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ACTION ARA-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-07	SS-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	H-01
	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	HA-09	L-03	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-01
	OMB-01	INM-08	INRE-00	USIE-00	SP-02	SNP-01	PRS-01
	P-02	T-01	/047 W				

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P 011411Z SEP 89
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1390
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
USAFSO HOWARD AFB PM
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM

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USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, PTER, PE
SUBJECT: TRIAL OF MILITARY IMPLICATED IN 1986
- PRISON MASSACRE BEGINS

1. (U) THE TRIAL OF PERUVIAN POLICE AND MILITARY PERSONNEL ACCUSED OF MURDERING PRISONERS IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE FAILED JUNE 18-19, 1986 LURIGANCHO PRISON UPRISING BEGAN FRIDAY, AUGUST 25 BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT OF MILITARY JUSTICE. THE 77 POLICE AND MILITARY OFFICERS AND ENLISTED PERSONNEL ON TRIAL ARE CHARGED WITH MURDERING 124 PRISONERS (MOSTLY ACCUSED "SENDERISTAS") WHO HAD SURRENDERED. PROSECUTOR JUAN CARBONE HERRERA HAS ASKED FOR A TWENTY-FIVE YEAR PRISON TERM FOR GUARDIA REPUBLICANA GENERAL ROLANDO CABEZAS ALARCON "FOR HAVING ORDERED" THE KILLINGS AND

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A SIX YEAR PRISON TERM FOR ARMY GENERAL JORGE RABANAL PORTILLA, WHO OVERSAW EFFORTS TO PUT DOWN THE INMATE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SAM A. MOSKOWITZ
DATE/CASE ID: 9 AUG 1999 199902275

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UPRISING. (NOTE: THIS LEGAL CASE FOCUSES ONLY ON THE MASSACRE AT LURIGANCHO PRISON AND NOT/NOT ON THE SIMULTANEOUS MASSACRE OF INMATES AT EL FRONTON PRISON. THAT TRIAL HAS NOT BEGUN YET. END NOTE).

2. (U) AMONG THOSE SUBPOENAED TO TESTIFY ARE THEN-MINISTERS ABEL SALINAS (INTERIOR), LUIS GONZALES POSADA (JUSTICE), PLUS THEN-MEMBERS OF THE JOINT CHIEFS (COMANDO CONJUNTO). CURRENT MINISTER OF INTERIOR AGUSTIN MANTILLA IS ALSO SCHEDULED TO TESTIFY AS TO HIS ROLE AS THEN VICE-MINISTER OF INTERIOR. THE TRIAL, WHICH CONVENES DAILY AND IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, IS EXPECTED TO CONCLUDE IN SEVERAL WEEKS, WITH SENTENCING TO BE ANNOUNCED BEFORE THE END OF SEPTEMBER.

3. (C) COMMENT: THE LONG-AWAITED TRIAL COMES AMID GROWING PUBLIC DEBATE OVER THE PROPRIETY AND EFFICACY OF PRESIDENT GARCIA'S PROPOSAL TO TRY CIVILIANS ACCUSED OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES BEFORE MILITARY TRIBUNALS (SEPTEL). YET IT HAS TAKEN OVER THREE YEARS FOR THIS CASE TO WIND ITSELF THROUGH THE MILITARY JUSTICE SYSTEM TO THE POINT OF TRIAL. WITH THIS CASE, THE SWIFTNESS AND EFFICACY OF MILITARY TRIBUNALS MAY WELL BE ON TRIAL AS WELL. END COMMENT.

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