

EX-102

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ACTION ARA-01

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| INFO | LOG-00 | ACDA-17 | ACDE-00 | AID-01 | AMAD-01 | A-01 | CA-02 |
| | CCO-00 | CG-00 | CIAE-00 | COME-00 | CTME-00 | C-01 | OASY-00 |
| | DODE-00 | DOEE-00 | DOTE-00 | DS-00 | EB-01 | FAAE-00 | FBIE-00 |
| | HA-09 | H-01 | IMMC-01 | INM-02 | TEDE-00 | INR-00 | INSE-00 |
| | IO-16 | L-01 | ADS-00 | MMP-00 | M-00 | NRCE-00 | NSAE-00 |
| | NSCE-00 | OIC-02 | OIG-04 | OIS-01 | OMB-01 | PA-01 | PM-01 |
| | PRS-01 | P-01 | SCT-03 | SNP-00 | SP-00 | SR-00 | SSO-00 |
| | SS-00 | STR-01 | TRSE-00 | T-00 | USIE-00 | USSS-00 | ASDS-01 |
| | RPE-01 | PMB-00 | /073W | | | | |

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R 221315Z MAR 94
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5725
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USMISSION GENEVA
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 RELEASE
 EXCISE
 DENY
 DECLASSIFY
 DECLASSIFY IN PART
 IM/IPS/CR/IR
 Date: 9/11/97
 EO Citations _____

FOIA Exemptions _____
 PA Exemptions _____
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USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, PTER, KPRP, PE
SUBJECT: CONDITIONS IMPROVED AT LIMA'S

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- LARGEST PRISON FOR TERRORISTS

REF: (A) LIMA 225 (NOTAL)
(B) LIMA 273 (NOTAL)

1. [REDACTED] - ENTIRE TEXT
2. SUMMARY: WHILE OVERCROWDED, CONDITIONS AT THE MAXIMUM-SECURITY CASTRO CASTRO PRISON HAVE IMPROVED DRAMATICALLY SINCE THE FACILITY WAS

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RENOVATED AFTER THE MAY 1992 TAKE-DOWN. IT IS NOW ONE OF THE BEST PRISONS IN PERU. BESIDES THE OVERCROWDING, INADEQUATE HEALTH CARE IS THE PRISON'S OTHER MAJOR PROBLEM; TB AND OTHER INFECTIONS ARE ON THE RISE DUE IN LARGE PART TO A LACK OF MEDICINE. THIS REPORT IS PART OF A SERIES ON PERUVIAN PRISON CONDITIONS AND IS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF FISCAL YEAR 1994 POST REPORTING PLAN REQUIREMENTS. END SUMMARY.

3. ON MARCH 17 POLOFF VISITED LIMA'S LARGEST DETENTION CENTER FOR CONVICTED AND SUSPECTED MALE TERRORISTS, MIGUEL CASTRO CASTRO PRISON (ALSO KNOWN AS CANTO GRANDE). POLOFF ACCOMPANIED TWO OFFICIALS OF THE PENITENTIARY RIGHTS INSTITUTE (INSTITUTO DE DERECHO PENITENCIARIO -- IDP) OF THE LIMA BAR ASSOCIATION; PRISON OFFICIALS WERE NOT AWARE THAT A USG OFFICIAL WOULD BE IN THE PARTY AND THUS COULD NOT PREPARE IN ADVANCE.

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PRISON POPULATION CONTINUES TO GROW

4. CASTRO CASTRO WAS COMPLETELY RENOVATED IN THE LATTER HALF OF 1993, AT A COST OF 4.9 MILLION SOLES (APPROXIMATELY 2.3 MILLION USD). THIS WORK CONTINUED THE REBUILDING WHICH TOOK PLACE AFTER THE FACILITY WAS EXTENSIVELY DAMAGED IN THE MAY 1992 TAKE-DOWN THAT WRESTED CONTROL OF THE PRISON AWAY FROM SENDERO LUMINOSO AND MRTA INMATES. WHEN PRESIDENT FUJIMORI INAUGURATED THE REMODELED FACILITY IN JANUARY 1994, THE GOP ANNOUNCED THAT THERE WERE 1,346 PRISONERS, 80 PERCENT OF WHOM WERE ACCUSED OF BEING OR KNOWN TO BE MEMBERS OF SENDERO LUMINOSO (REFTELS). POLOFF WAS TOLD ON THIS VISIT THAT THE PRISON NOW HOLDS 1,560 INMATES. NO FURTHER BREAKDOWN (E.G., HOW MANY WERE CONVICTED AND HOW MANY AWAITING TRIAL) WAS OFFERED EXCEPT FOR THE PRISON LEGAL ADVISER'S ASSERTION THAT THERE WERE 80 PRISONERS SERVING LIFE SENTENCES FOR TREASON. ONLY PICSI PRISON

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NEAR CHICLAYO HOLDS MORE TERRORISM DETAINEES.

SECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE DRAMATICALLY IMPROVED

5. ACCORDING TO THE TWO IDP REPRESENTATIVES, WHO HAD VISITED THE PRISON SEVERAL TIMES OVER THE YEARS, THE IMPROVEMENT HAS BEEN DRAMATIC. GONE ARE THE SENDERO MURALS AND GRAFFITI THAT USED TO

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COVER THE WALLS, WHICH ARE NOW PAINTED SOLID BEIGE; THE POLICE ARE STRICTLY IN CONTROL OF THE PRISON. SECURITY IS TIGHT, WITH MINE FIELDS AROUND THE FACILITY AND A NUMBER OF CHECK POINTS ON THE ROAD (IN CONTRAST, NEARBY LURIGANCHO PRISON FOR COMMON CRIMINALS HAD ONE UNMANNED CHECK POINT THE DAY OF POLOFF'S VISIT). INSIDE, THE CELL BLOCKS ARE SURROUNDED BY LUSH FLOWER AND VEGETABLE GARDENS, TENDED BY REPENTANT AND OLDER INMATES AS A REWARD FOR GOOD BEHAVIOR. THE GARDENS CONTRIBUTE FRESH VEGETABLES TO THE PRISONERS' DIET. THERE ARE FOUR CELL BLOCKS, AND PRISONERS ARE DIVIDED ACCORDING TO THEIR ALLEGED CRIME AND GUERRILLA MEMBERSHIP (IN ADDITION TO SENDERO MILITANTS, THERE IS A HANDFUL OF MRTA MEMBERS, NARCOTRAFFICKERS AND DANGEROUS COMMON CRIMINALS REQUIRING MAXIMUM SECURITY). ANOTHER

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BLOCK HOLDS KITCHEN AND MEDICAL FACILITIES AND A WELL-EQUIPPED AUDITORIUM.

PROBLEMS: OVERCROWDING AND DEFICIENT HEALTH CARE

 6. THE MAIN PROBLEM FACING CASTRO CASTRO PRISON IS OVERCROWDING, A PROBLEM THAT CURRENTLY PLAGUES EVERY PRISON IN THE COUNTRY. THE CELLS (ABOUT 1.5 METERS BY 2.5 METERS), BUILT FOR TWO PEOPLE, ALL HOLD THREE INMATES; TWO HAVE CEMENT BUNK BEDS AND ONE MUST SLEEP ON THE FLOOR. PRISONERS ARE

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ALLOWED THIRTY MINUTES OF EXERCISE AND FRESH AIR OUTSIDE THEIR CELLS EACH DAY. DURING THE HALF HOUR OF EXERCISE, INMATES USE A SMALL, WALLED-IN, CEMENT SOCCER COURT.

7. HEALTH PROBLEMS ARE ANOTHER MAJOR CONCERN. TUBERCULOSIS, WHILE NOT RAMPANT, HAS STRUCK A NUMBER OF INMATES (TB IS COMMON AT NEARLY ALL PERUVIAN PRISONS). OTHER BRONCHIO-PULMONARY CONDITIONS, SUCH AS ASTHMA AND BRONCHITIS, ARE COMMON. MOST OF THE PRISONERS POLOFF MET WERE BAREFOOT AND CLEARLY HAD MYCOTIC INFECTIONS ON THEIR FEET; ONE COMPLAINED THAT THE FUNGUS HAD INFECTED HIS EYE. SEVERAL PRISONERS COMPLAINED (AND PRISON OFFICIALS ADMITTED) THAT THERE WAS A SEVERE SHORTAGE OF MEDICINE. THE ONLY MEDICINE IN THE HEALTH FACILITY HAD BEEN DONATED BY ONE OF THE PRISON CHAPLAINS.

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8. THE OVERCROWDING IS A RESULT OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF CAPTURES OF TERRORISM SUSPECTS AND THE SLOW PACE WITH WHICH THEY ARE BROUGHT TO TRIAL (IN THE CIVILIAN COURTS). ONE INMATE, WHO SAID HE WAS A REPENTANT SENDERO LUMINOSO TERRORIST, COMPLAINED THAT HE HAD BEEN AT THE PRISON FOR TWO-AND-A-HALF YEARS WITHOUT A TRIAL. HE GUESSED THAT UP TO SIXTY PERCENT OF THE TOTAL PRISON POPULATION WAS INNOCENT.

9. COMMENT: ONLY TWO YEARS AGO, CASTRO CASTRO WAS CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF THE WORST PRISONS IN PERU. NOW, DESPITE ITS PROBLEMS, IT IS ONE OF THE BEST. FOR INSTANCE, IN CONTRAST TO MOST OF THE COUNTRY'S JAILS, THIS ONE HAS RUNNING WATER IN EVERY CELL. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO REPORT ON PRISON CONDITIONS IN PERU AS PART OF AN ONGOING SERIES.

ADAMS

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