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PTQ9679

PAGE 01 LIMA 10995 01 OF 02 291225Z  
 ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	ACDE-00	AID-00	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	OASY-00
	DODE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-01	FBIE-00	H-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	IO-00	L-01	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02
	PRS-01	P-00	SCT-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00
	TRSE-00	USIE-00	DSCC-00	PRM-10	PRME-01	DRL-09	G-00

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O 291224Z NOV 95  
 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8287  
 INFO DIA WASHDC//DH-5  
 AMEMBASSY QUITO  
 AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
 USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM  
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 LIMA 010995

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/30/2005  
 TAGS: PHUM, PTER, PE  
 SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERS RECEIVE THREAT FROM COLINA  
 DEATH SQUAD

1. CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR ALVIN ADAMS, REASON 1.5 (D).

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PAGE 02 LIMA 10995 01 OF 02 291225Z

2. (C) SUMMARY: ON NOVEMBER 16, A DEATH THREAT WAS MADE AGAINST TEN PROMINENT INDIVIDUALS, INCLUDING THREE CONGRESSMEN, WHO HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN PUBLICIZING THE 1992 LA CANTUTA MASSACRE. THE THREAT WAS MADE IN THE FORM OF A FUNERAL WREATH, WHICH WAS DELIVERED TO THE OFFICES OF THE PRO-HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION (APRODEH). THIS THREAT HAS RAISED ANEW INTEREST IN THE STATUS OF THE SEVEN MILITARY OFFICERS WHO FORMED THE COLINA DEATH SQUAD, WHO WERE CONVICTED IN 1994 BY A MILITARY COURT FOR THEIR PART IN THE LA CANTUTA MASSACRE, BUT WERE RELEASED LAST JUNE AS PART OF THE AMNESTY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSERS. DEFENSE MINISTER MALCA INFORMED

Current Class: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Page: 1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: MELVIN E. SINN  
 DATE/CASE ID: 12 SEP 2002 200102969

Current Class: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
 Current Handling: n/a  
 Document Number: 1995LIMA10995

Page: 2

Channel: n/a

CONGRESS THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE COLINA GROUP HAVE ALREADY RETIRED. (HE DID NOT SPECIFY WHEN.) TWO HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERS, SUSANA VILLARAN AND FRANCISCO SOBERON, HAVE REQUESTED GOVERNMENT SECURITY PROTECTION AS A RESULT OF THE THREAT. HOWEVER, AS OF NOVEMBER 22, THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT YET PROVIDED THIS, AND VILLARAN AND SOBERON DEPARTED PERU ON PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED TRAVEL. ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL INCLUDED IN THE THREAT, CONGRESSMAN JAVIER DIEZ CANSECO, REPORTEDLY STATED PUBLICLY IN PARLIAMENT THAT HE REJECTED GOP SECURITY PROTECTION. END SUMMARY.

3. (U) ON NOVEMBER 16, A DEATH THREAT WAS MADE AGAINST TEN PROMINENT INDIVIDUALS, INCLUDING THREE CONGRESSMEN, WHO HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN PUBLICIZING THE 1992 LA CANTUTA MASSACRE. THE THREAT WAS MADE IN THE FORM OF A FUNERAL WREATH, WHICH WAS DELIVERED TO THE OFFICES OF THE PRO-HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION (APRODEH). A LIST OF THOSE THREATENED WAS ATTACHED TO THE WREATH UNDER THE HEADING "IN MEMORIUM." "IN REMEMBRANCE BY THE COLINA COMMUNITY" WAS TYPED AFTER THE NAMES. THE FOLLOWING IS A CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS SURROUNDING THE DELIVERY OF THE FUNERAL WREATH:  
 NOVEMBER 16

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 03 LIMA 10995 01 OF 02 291225Z  
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-- 10:30 AM: A FUNERAL WREATH IS DELIVERED TO OFFICE OF THE PRO-HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION (APRODEH). ATTACHED TO THE WREATH ARE THE NAMES OF CONGRESSMEN JAVIER DIEZ CANSECO, GUSTAVO MOHME, AND HENRY PEASE, THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COORDINADORA, SUSANA VILLARAN, THE PRESIDENT OF THE PRO-HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION, FRANCISCO SOBERON, THE HEAD OF THE LEGAL DEFENSE INSTITUTE, ERNESTO DE LA JARA, AS WELL AS HUMAN RIGHTS ATTORNEY HERIBERTO BENITEZ, GENERAL RODOLFO ROBLES, AND GISELA ORTIZ AND RAIDA CONDOR, RELATIVES OF LA CANTUTA MASSACRE VICTIMS.

-- MIDDAY: CONGRESSMEN JAVIER DIEZ CANSECO AND GUSTAVO MOHME, ALONG WITH FRANCISCO SOBERON, GEN. ROBLES, AND VICTOR DELFIN, HEAD OF THE CIVIC MOVEMENT AGAINST IMPUNITY, HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE TO PUBLICIZE THE DEATH THREAT. DIEZ CANSECO REPORTEDLY STATED THAT HE DID NOT WANT GOP SECURITY.

-- AFTERNOON: POLOFF SPEAKS TO FRANCISCO SOBERON, WHO FAXES EMBASSY COPIES OF THE DEATH THREAT.

-- EVENING: OPPOSITION MEMBERS OF CONGRESS REQUEST THAT DEFENSE MINISTER MALCA APPEAR BEFORE CONGRESS IN ORDER TO ANSWER QUESTIONS REGARDING THE COLINA DEATH SQUAD'S ACTIVITIES.

Current Class: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Page: 2

Current Class: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
Current Handling: n/a  
Document Number: 1995LIMA10995

Page: 3  
Channel: n/a

NOVEMBER 17  
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-- MORNING: AMBASSADOR PHONED DEPUTY NATIONAL POLICE CHIEF KETIN VIDAL AND ATTORNEY GENERAL BLANCA NELIDA COLAN TO EXPRESS CONCERN AND ASKED POINTEDLY WHETHER THE MATTER WAS BEING INVESTIGATED AND

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 04 LIMA 10995 01 OF 02 291225Z  
WHETHER THOSE THREATENED WERE OFFERED PROTECTION.

-- 12:25 PM: AMBASSADOR SPEAKS TO SUSANA VILLARAN, HEAD OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COORDINADORA, TO EXPRESS USG CONCERN. VILLARAN INDICATES THAT SHE HAS REQUESTED GOVERNMENT PROTECTION THROUGH LETTERS TO JUSTICE MINISTER VEGA AND INTERIOR MINISTER BRIONES REGARDING HER SECURITY. VILLARAN ADDS THAT VEGA RESPONDED QUICKLY BY PHONING HER AND EXPRESSING CONCERN FOR HER SAFETY.

-- AFTERNOON: AMBASSADOR SPEAKS TO CONGRESSIONAL VICE PRESIDENT VICTOR JOY WAY WHO INDICATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD OFFERED PROTECTION TO THOSE WHO RECEIVED DEATH THREATS. (JOY WAY WAS PROBABLY ONLY REFERRING TO THE THREE THREATENED CONGRESSMEN.) JOY WAY EXPLAINED, HOWEVER, THAT DIEZ CANSECO REFUSED THE GOVERNMENT OFFER AND APPEARED WILLING TO PROVOKE A CONFRONTATION WITH HIS FIERY DENUNCIATIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT.

THE COLINA GROUP'S RETIREMENT  
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4. (U) ON NOVEMBER 18 PRESIDENT FUJIMORI PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED THAT ALL MEMBERS OF THE COLINA DEATH SQUAD HAD RETIRED. OPPOSITION DAILY "LA REPUBLICA" PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 21 THE TEXT OF A NOVEMBER 17 MEMO SENT BY DEFENSE MINISTER VICTOR MALCA TO PRESIDENT OF

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ PTQ9680

PAGE 01 LIMA 10995 02 OF 02 291226Z  
ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	ACDE-00	AID-00	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	OASY-00
	DODE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-01	FBIE-00	H-01	TEDE-00
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Current Class ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Page: 3

Current Class: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
Current Handling: n/a  
Document Number: 1995LIMA10995

Channel: n/a

TRSE-00 USIE-00 DSCC-00 PRM-10 PRME-01 DRL-09 G-00  
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-----03EFF7 291226Z /38

O 291224Z NOV 95  
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8288  
INFO DIA WASHDC//DH-5  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 LIMA 010995

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/30/2005  
TAGS: PHUM, PTER, PE  
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERS RECEIVE THREAT FROM COLINA  
DEATH SQUAD

CONGRESS MARTHA CHAVEZ WHICH STATED THAT AS OF NOVEMBER 17 THE  
SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE COLINA DEATH SQUAD (THE MEMO DID NOT USE THE

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PAGE 02 LIMA 10995 02 OF 02 291226Z  
NAME COLINA) HAD RETIRED FROM ACTIVE SERVICE AND WERE CURRENTLY NOT  
FILLING ANY OFFICIAL POSITION. PRESS REPORTS ON NOVEMBER 18 AND 20  
HAD HIGHLIGHTED THE FACT THAT ONE DEATH SQUAD MEMBER, GEN. JUAN  
RIVERO LAZO, WAS CURRENTLY STATIONED AT THE SIXTH MILITARY REGION  
HEADQUARTERS IN BAGUA, AND THAT ANOTHER, MAJOR SANTIAGO MARTIN  
RIVAS, HAD INDICATED THAT HE WAS ON ACTIVE DUTY WHEN INTERVIEWED  
LAST SEPTEMBER BY A JUDGE INVESTIGATING FORMER PRESIDENT ALAN  
GARCIA'S ACCUSATIONS THAT THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT PLANNED TO SEND  
THE COLINA DEATH SQUAD TO COLOMBIA TO KIDNAP HIM.

SECURITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS  
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5. (U) AS OF NOVEMBER 22, THE COORDINADORA HAD NOT YET RECEIVED  
ANY GOVERNMENT PROTECTION. SOBERON'S DEPUTY AT APRODEH TOLD  
POLOFF NOVEMBER 22 THAT SOBERON HAD ALSO REQUESTED ADDITIONAL  
SECURITY, BUT THAT THIS HAD NOT YET BEEN PROVIDED. BOTH SOBERON  
AND VILLARAN DEPARTED PERU THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 22 ON PREVIOUSLY  
SCHEDULED TRAVEL. ACCORDING TO AN OFFICIAL AT ERNESTO DE LA JARA'S  
LEGAL DEFENSE INSTITUTE, DE LA JARA HAS NOT REQUESTED ANY  
ADDITIONAL SECURITY AS A RESULT OF THE THREAT.

Current Class: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Current Class: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
 Current Handling: n/a  
 Document Number: 1995LIMA10995

Page: 5

Channel: n/a

INVESTIGATION OF WREATH'S ORIGINS CONTINUES  
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6. (C) THE OPPOSITION PRESS HAS BEEN VERY ACTIVE IN REPORTING THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE WREATH'S ORIGINS, RUNNING SEVERAL ARTICLES ON THE FLOWER STAND WHERE THE WREATH WAS PURCHASED. ON NOVEMBER 24, OPPOSITION DAILY "LA REPUBLICA" PUBLISHED ON ITS FRONT PAGE THE PHOTO OF A YOUNG FAIR-SKINNED WOMAN, WHOM IT SAID HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED AS THE INDIVIDUAL WHO PURCHASED THE WREATH. ONE RUMOR

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 03 LIMA 10995 02 OF 02 291226Z  
 CIRCULATING IN LIMA IS THE WREATH WAS ACTUALLY PURCHASED BY APRA IN ORDER TO EMBARRASS THE GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, WE HAVE SEEN NO EVIDENCE TO CORROBORATE SUCH A CLAIM.

COMMENT  
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7. (C) HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERS BELIEVE ONE OR MORE OF THOSE PREVIOUSLY JAILED FOR LA CANTUTA MADE THE THREAT AS A REPRISAL FOR HAVING BEEN RETIRED INVOLUNTARILY FROM THE ARMY. THEY ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE THREAT COULD HAVE BEEN A RESPONSE TO A POSTER CAMPAIGN BY APRODEH ATTACKING COLINA LEADER MAJOR MARTIN. NONE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERS WE SPOKE WITH PERCEIVED ANY IMMEDIATE THREAT TO THEIR SAFETY. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE ARMY INTELLIGENCE (SIE) OR THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SIN), WHICH HAVE SOUGHT TO AVOID SCRUTINY OF LA CANTUTA, WOULD HAVE CARRIED OUT SUCH A COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE EXERCISE.

8. (C) WE WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO THE GOVERNMENT'S PROVIDING ADEQUATE SECURITY TO THOSE THREATENED AND ITS INVESTIGATION INTO THE THREAT'S ORIGIN. THE ANNOUNCED RETIREMENT OF THOSE WHO COMPOSED THE COLINA SQUAD IS A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT, THOUGH THIS IS UNLIKELY TO END OPPOSITION CALLS FOR A FULL EXPLANATION AND INVESTIGATION BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES INTO ABUSES ATTRIBUTED TO THE COLINA GROUP.  
 ADAMS

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Current Class: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Page: 5