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INFO AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY RIYADH

AMEMBASSY LIMA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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AMEMBASSY BISHKEK

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

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DEPT FOR IO/ESA, DRL/MLA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/2/2002 TAGS: PHUM, UNHCR-1, PE, CD, SA, JA, YM, PA, KG, GA, SL

SUBJECT: "1503" CASES TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE 1998 SESSION OF

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REF: A) GENEVA 2110 (NOTAL) B) 96 GENEVA 9629 (NOTAL)

(U) CLASSIFIED BY POLITICAL COUNSELOR ROBERT G. LOFTIS, REASON 1.5(B).

1. (C) INTRODUCTION: NEW CASES INVOLVING CHARGES OF SYSTEMATIC HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF PERU. /WILL BE CONSIDERED IN CLOSED SESSION OF THE

Current Class: Company

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

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

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.5(DUNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFY AFTER: OCT. 10, 2007

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1998 COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

2. (U) BY WAY OF BACKGROUND: EACH YEAR THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION CONSIDERS A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES UNDER THE "CONFIDENTIAL 1503 PROCEDURE," UNDER WHICH INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS WHO ARE ALLEGED VICTIMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS CAN TAKE THEIR COMPLAINTS TO THE UNITED NATIONS. COMPLAINTS MAY ALSO BE SUBMITTED BY NGOS AND BY INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE NOT THEMSELVES VICTIMS BUT WHO HAVE DIRECT AND RELIABLE KNOWLEDGE OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN ANY COUNTRY. COPIES OF ALL COMPLAINTS ARE FORWARDED TO THE CONCERNED GOVERNMENTS, WHICH

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- 3. (U) EACH AUGUST, THE UN SUBCOMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES REVIEWS THE COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY THE UN OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR. WHEN THE SUBCOMMISSION BELIEVES THE COMPLAINTS REVEAL A CONSISTENT PATTERN OF GROSS AND RELIABLY ATTESTED VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY COUNTRY, IT FORWARDS THE COMPLAINTS TO THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. THE CASES FORWARDED TO THE COMMISSION CAN RELATE TO A SINGLE ISSUE --FOR EXAMPLE, PRISON CONDITIONS OR RACIAL DISCRIMINATION -- OR CAN RELATE TO THE GENERAL SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN A GIVEN COUNTRY.
- 4. (U) AT THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, THE COMPLAINTS RECEIVED FROM THE SUBCOMMISSION ARE INITIALLY REVIEWED BY THE WORKING GROUP ON SITUATIONS. THIS WORKING GROUP CONSISTS OF FIVE REPRESENTATIVES FROM COUNTRIES THAT ARE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION, ONE FROM EACH GEOGRAPHIC REGION. MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP, HOWEVER, SERVE IN THEIR PERSONAL CAPACITIES, NOT AS REPRESENTATIVES OF COUNTRIES OR REGIONAL GROUPS. (IN FACT, HOWEVER, REPRESENTATIVES ARE EXPECTED TO CONSULT WITH THEIR REGIONAL GROUPS.) IN 1998, THE WORKING GROUP WILL

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CONSIST OF MEMBERS FROM THE DENMARK, BRAZIL, AND CHINA. (THE AFRICANS AND EAST EUROPEANS HAVE NOT YET CHOSEN THEIR REPRESENTATIVES.) THE WORKING GROUP WILL RECOMMEND TO THE FULL COMMISSION WHETHER THE CASES BEFORE IT SHOULD BE KEPT PENDING FOR ANOTHER YEAR OR DROPPED. IT CAN ALSO RECOMMEND THE APPOINTMENT OF AN EXPERT TO STUDY A COUNTRY SITUATION AND PREPARE A CONFIDENTIAL REPORT. IT CAN ALSO RECOMMEND THAT THE CASE BE BROUGHT INTO "PUBLIC PROCEDURES" I.E. A RESOLUTION BY

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THE COMMISSION. THE WORKING GROUP'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON EACH
COUNTRY ARE THEN CONSIDERED AND VOTED ON BY THE FULL HUMAN
RIGHTS COMMISSION. THE COMMISSION NOT INFREQUENTLY CHANGES
THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKING GROUP.

5. (U) THE ENTIRE PROCEDURE IS CONFIDENTIAL. WORKING GROUP MEETINGS ARE LIMITED TO THE FIVE MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP AND COMMISSION MEETINGS ON 1503 CASES ARE OPEN ONLY TO UNCHR MEMBER STATES. DOCUMENTATION IS NOT DISTRIBUTED IN THE NORMAL UN MANNER. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION DOES ANNOUNCE WHICH COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED UNDER THE 1503 PROCEDURE, BUT DOES NOT MAKE KNOWN WHAT DECISIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN IN EACH CASE. AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, HOWEVER, MUCH OF THIS INFORMATION OFTEN LEAKS INTO THE PUBLIC DOMAIN. COUNTRIES CONSIDERED UNDER THE 1503 PROCEDURE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO DEFEND THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS RECORDS; THEY OFTEN UNDERTAKE EXTENSIVE LOBBYING CAMPAIGNS TO GARNER SUPPORT FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS.

END INTRODUCTION.

NEW CASES

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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8818
INFO AMEMBASSY SANAA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY RIYADH
AMEMBASSY LIMA
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AMEMBASSY BANJUL

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DEPT FOR IO/ESA, DRL/MLA

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/2/2002
TAGS: PHUM, UNHCR-1, PE, CD, SA, JA, YM, PA, KG, GA, SL
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PERU

6. (C) COMMUNICATION SUBMITTED BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE AMERICAS (MARXIST-LENINIST-MAOIST) PROVISIONAL CENTRAL COMMITTEE; NO GOVERNMENT REPLY. THIS COMMUNICATION DEALS EXCLUSIVELY WITH CONDITIONS IN THE PRISONS OF PERU, CONCENTRATING ON THE SITUATION OF THE SO-CALLED "SPECIAL PRISONERS" (POLITICAL PRISONERS AND SURVIVORS OF THE GENOCIDE CARRIED OUT AT THE "CASTRO CASTRO" PRISON NEAR LIMA). ALLEGATIONS INCLUDE OVERCROWDING, UNSANITARY CELL CONDITIONS, INADEQUATE FOOD AND CLOTHING SUPPLIES, ISOLATION, HARASSMENT BY GUARDS AND ACTS OF BEATING AND TORTURE AS PUNISHMENT. MANY PRISONERS HAVE BEEN RELOCATED TO THE PRISON IN PUNO (WHICH IS AT AN ALTITUDE AT 3800 METERS) AS A MEANS OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION. MEDICAL CARE AT THE PUNO FACILITY IS SAID TO BE NON-EXISTENT, FOOD RATIONS ARE OFTEN INEDIBLE AND ALWAYS INADEQUATE, AND VISITS TO PRISONERS ARE RESTRICTED TO A 10-MINUTE VISIT PER MONTH. THREE DOCUMENTED CASES OF SUCH

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MOVEMENT ARE: FELIPE ORDONEZ, ALIPIE PALOMINO, LUIS MARINO.

7. (C) COMMUNICATION FROM THE COORDINADORA NACIONAL DE DERECHOS HUMANOS REGARDING THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN PERU IN 1996. COMPLAINTS ALLEGE THAT A TOTAL OF 292 PERSONS HAVE DIED AS A RESULT OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN 1996, AND 142 PEOPLE WERE REPORTED AS VICTIMS OF KILLINGS BY SUBVERSIVE GROUPS (123 WERE KILLED BY THE SENDERO LUMINOSO). IMPUNITY LAWS HAVE REPORTEDLY ALSO ALLOWED THE ARBITRARY RELEASE AND REINSTATEMENT IN PAST VOCATIONS OF CONVICTED CRIMINALS. ACTS

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 07008 02 OF 04 101712Z OF ARBITRARY DETENTION AND TORTURE ARE MOST WIDELY REPORTED IN AREAS WHICH ARE STILL UNDER A STATE OF EMERGENCY (42.10F THE POPULATION AT THE END OF 1996), ALTHOUGH SUCH REPORTS ARE NOT EXCLUSIVE TO THESE REGIONS. ONE EXAMPLE OF SUCH ACTIVITIES IS THE ATTEMPTED KIDNAPPING AND SUBSEQUENT ARBITRARY ARREST OF GENERAL RODOLFO ROBLES ESPINOZA, A WELL KNOWN HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST, IN NOVEMBER 1996. ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN AN ATTEMPT TO REMEDY THE SITUATION OF UNJUST ARRESTS AND DETAINMENT ON TERRORISM CHARGES, THE COMMUNICATION MAINTAINS THAT THE SUBSTANCE OF ANTI-TERRORISM LEGISLATION WHICH VIOLATES THE GUARANTEES OF DUE PROCESS STILL REMAINS IN PLACE, WITH NO CLEAR POLITICAL INDICATION THAT THIS WILL CHANGE ANY THERE ARE COMPLAINTS OF INADEQUATE FOOD AND CARE, TIME SOON. AND THE COMMUNICATION ALLEGES THAT RESTRICTIONS ON PRISONERS ACCUSED OF TERRORISM AND TREASON CLEARLY VIOLATE THE UNITED NATIONS STANDARD MINIMUM RULES.

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/2/2002

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