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ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-08	ACDE-00	INLB-01	AID-00	AMAD-01	CIAE-00
	INL-01	DODE-00	DOEE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	H-01
	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-01	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00
	CIO-00	SP-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00
	DSCC-00	PRM-10	PRME-01	DRL-04	G-00	MR-00	SAS-00
	/033W						

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P 251554Z MAR 98  
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2224  
INFO USCINCSO MIAMI FL  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

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DEPT FOR USAID  
SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD AND J-5

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TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, PE  
SUBJECT: ALLEGED INTELLIGENCE SERVICE ABUSES CONFIRMED BY FORMER  
AGENT NOW SEEKING ASYLUM IN U.S.

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY POL COUNS JIM WAGNER, AMERICAN EMBASSY LIMA,  
FOR REASON 1.5(D).

2. (U) FOR THE PAST FEW DAYS, THE PERUVIAN MEDIA HAVE FOCUSED  
CONTINUALLY ON ALLEGATIONS MADE FROM THE UNITED STATES BY FORMER  
ARMY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SIE) AGENT LUISA MARGARITA ZANATTA  
MUEDAS, WHO CLAIMS TO BE IN FEAR OF HER LIFE FROM HER NOW FORMER  
INTELLIGENCE COLLEAGUES. ACCOMPANIED BY HER HUSBAND AND AMERICAN-  
BORN SON, ZANATTA REPORTEDLY FLED TO MIAMI ON DECEMBER 15, 1997,  
WHERE SHE CLAIMS TO BE SEEKING POLITICAL ASYLUM. IN INTERVIEWS

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L. MILLS  
DATE/CASE ID: 4 FEB 2002 200102973

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WITH A NUMBER OF PERUVIAN AND U.S. TELEVISION CHANNELS AND PRINT MEDIA, ZANATTA HAS ALLEGED THAT PERUVIAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES HAVE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, PRACTICED TORTURE, WIRE-TAPPED A WIDE VARIETY OF OPPOSITION POLITICIANS, JOURNALISTS, AND MILITARY PERSONNEL, AND INFILTRATED THE NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION ORGANIZATION.

3. (U) SPECIFICALLY, ZANATTA, WHO IS 27 AND HAD WORKED FOR THE SIE FOR FIVE YEARS, CLAIMS THAT PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS HAS BEEN THE MOVING FORCE BEHIND THE SIE'S NOTORIOUS WIRE-TAPPING OPERATION, WHICH WAS ORIGINALLY BROUGHT TO LIGHT IN MAY 1997 BY THE INVESTIGATIVE REPORTAGE OF TELEVISION CHANNEL 2. AT THAT TIME, CHANNEL 2 WAS STILL COMMITTED TO BROADCASTING HEADLINE GRABBING REVELATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND OTHER ABUSES BY THE GOP AND ITS OFFICIALS. ZANATTA SAYS SHE WAS ONE OF 18 SIE AGENTS ENGAGED, ROUND-THE-CLOCK, IN TAPPING THE TELEPHONES OF OPPOSITION CONGRESSMEN, MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY SUSPECTED OF DISLOYALTY, AND

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OTHER KNOWN CRITICS OF THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT. DAILY, ZANATTA AND HER COLLEAGUES WOULD RECORD POTENTIALLY INCRIMINATING TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS AND PERSONALLY DELIVER THE TAPES TO MONTESINOS' OFFICE. IN ADDITION, ZANATTA TOLD INTERVIEWERS OF CONVERSATIONS SHE HAD HAD WITH SIE AGENT MARIELA BARRETO, WHOSE DECAPITATED AND DISMEMBERED BODY WAS FOUND IN MARCH 1997, WHO CONFIRMED TO HER NOT ONLY THE EXISTENCE OF THE COLINA DEATH SQUAD BUT ITS DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN VARIOUS MASSACRES, INCLUDING THE 1992 MURDER OF A LA CANTUTA UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR AND EIGHT STUDENTS. ZANATTA ALSO CONFIRMED THE ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE MADE IN APRIL 1997 BY FORMER SIE AGENT LEONOR LA ROSA.

4. (U) THE OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO ZANATTA'S CHARGES WAS SWIFT. DEFENSE MINISTER CESAR SAUCEDO SANCHEZ IMMEDIATELY DENIED THAT PRACTICES AND ABUSES SUCH AS THOSE ALLEGED BY ZANATTA WERE A NORMAL PART OF PERUVIAN MILITARY AND INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS, ALTHOUGH HE DID SAY THAT ZANATTA'S CHARGES SHOULD BE PROPERLY INVESTIGATED. OTHER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, TOO, INCLUDING HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ANSELMO REVILLA, AS WELL AS PRESIDENT FUJIMORI HIMSELF, CALLED FOR AN INVESTIGATION OF THE ALLEGATIONS AND ASSURED THE MEDIA THAT, SHOULD ZANATTA RETURN TO PERU FOR ANY SCHEDULED INVESTIGATION, HER SAFETY WOULD BE GUARANTEED. HOWEVER, WHEN FUJIMORI WAS POINTEDLY ASKED IF HE THOUGHT ZANATTA SHOULD RETURN TO PERU FOR THIS PURPOSE, HE WAS REPORTED TO HAVE REPLIED: "IT IS UP TO HER."

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