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 ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00
	DOEE-00	EB-01	HA-09	H-01	INM-02	TEDE-00	INR-00
	IO-19	L-03	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01
	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SIL-00	SNP-00	SP-00
	SR-00	SS-00	STR-16	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	RPE-01
	CORE-00	/081W					

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O 082254Z JUL 93
 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9689
 INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
 AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
 AMEMBASSY QUITO
 USMISSION GENEVA
 DIA WASHDC
 USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM

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USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: N/A
 TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, PE
 SUBJECT: POSSIBLE REMAINS OF LA CANTUTA
 STUDENTS UNCOVERED

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REF: LIMA 7402 AND PREVIOUS

1. HUMAN REMAINS, ALLEGEDLY THOSE OF THE NINE STUDENTS AND A PROFESSOR WHO DISAPPEARED FROM LIMA'S LA CANTUTA UNIVERSITY IN JULY 1992, WERE UNCOVERED EARLY ON JULY 8 AT A REMOTE BURIAL SITE, 14 KILOMETERS EAST ON THE ROAD TO CIENEGUILLA FROM LIMA. AS OF 16:00, PRESS REPORTS INDICATED THAT FOUR BURIAL PITS HAD BEEN DISCOVERED WITH AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF BODIES. JOURNALISTS WERE REPORTEDLY TOLD OF THE SITE BY SOURCES WITHIN THE PERUVIAN INTELLIGENCE

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COMMUNITY AND ALERTED LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS. THEY IN TURN ARRANGED FOR THE NATIONAL PROSECUTOR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, FORENSIC PERSONNEL, AND MEMBERS OF THE CONSTITUENT CONGRESS' HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE TO TRAVEL TO SITE TOGETHER TO VERIFY THE DISCOVERY.

2. COMMENT: IT IS NOT CERTAIN WHOSE REMAINS HAVE BEEN FOUND, BUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMUNITY WAS SUFFICIENTLY CONVINCED THEY ARE THOSE OF THE LA CANTUTA GROUP TO MOBILIZE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND THE PRESS. ASSUMING THE REMAINS CAN BE POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED, WHICH IS BY NO MEANS CERTAIN, THE FINDINGS WOULD REKINDLE THE DEBATE ABOUT ARMY/INTELLIGENCE DEATH SQUAD RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE LA CANTUTA DISAPPEARANCES.

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3. EMBASSY DECLINED THE INVITATION BY HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS TO WITNESS THE EXHUMATION OF THE REMAINS, SINCE THE INITIAL EXHUMATION CARRIED OUT BY JOURNALISTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS WAS TECHNICALLY ILLEGAL, AND SINCE IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE REMAINS REALLY ARE LINKED TO HUMAN RIGHTS CASES. BRAYSHAW

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