

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00
	EB-01	HA-09	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-19	L-03
	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	PA-01	PRS-01	P-01
	SIL-00	SP-00	SR-00	SS-00	STR-16	TRSE-00	USIE-00
	RPE-01	CORE-00	/076W				

-----E646AD 241624Z /38

O 241622Z AUG 93  
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0843  
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
DIRFBI WASHDC//OLIA//  
DIA WASHDC  
USMISSION GENEVA  
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM

[REDACTED] SECTION 01 OF 02 LIMA 09362

MONTEVIDEO FOR LEGATT; USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PHUM, PE  
SUBJECT: PERU: CIENEGUILLA KEYS MAY UNLOCK  
MYSTERY OF LA CANTUTA DISAPPEARANCES

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REF: LIMA 9283

1. (C) SUMMARY: INVESTIGATORS HAVE ESTABLISHED THAT THE KEYS FOUND AT THE CIENEGUILLA GRAVES OPENED LOCKS AT LA CANTUTA DIRECTLY ASSOCIATED WITH TWO STUDENTS WHO WERE ABDUCTED FROM THAT UNIVERSITY IN JULY 1992. ONE PRO-GOVERNMENT CONGRESSMAN SPECULATED THAT JOURNALISTS COULD HAVE PLANTED THE KEYS AT THE GRAVESITE, THOUGH EVIDENCE MAKES THIS THEORY VERY UNLIKELY. THE KEYS HAVE TWOFOLD SIGNIFICANCE: THEIR DISCOVERY

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: DONALD A. JOHNSTON  
DATE/CASE ID: 12 DEC 2001 200102081

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IN THE GRAVES GIVES GREATER SUBSTANCE TO THE ALLEGATION THAT A "DEATH SQUAD" ABDUCTED THE STUDENTS AND PROFESSOR; THE DISCOVERY ALSO GIVES GREATER WEIGHT TO DEMANDS THAT THE MILITARY INVESTIGATION OF LA CANTUTA, WHICH APPEARS TO BE GOING NOWHERE, BE SUBSUMED UNDER THE CIVIL COURT SYSTEM. LIMA'S THREE MAJOR DAILIES NOW URGE THIS. WE EXPECT TENSIONS TO RISE AS CALLS INCREASE FOR THE INVESTIGATION TO BE SHIFTED FROM THE MILITARY TO CIVILIAN COURTS. SOME OBSERVERS NOTE THAT AFTER SIX WEEKS OF TAKING NO ACTION TO ESTABLISH IF THE KEYS FIT LOCKS AT LA CANTUTA, INVESTIGATORS ACTED A FEW DAYS AFTER APPEARANCE OF THE LEAHY/OBEY LETTER IN THE LIMA PRESS. END SUMMARY.

MORE DETAILS ON THE KEYS  
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 2. (U) FURTHER TO REFTEL, THE PUBLIC MINISTRY'S SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR INTO THE CASE OF THE HUMAN REMAINS FOUND JULY 8 NEAR CIENEGUILLA, VICTOR CUBAS, WAS ABLE TO OPEN SEVERAL LOCKS BELONGING TO TWO OF THE STUDENTS ABDUCTED FROM LA CANTUTA UNIVERSITY IN JULY 1992. ON ONE KEYRING, FOUND IN THE SECOND PIT AT CIENEGUILLA, ONE KEY OPENED THE DORMITORY CLOSET OF JUAN MARINOS FIGUEROA AND ANOTHER OPENED THE LOCK ON THE DOOR TO THE ELECTROMECHANICS CLUB, OF WHICH MARINOS WAS PRESIDENT. THE OTHER KEYRING, FOUND IN THE FIRST CIENEGUILLA PIT, HAD A KEY THAT OPENED THE LOCK ON THE CLOSET OF ARMANDO AMARO CONDOR AT THE UNIVERSITY, AND TWO KEYS THAT OPENED DOORS TO THE AMARO FAMILY HOME IN THE LA VICTORIA DISTRICT OF LIMA.

3. (U) TWO DAYS AFTER THE DISCOVERY, AMARO'S MOTHER, RAIDA CONDOR, ALLEGED IN A PRESS INTERVIEW THAT, SINCE THE FINDING, UNKNOWN INDIVIDUALS HAD BEEN STANDING OUTSIDE HER HOUSE AND FROM TIME TO TIME KNOCKING ON HER DOOR TO SCARE HER. SHE CALLED ON THE GOP TO PROVIDE PROTECTION FOR HER AND HER FAMILY.

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CONGRESSMEN ARGUE OVER IMPLICATIONS  
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4. (U) PRO-GOVERNMENT PARTY CONGRESSMEN GILBERTO SIURA, CHAIRMAN OF THE DEFENSE COMMITTEE AND MEMBER OF THE LA CANTUTA SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE

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 COMMITTEE, HAS MADE HEADLINES BY ASSERTING THAT THE KEYS ARE NOT DEFINITIVE PROOF THAT THE CIENEGUILLA AND LA CANTUTA CASES ARE CONNECTED. REFERRING TO THE NINE STUDENTS AND A PROFESSOR WHO WERE ABDUCTED FROM THE UNIVERSITY, SIURA DECLARED TO REPORTERS AUGUST 20 THAT, "AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED, THOSE PEOPLE ARE STILL ALIVE." ONE NEWSPAPER REPORTED THAT THE JOURNALISTS LAUGHED AT HIS ASSERTION. THE MOTHER OF ONE MISSING STUDENT DEMANDED THAT SIURA PRODUCE HER SON IF HE WAS CERTAIN HE WAS ALIVE.

5. (U) ON A NATIONALLY-TELEVISED NEWS MAGAZINE

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DIA WASHDC  
 USMISSION GENEVA  
 USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LIMA 09362

MONTEVIDEO FOR LEGATT; USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
 TAGS: PHUM, PE  
 SUBJECT: PERU: CIENEGUILLA KEYS MAY UNLOCK  
 SHOW AUGUST 22, SIURA POSTULATED THAT THE KEYS

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 COULD HAVE BEEN PLANTED IN THE CIENEGUILLA GRAVES  
 BY JOURNALISTS TRYING TO DISCREDIT THE ARMED  
 FORCES. "THE GRAVES WERE TOUCHED AND ALTERED BY  
 REPORTERS," HE ASSERTED. "HOW STRANGE THAT THE  
 KEYS WERE NOT BURNED" ALONG WITH THE BODIES, HE  
 WENT ON. "ANY HOUSEWIFE KNOWS THAT IF A KEY IS  
 LEFT ON A STOVE BURNER, IT WILL NOT WORK  
 ANYMORE." THE PROGRAM'S DIRECTOR THEN HAD SOME  
 KEYS HELD IN A STOVE'S FLAME FOR FIFTEEN  
 MINUTES; THE KEYS EMERGED UNDAMAGED.

6. (U) OPPOSITION CONGRESSMAN ROGER CACERES,  
 CHUCKLING AT SIURA'S EMBARRASSMENT, DECLARED THAT  
 THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE HE CHAIRS WOULD  
 CONTINUE TO LOOK INTO THE CASE. HE ANNOUNCED  
 THAT THE COMMITTEE WOULD MEET AUGUST 24 TO  
 DISCUSS THE FINDINGS, AND THAT CUBAS AND  
 ATTORNEY GENERAL BLANCA NELIDA COLAN HAD BEEN  
 INVITED TO REPORT ON THE CASE. MOST MEMBERS OF  
 CONGRESS INTERVIEWED BY THE MEDIA CALLED FOR A  
 DEEPER INVESTIGATION IN LIGHT OF THE FINDINGS.

MEDIA CALL FOR CIVILIAN INVESTIGATION  
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7. (U) IN AN UNUSUAL COINCIDENCE, LIMA'S THREE  
 MOST INFLUENTIAL DAILY NEWSPAPERS ALL CALLED FOR  
 AN OPEN CIVILIAN INVESTIGATION INTO THE CASE.  
 CONSERVATIVE "EL COMERCIO," PRO-GOVERNMENT  
 "EXPRESO," AND LEFTIST "LA REPUBLICA" ALL RAN  
 STRONG EDITORIALS AUGUST 22 URGING THE GOP TO

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 UNDERTAKE A SERIOUS, TRANSPARENT INVESTIGATION  
 AND SANCTION THOSE RESPONSIBLE. LEGAL EXPERTS  
 REINFORCED THE OPINION, NOTING THAT THE SUPREME  
 COURT CAN THEORETICALLY DETERMINE THAT THE CASE  
 SHOULD BE TRIED IN A CIVILIAN, NOT MILITARY,  
 COURT.

COMMENT  
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8. (C) SIURA'S ALLEGATION THAT JOURNALISTS MAY  
 HAVE PLANTED THE KEYS IN THE GRAVES IS NOT  
 SUSTAINED BY ESTABLISHED FACTS. THE KEYS WERE  
 FOUND IN BOTH GRAVES DURING THE OFFICIAL  
 EXCAVATION IN THE PRESENCE OF COLAN AND OTHERS.  
 BOTH KEYS WERE SUFFICIENTLY BURIED (ONE WAS  
 IN A PANTS POCKET FOUND AMONG THE REMAINS) THAT  
 IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO PLANT  
 THEM. MOST OBSERVERS HAVE HAD THE OPPOSITE  
 REACTION TO THAT OF SIURA: THEY ARE SURPRISED  
 THAT THE KEYS FIT ANYTHING SIX WEEKS AFTER THEIR  
 DISCOVERY. MANY SKEPTICAL MEMBERS OF THE HUMAN  
 RIGHTS COMMUNITY, INCLUDING THE ASSISTANT  
 ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, ASSUMED THAT  
 EITHER THE LOCKS OR THE KEYS WOULD HAVE BEEN  
 ALTERED DURING THAT TIME.

9. (C) THE FACT THAT THE KEYS APPARENTLY  
 BELONGED TO THE DISAPPEARED STUDENTS GIVES  
 GREATER WEIGHT TO ALLEGATIONS THAT AN ARMY DEATH  
 SQUAD ABDUCTED THEM. THIS DEVELOPMENT GIVES A  
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 PSYCHOLOGICAL BOOST TO THOSE CALLING FOR A REAL  
 INVESTIGATION OF LA CANTUTA. WE EXPECT TENSIONS  
 TO RISE AS MORE SECTORS CALL FOR THE CIVILIAN  
 JUDICIAL SYSTEM, RATHER THAN THE MILITARY ONE,  
 TO PROSECUTE THE CASE.

10. (C) SOME OBSERVERS HAVE ALSO NOTED THE  
 COINCIDENCE OF THE PUBLIC MINISTRY INVESTIGATORS  
 TAKING EFFECTIVE ACTION WITHIN A FEW DAYS OF THE  
 PUBLICATION IN THE LIMA PRESS OF THE LEAHY/OBEY

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LETTER ON AID CONDITIONS -- AFTER SIX WEEKS OF  
INACTION TO ESTABLISH IF THE KEYS FIT LOCKS AT  
LA CANTUTA.  
BRAYSHAW##

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