HAS RECUPERATED WITH A PROSTHETIC ARM AND IS CURRENTLY ACTIVE IN EUROPEAN HUMAN RIGHTS CIRCLES ON BEHALF OF PERU. HE SAID HE WAS VISITING PERU FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE HIS ATTACK TO COLLECT INFORMATION FOR A REPORT HE WAS ASKED TO PREPARE FOR THE UNITED NATION'S HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICES IN GENEVA.

STANDING UP TO SL ON THE HR CIRCUIT

5. ZUNIGA SAID HE RECEIVED SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDS WHILE IN EUROPE AND WAS A FREQUENT SPEAKER ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN PERU BEFORE AUDIENCES THROUGHOUT THE REGION, ESPECIALLY FRANCE, BRITAIN AND GERMANY. ZUNIGA SAID THAT AS PART OF HIS HUMAN RIGHTS EFFORTS, HE OFTEN FOUND IT NECESSARY TO COUNTER SENDERO PROPAGANDA AND MISINFORMATION EVEN AS HE WAS DENOUNCING GOP HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES. AS A VICTIM OF GOVERNMENT HR ABUSES, HE FELT HE HAD THE MORAL AUTHORITY AND DUTY TO ARGUE AGAINST SENDERO APOLOGISTS AND PROPAGANDA IN PUBLIC FORA, SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT AS TO SENDERO'S TRUE NATURE WHILE ALSO ATTACKING THE GOP'S HR RECORD.

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10. ZUNIGA RAILED AGAINST THE ARMY'S STANCE THAT
THE LA CANTUTA CASE (IN WHICH NINE UNIVERSITY

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STUDENTS AND A PROFESSOR WERE ALLEGEDLY EXECUTED BY AN ARMY INTELLIGENCE DEATH SQUAD) SHOULD BE TRIED IN A MILITARY COURT. ZUNIGA REPEATED MANY OF THE CONCERNS OF LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS THAT JURISDICTION IN SUCH CASES BELONGED TO THE CIVILIAN COURTS AND THAT THE MILITARY COURTS WERE NOT COMPETENT TO TRY EITHER HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSERS OR CIVILIANS ACCUSED OF TERRORISM.

ZUNIGA QUERIES LACK OF U.S. SUPPORT IN GENEVA

11. ZUNIGA PRAISED THE USG FOR ITS INVALUABLE HELP ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN PERU. FROM HIS "EXILE" IN SWEDEN, HE HAS GAINED AN APPRECIATION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DIMENSIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS WORK. ZUNIGA SAID HE HAD BECOME AWARE OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR ADVANCING HUMAN RIGHTS IN PERU WITHIN INTERNATIONAL FORA. HE SAID HE HAD, HOWEVER, ENCOUNTERED UNEXPECTED RESISTANCE FROM THE U.S. DELEGATION IN GENEVA TO HELPING PERUVIAN NGO'S ADVANCE HR CONCERNS AT THE U.N. OFFICES IN GENEVA. ZUNIGA STATED AN OFFICER EXPLAINED TO HIM THAT THE USG'S PREFERRED POSITION WAS TO PRESSURE THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS THE OAS, INSTEAD OF THROUGH WORLD-WIDE BODIES SUCH AS THE U.N. ZUNIGA FOUND THAT THIS STATED U.S. POSITION WAS NOT THE CASE IN RELATION TO COUNTRIES SUCH AS CAMBODIA.

12. POLOFFS THANKED ZUNIGA FOR HIS APPRECIATIVE COMMENTS ON THE U.S. COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND ASSURED HIM THAT HUMAN RIGHTS REMAINED A CORNERSTONE OF OUR POLICY TOWARDS PERU. WE ASSURED HIM THAT THERE WAS NO DOUBLE STANDARD IN U.S. POLICY VIS-A-VIS PERU IN SUPPORTING HUMAN RIGHTS IN INTERNATIONAL FORA AND INVITED ZUNIGA TO CONTACT THE U.S. DELEGATION IN GENEVA DURING HIS UPCOMING TRIP TO GENEVA. ACTION REQUESTED: USMISSION GENEVA COMMENTS THAT WILL HELP US ADDRESS ZUNIGA'S CONCERNS WOULD BE WELCOMED.

13. COMMENT: ZUNIGA, AFTER HIS ORDEAL, COMMANDS A SPECIAL PLACE WITHIN THE PERUVIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMUNITY. HIS COURAGE IN STANDING UP TO THE GOP AND SL ARE WELL KNOWN. 1

ADAMS

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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