

RELEASED IN FULL

T9A

Talking Points for a  
Telephone Call to Foreign Minister Efraim Goldenberg

- We are deeply concerned by reports of violence against civilians in Huanuco Department. We have credible reports that there may have been at least twenty-four deaths of non-combatants during an operation which began in that area against Sendero Luminoso in late March. I understand that the army has closed the zone where the operation is taking place for security reasons.
- The mention of helicopters using rockets against SL encampments on the left bank of the Huallaga (the sealed area) appears in a press report in "La Republica," in which the Chief of Staff, Huallaga Front Operations stated that some civilians were killed.
- "El Comercio" also reported that in military operations, which included helicopters, an undetermined number of persons died. Officials assigned to the armed forces joint command and Tingo Maria confirmed that a series of confrontations between the Peruvian army and SL have taken place, but denied that the army was bombarding or shooting civilians in the area.
- President Fujimori publicly denied a press report that the army used helicopters to bomb terrorists.
- Such conflicting reports lead to rumor and speculation in Washington and other parts of the world as to what has occurred and are not in Peru's best interest.
- Confirmation by reliable and impartial observers will be the best mechanism to clarify allegations made concerning civilian deaths. To date ICRC requests for access to the sealed area made to local military commanders have been denied.
- The ICRC has been told that the area might remain off limits for an indefinite period. However, I understand that a commission of human rights leaders and journalists visited Tingo Maria on April 23.
- If that is indeed the case, we hope that the Government of Peru would not discriminate against the ICRC.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: DONALD A. JOHNSTON  
DATE/CASE ID: 27 JUN 2001 200004402

UNCLASSIFIED

- 2 -

- I urge the Government of Peru to grant access for the ICRC to various sites where killings have been reported and to outposts or bases in the Upper Huallaga Valley where there may be detainees held by the military.
- The ICRC is recognized internationally as the most reliable, appropriate and discrete entity charged with looking into allegations of abuse of civilian populations and observance of international agreements on conduct of armed forces in conflicts.
- We base this request as well on the commitment to us by the Government of Peru in late 1991 to permit ICRC access to military posts to verify treatment of detainees.
- We hope for a quick and full investigation of the incidents by the Government of Peru and that the GOP will take appropriate action based on its findings to bring the responsible parties to justice.
- We are also prepared to provide USG forensic assistance in identifying the victims if the Government of Peru is interested in such help.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Drafted: ARA/AND:MMelzow *KCM* 7-3360

SEARAAND 20836 4/22/94

UNCLASSIFIED