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INFO: PE (02) DAND (02) EAC (01) RJ (01) PDAS (01) RJC (01) SPA (01)
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ACTION 10-16

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	ACDE-00	AID-00	AMAD-01	ARA-00	A-00
	CA-02	CCO-00	CG-00	CIAE-00	COME-00	CTHE-00	C-01
	OAS-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	DS-00	EAP-00	EB-00
	EUR-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	HA-09	H-01	INMC-01	INM-02
	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00	LAB-01	L-00	ADS-00	M-00
	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OIS-01	OMB-01	PA-01
	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	SR-00
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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6494
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
USEC BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM

CONFIDENTIAL LIMA 03673

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PHUM, PTER, PREL, ICRC, EU, JA, PE
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH EU AMBASSADORS ON
REPORTED HUANUCO KILLINGS

REF: (A) LIMA 3669
(B) LIMA 3640

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT
2. SUMMARY: CHARGE AND POLCOUNS BRIEFED EU LIMA AMBASSADORS' MEETING CONVENED TO DISCUSS REPORTED KILLINGS IN HUANUCO DEPARTMENT. CHARGE SAID THAT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO REACH FIRM CONCLUSIONS ON THE EXTENT OF THE KILLINGS OR WHO IS RESPONSIBLE, BUT THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT THE MILITARY HAS BEEN USING INDESCRIMINANT VIOLENCE AGAINST CIVILIANS. CHARGE URGED EU APPROACH GOP TO ASK THAT REPORTS BE FULLY INVESTIGATED AND THE ICRC BE GIVEN PROPER ACCESS TO THE REGION. EU GROUP WAS RECEPTIVE TO THIS REQUEST. EMBASSY HAS CAREFULLY AVOIDED PUBLIC TREATMENT OF HUANUCO KILLINGS. END SUMMARY
3. FOLLOWING UP OFFER MADE TO GREEK AMBASSADOR (REF B); CHARGE AND POLCOUNS MET APRIL 21 WITH THE EU AMBASSADORS' GROUP IN LIMA, SUMMONED TO ADDRESS REPORTS OF KILLINGS IN NORTHERN HUANUCO DEPARTMENT. POLCOUNS PROVIDED FULL BRIEFING TO GROUP ON OVERALL SECURITY BACKGROUND IN REGION, RECENT MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST SENDERO LUMINOSO, AND REPORTS WE HAVE OF KILLINGS OF CIVILIANS BY THE MILITARY. POLCOUNS CONCLUDED THAT WE DO NOT HAVE INFORMATION SUPPORTING SOME MEDIA CLAIMS OF "100'S" OF DEAD, BUT THERE ARE RELIABLE REPORTS FROM NGO'S AND JOURNALISTS THAT SOME KILLINGS BY THE MILITARY OF CIVILIANS HAVE

OCCURRED. HE ALSO NOTED THAT NGO'S, INCLUDING THE ICRC, HAVE BEEN BARRED FROM THE AFFECTED AREAS AND THUS HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO DEVELOP FIRST HAND INFORMATION ON WHAT HAS OCCURRED. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION FROM GERMAN AMBASSADOR, POLCOUNS SAID THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT SOME OF THESE KILLINGS COULD HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT BY SENDERO LUMINOSO, BUT IN GENERAL, SL FLEES AREAS WHERE MILITARY FORCES ARE MASSES. GERMAN ALSO ASKED IF IT MAY BE POSSIBLE THAT THE DEATH TOLL IS OF A MAGNITUDE REPORTED IN THE MEDIA. POLCOUNS STRESSED THAT IT IS TOO EARLY TO SAY, BUT THE DEATH TOLL MIGHT APPROACH 100. IT WAS HIGHLY UNLIKELY TO RISE TO THE "100'S."

4. CHARGE SAID THAT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO FORM CONCLUSIVE JUDGMENTS ON WHAT OCCURRED IN HUANUCO BUT THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT THE MILITARY MAY HAVE ENGAGED IN INDESCRIMINANT ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS. WHAT IS NEEDED IS A PROPER INVESTIGATION, PLUS ACCESS TO THE AREA BY THE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED INSTITUTION -- THE ICRC -- THAT IS MOST APPROPRIATE TO OBSERVE WHAT HAS OCCURRED IN AREAS WHERE POLITICAL VIOLENCE IS PREVALENT. THE USG WILL URGE THE GOP TO TAKE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO THESE CONCERNS AND WE ASK

THE EU TO EXPRESS ITSELF ON THE ISSUE AS WELL. CHARGE NOTED THAT IN ADDITION TO BASING ITS REQUEST FOR ICRC ACCESS ON THE ORGANIZATION'S INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED ROLE, THE USG ALSO HAS A COMMITMENT FROM THE GOP MADE IN LATE 1991 TO PERMIT ICRC ACCESS TO MILITARY POSTS TO VERIFY TREATMENT OF DETAINEES. THIS COMMITMENT WAS MADE IN RETURN FOR DELIVERY OF A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND WE EXPECT THE GOP TO ABIDE BY IT.

5. BELGIAN AMBASSADOR ASKED WHAT USG HAS DONE SO FAR. CHARGE SAID HE HAD MET WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL BLANCA MELIDA COLAN TO MAKE OUR POINTS ON THE NEED FOR A FULL INVESTIGATION. THE STATE DEPARTMENT WAS APPROACHING THE PERUVIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON CONCERNING ICRC ACCESS AND CHARGE

WOULD FOLLOW UP IN LIMA ONCE THE WASHINGTON DEMARCHE WAS COMPLETED. CHARGE SAID HE WOULD APPROACH CONGRESS PRESIDENT YOSHIYAMA ON A "PERSONAL BASIS" AS SOON AS AN APPOINTMENT CAN BE ARRANGED. CHARGE ALSO REPORTED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THE ISSUE WITH JAPANESE AMBASSADOR. BELGIAN ASKED AT WHAT LEVEL CHARGE WOULD MAKE APPROACH TO MFA; CHARGE SAID HE WOULD MAKE THE APPROACH BELOW THE DIRECTOR GENERAL LEVEL IN ORDER TO AVOID A CONTENTIOUS MEETING. CHARGE SAID THE ISSUE OF ICRC ACCESS HAD ALREADY BEEN DISCUSSED WITH THE MFA IN AN INFORMAL WAY WHEN

U.S.A. DESK OFFICER CALLED POLCOUNS FOR INFORMATION ON EMBOFF VISIT TO TINGO MARIA. POLCOUNS MENTIONED LACK OF ICRC ACCESS AS A CONCERN.

6. BRITISH AMBASSADOR ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION OF PRESS REPORTS THAT U.S. EMBASSY OFFICERS HAD ALREADY VISITED THE AREA. CHARGE SAID THAT AN OFFICER FROM THE COUNTER-NARCOTICS SECTION HAD GONE TO TINGO MARIA TO REVIEW FINANCIAL RECORDS AND HAD TOUCHED BASE WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS AND

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[REDACTED] ON THE KILLINGS. THIS EFFORT WAS VERY LOW KEY. CHARGE SAID EMBASSY MAY SEND OTHER OFFICERS MORE APPROPRIATE TO LOOKING INTO SUCH MATTERS AT A LATER TIME.

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7. GREEK AMBASSADOR THANKED CHARGE AND POLCOUNS FOR THE BRIEFING. HE INDICATED THAT THE EU GROUP WOULD DISCUSS THE ISSUE AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO BRUSSELS. PRIOR TO CHARGE'S ARRIVAL AT GERMAN EMBASSY, WHERE MEETING WAS HELD, POLCOUNS PICKED UP INDICATIONS THAT EU GROUP HAD ALREADY LARGELY DECIDED TO MAKE DEMARCHE ON ISSUE. [REDACTED]

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8. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS CAREFULLY AVOIDED PUBLIC TREATMENT OF THIS ISSUE IN LIMA AND WILL

CONTINUE TO LOOK TO DEPARTMENT TO FIELD MEDIA AND PUBLIC INQUIRIES. WHILE WE MUST CAUTIOUSLY AVOID JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS OVER THE HUANUCO REPORTS, WE MUST ALSO MAKE CLEAR THE URGENT NEED TO PROPERLY INVESTIGATE VIA RELIABLE AND IMPARTIAL AUTHORITIES THE ALLEGATIONS MADE. GOP HAS TENTATIVELY BLAMED SENDERO FOR THE VIOLENCE AGAINST CIVILIANS WHILE IT HAS THROWN UP BARRIERS TO OUTSIDE SCRUTINY OF THE HUANUCO INCIDENTS. GOP SUPPORTERS, INCLUDING THE DAILY "EXPRESO," HOWEVER, SEEM VERY UNEASY ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE "BAD OLD DAYS" OF INDESCRIMINANT REPRESSION IN THE 1980'S HAVE COME BACK. CONGRESS PRESIDENT YOSHIYAMA HAS REGRETTED DELAY IN MEETING WITH CHARGE AND SUGGESTED MEETING COULD OCCUR APRIL 22.
BRAYSHAW

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Talking Points for Ambassador Adams on Huanuco

- We are very concerned about recent reports of killings of civilians in Huanuco Department in central Peru.
 - o Earlier this month, the Peruvian army began conducting operations against Shining Path guerrillas in Huanuco Department.
 - o Human rights monitors and journalists who have visited the area report that civilians have been targeted by the army as well. There are allegations of at least 24 deaths.
 - o Information received second and third hand from witnesses indicates that army personnel may have tortured and raped some of their victims.
 - o Journalists accompanied local residents to one of the site where they saw seven bodies. They also interviewed refugees who said they had survived an anti-terrorist offensive in which the military used helicopters to fire rockets and strafe villages.
- President Fujimori has publicly denied press reports that the army has used helicopters to bomb terrorists.
- However, based upon information gathered by the embassy in Lima and journalists' reports, we believe that rocket attacks have indeed occurred against certain villages suspected by army intelligence of concealing SL arms caches or collaborating with the terrorists.
- The Peruvian Government has restricted access to the area by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), so it has not been possible to determine how many civilians have died.
- On April 22 General Hermoza, Chairman of the Armed Forces Joint Command, publicly invited the ICRC to visited the restricted zone with a military escort. The ICRC has declined Hermoza's invitation, as their normal operations are carried on independently and not under escort.
- We have conveyed our concern to Peruvian officials urging them to allow full ICRC access to the region and to begin a thorough investigation of these reports of civilian deaths.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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