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ACTION ARA-01

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| INFO | LOG-00 | ACDA-17 | AID-01 | AMAD-01 | CIAE-00 | C-01 | OASY-00 |
| | DODE-00 | EB-01 | HA-09 | H-01 | INM-02 | TEDE-00 | INR-00 |
| | IO-16 | LAB-04 | 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 | /082W | | | | |

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P 151730Z NOV 93
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2861
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
USMISSION GENEVA
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS FM

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USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, PE
SUBJECT: MFA SCORES AMERICAS WATCH OVER
- THEIR LA CANTUTA REPORT; AW FIRES
BACK

MFA SCORES AMERICAS WATCH REPORT ON LA CANTUTA

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1. (U) THE PERUVIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY TOOK AMERICAS WATCH (AW) TO TASK IN A NOVEMBER 2 OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE THAT ADDRESSED AN AW REPORT ENTITLED "PERU: ANATOMY OF A COVER-UP, THE LA CANTUTA DISAPPEARANCES." THE COMMUNIQUE CHARGED THAT THE AW REPORT HAVING AN ANTI-GOP BIAS AND OF CONTAINING "A NUMBER OF INACCURACIES" AND "DISINFORMATION." THE COMMUNIQUE ATTACKED AW FOR PERSISTING IN "CLASSIFYING AS A GUERRILLA OR INSURGENCY BOTH SHINING PATH AND MRTA AND ITS

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(AW'S) DOCUMENTS DO NOT MENTION EVEN ONCE THE DEHUMANIZING TENDENCY OF TERRORISM WHICH IS CHARACTERISTIC OF THESE BANDS. THIS SERIOUS AND TENDENTIOUS CONCEPTUAL DISTORTION WOULD APPEAR TO LEGITIMIZE THE INDISCRIMINATE TERRORIST VIOLENCE..."

2. (U) WHILE CRITICIZING AMERICA'S WATCH FOR USING INACCURATE INFORMATION IN ITS REPORTS, THE COMMUNIQUE PROMISED THAT THE GOP WOULD SEND AW SEVERAL REPORTS FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND THE MILITARY COURT INVESTIGATING THE LA CANTUTA AFFAIR "SINCE WE BELIEVE THAT AMERICAS WATCH NEEDS THIS INFORMATION." THE COMMUNIQUE THEN ASKED "ALL NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS" TO "DENOUNCE TERRORISM IN ANY OF ITS FORMS AND ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD..." IT "EXHORTS" NGOS TO A "SERENE, RESPECTFUL" EVALUATION OF THE LA CANTUTA INVESTIGATION TO-DATE, "BEFORE

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 QUESTIONING THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE OR SEEKING THE APPLICATION OF ECONOMIC PENALTIES..."

AMERICAS WATCH FIRES BACK

3. (U) AMERICAS WATCH RESPONDED TO THE MFA COMMUNIQUE IN AN OPEN LETTER ON NOVEMBER 11 REJECTING THE GOP'S CRITICISM THAT IT WAS MISINFORMED ABOUT THE LA CANTUTA INVESTIGATION. AW STOOD BY ITS REPORT AND ATTACKED THE MFA COMMUNIQUE FOR ITS "IMPLICATION" THAT AW'S CHOICE OF LANGUAGE IN EFFECT "LEGITIMIZED" TERRORISM. THIS INCORRECT CHARACTERIZATION WAS ESPECIALLY DANGEROUS IN A COUNTRY WHERE SUCH ALLEGATIONS COULD PUT THE LIVES OF HUMAN RIGHTS WORKERS AT RISK, AMERICA'S WATCH REPLIED. THE LETTER, SIGNED BY AW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JUAN MENDEZ, STATED THAT "STATEMENTS BY THE PERUVIAN CHANCERY THAT OUR (AW'S) DOCUMENTS DO NOT CONTAIN A SINGLE MENTION ON THE DEHUMANIZING ASPECT OF TERRORISM APPEAR POORLY INFORMED OR BADLY INTENTIONED." IN THEIR OWN LETTER AW CONDEMNED STATEMENTS SUCH AS ISSUED BY THE

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PERUVIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY CHARGING THAT THEY
 WERE DESIGNED TO PROVIDE ERRONEOUS INFORMATION
 ABOUT AW TO THE PERUVIAN PUBLIC.

FRACAS ELICITS LITTLE NOTICE

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4. (C) COMMENT: FOR NOW THE PERUVIAN PRESS
 APPEARS TO BE REPORTING THE EXCHANGE OF
 RECRIMINATIONS BETWEEN THE GOP AND AW IN A
 PERFUNCTORY MANNER. EVEN LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS
 GROUPS DO NOT APPEAR OVERLY CONCERNED. THE
 SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR
 FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, PERU'S LEADING HR UMBRELLA
 ORGANIZATION, WAS NOT AWARE THAT AW HAD REPLIED
 TO THE MFA COMMUNIQUE AND DISMISSED THE
 EXCHANGE, SAYING THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE A
 HARD TIME DEFENDING ITS ROLE ON LA CANTUTA AND
 THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE AFFAIR TO ANYONE.

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P 151730Z NOV 93
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USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

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SUBJECT: MFA SCORES AMERICAS WATCH OVER
ROBERTS

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