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	INR-00	IO-16	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	/079W				

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P 081640Z NOV 93  
 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2709  
 INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
 AMEMBASSY QUITO  
 AMEMBASSY LONDON  
 AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
 USMISSION GENEVA  
 DIA WASHDC  
 USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM

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USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
 TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, PE  
 SUBJECT: UPDATE ON LA CANTUTA/CIENEGUILLA  
 CASE

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REF: LIMA 11714 AND PREVIOUS

1. (U) SUMMARY: JOURNALISTS CLAIM TO HAVE RECEIVED INFORMATION ABOUT THE SITE WHERE THE LA CANTUTA VICTIMS WERE KILLED AND INITIALLY BURIED BY AN ARMY DEATH SQUAD. DNA TESTING IN THE UK ON THE HUMAN REMAINS FOUND NEAR CIENEGUILLA IN JULY 1993 HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN DELAYED OVER THE GOP'S INABILITY TO PAY FOR ALL THE EXAMS. ATTORNEY GENERAL COLAN DECLARED THAT, IF THE TEST PROVES THE REMAINS ARE THOSE OF THE LA CANTUTA

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VICTIMS, THE PUBLIC MINISTRY WILL SEEK MURDER INDICTMENTS IN THE CIVILIAN COURT SYSTEM. PRESIDENT FUJIMORI'S RECENT ASSERTION THAT "THREE OR FOUR" ARMY OFFICERS HAVE BEEN DETAINED OVER THE LA CANTUTA DISAPPEARANCES IS BEING SHARPLY QUESTIONED BY THE MEDIA. END SUMMARY.

MURDER SITE DISCOVERED?  
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2. (U) "SI," THE WEEKLY NEWS/POLITICAL MAGAZINE, PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 1 A STORY BASED ON AN UNNAMED SOURCE, ALLEGING THAT THE PROFESSOR AND NINE STUDENTS ABDUCTED IN JULY 1992 FROM LA CANTUTA UNIVERSITY WERE KILLED AND INITIALLY BURIED BY AN ARMY DEATH SQUAD IN A RAVINE NEAR HUACHIPA ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF LIMA. ACCORDING TO THE SOURCE, WHO CLAIMS TO HAVE WITNESSED THE ENTIRE INCIDENT (NOTE: TO DO SO, THE SOURCE WOULD HAVE HAD TO

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 HAVE BEEN A MEMBER OF THE DEATH SQUAD), THE OPERATION WAS LED BY ARMY MAJOR SANTIAGO MARTIN RIVAS.

3. (U) THE SOURCE CLAIMS THAT A CONVOY OF FOUR VEHICLES LEFT LA CANTUTA IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF JULY 18, 1992, CARRYING 27 DEATH SQUAD MEMBERS AND THE NINE STUDENTS AND PROFESSOR. AT APPROXIMATELY 4:30 A.M., THE CONVOY STOPPED AT KILOMETER 1.5 OF AVENIDA RAMIRO PRIALE, A BYPASS THAT VEERS OFF FROM THE CENTRAL HIGHWAY BETWEEN LIMA AND CHOSICA, SITE OF LA CANTUTA. HERE, NEAR LIMA'S MAIN WATER-PROCESSING STATION, THE DEATH SQUAD, KNOWN BY ITS CODE NAME "COLINA," TOOK ITS VICTIMS TO A FIELD THAT POLICE HAD SET UP FOR SHOOTING PRACTICE. THE PROFESSOR AND STUDENTS WERE SHOT AND "COLINA" MEMBERS BURIED THE BODIES AT THE SITE. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO THE STORY, THE GROUND WAS HARD AND THE SUN WAS COMING UP, SO THE CORPSES WERE HURRIEDLY BURIED IN A NEARBY DITCH.

4. (U) THE NEXT DAY, ACCORDING TO THE STORY, "COLINA" MEMBERS WERE SENT TO VIEW THE SITE DURING THE DAY. THEY REPORTED THAT THERE WERE

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BLOOD STAINS AROUND THE RAVINE AND THAT SOME OF THE CORPSES' FINGERS WERE STICKING OUT OF THE GROUND. THE NEXT NIGHT, MARTIN ORDERED THE GROUP TO RETURN; THIS TIME THEY DUG PROPER GRAVES, ACCORDING TO THE STORY, AND PLANTED WEEDS ON TOP OF THEM. THE VICTIMS WERE BURIED

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 WITH THEIR CLOTHES ON, THE SOURCE SAID.

5. (U) WHEN, IN APRIL 1993, CONGRESSMAN HENRY PEASE READ ALOUD IN CONGRESS AN ANONYMOUS LETTER THAT ASSERTED THE LA CANTUTA VICTIMS HAD BEEN BURIED JUST OFF A ROAD NEAR HUACHIPA, MARTIN DECIDED TO HAVE THE BODIES MOVED TO CIENEGUILLA, ACCORDING TO THE STORY. THE REMAINS OF FIVE PEOPLE WERE FOUND AT THE CIENEGUILLA SITE IN JULY 1993.

6. (U) THE STORY DOES NOT EXPLAIN WHY THE REMAINS OF ONLY FIVE INDIVIDUALS WERE FOUND IN THE CIENEGUILLA GRAVES AND WHAT HAPPENED TO THE

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	RPE-01	CORE-00	/079W				

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P 081640Z NOV 93  
 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2710  
 INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
 AMEMBASSY QUITO  
 AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
 USMISSION GENEVA  
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USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
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 OTHER FIVE WHO DISAPPEARED FROM LA CANTUTA. NOR  
 DOES IT EXPLAIN HOW THE CIENEGUILLA REMAINS WERE  
 BLOWN UP WITH AN EXPLOSIVE AND BURNED.

7. (U) AT THE BEHEST OF "SI," THE PROSECUTOR INVESTIGATING THE CIENEGUILLA CASE, VICTOR CUBAS, INSPECTED THE HUACHIPA SITE NOVEMBER 4. ATTORNEY GENERAL COLAN HAD DECLINED TO CORDON OFF THE AREA ON NOVEMBER 2, CLAIMING THAT CUBAS, WHO WAS OUT OF TOWN, WAS THE ONLY PROSECUTOR WHO COULD DO THAT. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THERE WERE POSSIBLE BUT UNCONFIRMED SIGNS OF DIGGING, AND SEVERAL ITEMS OF CLOTHING WERE DISCOVERED. SOME OF THE CLOTHES HAD HOLES IN THEM, PROMPTING SOME JOURNALISTS TO CONCLUDE THEY WERE BULLET HOLES. CUBAS SAID THE CLOTHES WOULD BE SUBJECTED TO FORENSICS EXAMINATIONS. CUBAS DID NOT PUBLICLY RESPOND TO "SI" MAGAZINE'S REQUEST THAT MAJOR MARTIN BE SUMMONED FOR QUESTIONING OVER THE LATEST ALLEGATIONS.

DNA TESTS DELAYED  
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8. (U) ALSO ON NOVEMBER 4, THE HUMAN RIGHTS NGO APRODEH PUBLICLY ASSERTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS DELAYING DNA TESTING ON THE CIENEGUILLA REMAINS, WHICH WERE TAKEN TO THE U.K. IN SEPTEMBER WITH BLOOD SAMPLES OF RELATIVES OF THE LA CANTUTA VICTIMS. APRODEH CLAIMED THAT IT HAD RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IN LONDON

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 AND FROM THE CHIEF OF BRITAIN'S FORENSIC SCIENCE  
 SERVICE THAT THE GOP HAD SO FAR FAILED TO PAY FOR  
 THE ANALYSES. THE RESULTS OF THE DNA TESTING MAY  
 NOT BE READY FOR ANOTHER THREE MONTHS, ACCORDING  
 TO APRODEH, WHICH BLAMED THE GOP FOR HOLDING UP  
 THE PROCEDURE.

COLAN PROMISES CASE WILL REMAIN IN CIVILIAN HANDS  
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9. (U) IN A NOVEMBER 3 INTERVIEW WITH PERU'S  
 LARGEST CIRCULATION DAILY, "EL COMERCIO,"  
 ATTORNEY GENERAL COLAN WAS ASKED WHAT WILL  
 HAPPEN IF THE DNA TESTS CONCLUDED THAT THE  
 CIENEGUILLA REMAINS WERE THOSE OF THE LA CANTUTA  
 VICTIMS. "THE PUBLIC MINISTRY WILL BEGIN TO  
 INVESTIGATE WHO THE AUTHORS OF THIS CRIME ARE,"  
 SHE REPLIED, "(AND) WE WILL DENOUNCE THE CASE  
 BEFORE THE JUDICIAL BRANCH." WHEN ASKED IF THAT  
 MEANT THE CASE WOULD REMAIN IN CIVILIAN HANDS,  
 COLAN ANSWERED, "LOGICALLY. IT WOULD BE A  
 CERTIFIED HOMICIDE. THE ACT OF KILLING, CUTTING  
 UP AND BURNING PEOPLE IS MURDER, IS HOMICIDE."

10. (U) COLAN ALSO COMPLAINED THAT THE PUBLIC  
 MINISTRY HAD BEEN UNFAIRLY ACCUSED OF MISHANDLING  
 THE CASE AND COVERING UP EVIDENCE. WHEN ASKED  
 WHY SHE HAD REFUSED OFFERS OF OUTSIDE HELP, COLAN  
 RESPONDED, "THIS CASE HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT HERE  
 IN PERU WE HAVE EXPERIENCED, PROFESSIONAL-QUALITY  
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 QS6#Q LS WE DESIGNATE, WILL BE RESPECTED."

GOVERNMENT CREDIBILITY QUESTIONED  
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11. (C) SINCE PRESIDENT FUJIMORI ANNOUNCED  
 OCTOBER 24 THAT "THREE OR FOUR" ARMY OFFICERS HAD  
 BEEN DETAINED FOR THEIR PRESUMED PARTICIPATION IN

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THE LA CANTUTA DISAPPEARANCES (REFTELS), THE GOP HAS BEEN SILENT ON THE SPECIFICS. NEITHER THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF MILITARY JUSTICE, WHICH IS SUPPOSEDLY CONDUCTING A CLOSED INVESTIGATION INTO THE LA CANTUTA INCIDENT, NOR ANY GOP OFFICIAL HAS SAID WHO IS DETAINED OR WHERE. THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE, "CARETAS," CLAIMS TO HAVE INVESTIGATED FUJIMORI'S ASSERTION, AND,

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	SP-00	SR-00	SS-00	STR-16	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00
	RPE-01	CORE-00	/079W				

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P 081640Z NOV 93  
 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2711  
 INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
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 BASED ON INFORMATION PROVIDED BY UNNAMED MILITARY SOURCES, BELIEVES THAT NO ONE HAS BEEN DETAINED. IN ITS NOVEMBER 4 ISSUE, "CARETAS" CLAIMS TO HAVE TRACKED DOWN THE MEMBERS OF "COLINA," ALMOST ALL OF WHO ARE ON ACTIVE DUTY AND NOT BEING HELD AT ANY OF THE COUNTRY'S MILITARY DETENTION CENTERS. IN AN OCTOBER 29 MEETING WITH PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER SANTIAGO FUJIMORI CHARGE ASKED FOR DETAILS ON THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT. SO FAR, NO RESPONSE HAS BEEN PROVIDED.

12. (U) THE PRESS ALSO QUESTIONED THE PUBLIC MINISTRY'S SERIOUSNESS ABOUT INVESTIGATING THE CIENEGUILLA REMAINS. FOLLOWING ASSERTIONS BY A MAN CLAIMING THAT A CROWN FOUND ON A JAWBONE FROM THE CIENEGUILLA SITE CORRESPONDED TO DENTAL WORK THAT HE ON ONE OF THE DISAPPEARED LA CANTUTA STUDENTS, INSTEAD OF LETTING THE MAN SEE THE TEETH, THE PUBLIC MINISTRY CHARGED HIM WITH PRACTICING DENTISTRY WITHOUT A LICENSE. THE MAN, WHO HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED AS A DENTIST, TURNED OUT TO BE ONLY A DENTAL TECHNICIAN. NONETHELESS, CUBAS WAS CRITICIZED FOR BEING MORE INTERESTED IN PROSECUTING THE TECHNICIAN THAN IN DETERMINING IF THE JAWBONE REALLY BELONGS TO ONE OF THE LA CANTUTA VICTIMS.

13. (C) COMMENT: AS MEMBERS OF "COLINA" REALIZE THAT THEY MAY BE TRIED FOR CARRYING OUT ORDERS, MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE LA CANTUTA AND OTHER OPERATIONS ARE SURFACING (SEPTTEL). THE PRESSURE

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 IS BUILDING FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND THE MILITARY TO INDICT THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MURDERS. THE DELAY MAY BE FOR SEVERAL REASONS, INCLUDING THE NEED FOR THE GOP TO AVOID BAD PUBLICITY BEFORE THE CONSTITUTION REFERENDUM AND FOR AN AGREEMENT TO BE WORKED OUT WITH THE ARMY OVER HOW TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP. THE LONGER THE GOVERNMENT WAITS, HOWEVER, THE MORE IT WILL OPEN ITSELF TO CRITICISM.  
 BRAYSHAW

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