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ACTION ARA-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-10	EUR-00	SS-00	CIAE-00
	EB-00	H-01	MSC-01	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	COME-00	SSO-00
	HA-09	L-03	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-01	FAAE-00	CCO-00
	OMB-01	INRE-00	CA-02	USSS-00	USIE-00	JUSE-00	FBIE-00
	SP-02	OC-02	DOEE-00	M-01	NRC-02	SNP-01	FAIM-01
	C-01	PRS-01	DS-01	DSE-00	SCT-02	P-02	T-01

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O 011456Z JUN 88
 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9000
 INFO USAFSO HOWARD AFB PM
 USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM
 SECDEF WASHDC
 DIA WASHDC

DEPARTMENT OF STATE IM/IPS/CR/IR Date: 9/11/97
 RELEASE DECLASSIFY
 EXCISE DECLASSIFY EO Citations
 DENY IN PART

FOIA Exemptions _____ TS authority to
 PA Exemptions _____ () CLASSIFY as () S or () C Sec. _____
 () DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () C

SECTION 01 OF 02 LIMA 07151

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD JOHN YOULE

DIA FOR OA-5/OS-1D/DB-6D2/JSI-4B/DB-3C1

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: MASS, PTER, PE
 SUBJECT: EFE WIRE REPORT ON U.S. MILITARY ADVISERS,
 - THREAT TO U.S./SOVIET ADVISERS
 -

1. (U) SUMMARY:

MAY 28 "EXPRESO" (CENTER-RIGHT) GIVES FRONT-PAGE
 HEADLINES TO AN EFE WIRE SERVICE REPORT THAT,
 ACCORDING TO PENTAGON SOURCES, THE U.S. IS
 EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF SENDING MILITARY
 ADVISERS TO AID PERU AGAINST SENDERO LUMINOSO
 (SL) AND THE MRTA. REPORT QUOTES ANONYMOUS

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INTELLIGENCE OFFICIAL TO EFFECT THAT SOVIET
 BRIGADIER GENERAL HEADING USSR MILITARY AID
 MISSION IS LIKELY SL TARGET. "EX-CIA AGENT

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RICHARD FINNEY" IS ALSO QUOTED AS SPECULATING THAT SOVIET ADVISERS IN SOUTHERN PERU MAY BE SMUGGLING ARMS IN TO THE MRTA FROM SOVIET FISHING VESSELS. A SHORTER VERSION OF THE REPORT WAS CARRIED BY LIMA'S LEADING DAILY, CONSERVATIVE "EL COMERCIO." ARTICLE IN MAY 28 "LA REPUBLICA" (LEFTIST) ON VISIT TO U.S. OF PERU ARMY COMMANDER PALOMINO ALSO NOTES POSSIBILITY OF U.S. MILITARY ADVISERS.

(C) IN LIMA'S READY-TO-BELIEVE-ANYTHING ATMOSPHERE, THE EFE/"EXPRESO" ARTICLE WILL INSPIRE MALICIOUS INTERPRETATIONS OF OUR MOTIVES AND INCREASE GOP SKITTISHNESS ABOUT COOPERATING WITH US. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) THE EFE ARTICLE IS CARRIED ON PAGE 4 OF "EXPRESO." ITS MAIN POINTS:

-- A HIGH PENTAGON OFFICIAL, WHO SPOKE ON THE CONDITION OF ANONYMITY, SAID THAT PERU AND THE U.S. ARE INFORMALLY EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF THE U.S. SENDING MILITARY ADVISERS T AID THE PERUVIAN ARMY IN FIGHTING SL AND THE MTA. THE OFFICIAL SAID NOTHING ON THE SCALE OF L SALVADOR IS BEING CONSIDERED.

-- PERUVIAN RMY COMMANDER GENERAL ARTEMIO PALOMINO IS IN WAHINGTON UNTIL MAY 28. HIS PRESENCE HAS BEEN KET QUIET, WITH NO INFORMATION ON HIS CONTACTS

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INWASHINGTON.

-- A PENTAGON INTELLIGENCE OFFICIA SAID U.S. MILITARY INTELLIGENCE IS OF THE VIEW HAT, "BY ITS OWN REVOLUTIONARY NATURE, SL HAS SVIET AND U.S. MILITARY ADVISERS AMONG ITS TARGES."

-- THE SAME OFFICIAL DID NOT WANT TO BE DRAN OUT BUT SAID A SOVIET BRIGADIER GENERAL WHO DIRECTS THE USSR MILITARY AID MISSION IS VERY LKELY AMONG THOSE AT THE TOP OF THE SL'S HIT LIS.

-- "EX-CIA AGENT RICHARD FINNEY" NOTES THAT HERE

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ARE A NUMBER OF SOVIET ADVISERS IN THE SECND MILITARY REGION IN OUTHERN PERU, NEAR THE CHILEAN BORDER, AND SPECLATES THAT, "ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO CONCLUSIVE PROF," THE ADVISERS COULD DIRECT THE TRANSFER OF RMS FROM SOVIET FISHING BOATS OFF THE COAST TO TE MRTA.

A SOMEWHAT SHORTER VERSION OF THE SAMEREPORT WAS CARRIED ON THE INSIDE PAGES OF CONSEVATIVE "EL COMERCIO".

3. (U) LEFTIST "A REPUBLICA" ON MAY 28 CARRIED EFE STORY ON U.S VISIT OF PERUVIAN ARMY COMMANDER GENERAL ARTEMI PALOMINO UNDER THE HEADLINE THAT "U.S. GIVES UCONDITIONAL SUPPORT TO THE PERUVIAN DEMOCRATIC ROCESS." CITING SPOKESPERSON CAPTAIN NANCY LULNTAS, ARTICLE NOTES LEGION OF MERIT AWARD TO PAOMINO AND SAYS THAT PALOMINO AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS ROBERT PASTORINO DISCUSSED "POSSIBLE U.S. AID TO PERU." LULANTAS SAID PASTORINO REAFFIRMED UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT OF THE U.S. FOR THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS IN PERU. "LA REPUBLICA" FURTHER CITES

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: MASS, PTER, PE

SUBJECT: EFE WIRE REPORT ON U.S. MILITARY ADVISERS,

A HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIAL ON BACKGROUND WHO INDICATED THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE DISCUSSING THE POSSIBILITY OF SENDING U.S. MILITARY ADVISERS TO PERU.

4. (U) PRO-SENDERO LUMINOSO "EL DIARIO" IMMEDIATELY PICKED UP ON THE EFE/"EXPRESO" ARTICLE, RUNNING A NEWS REPORT AND AN EDITORIAL MAY 29. THE EDITORIAL CLAIMED THAT THE WIRE SERVICE REPORT

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CONFIRMED "EL DIARIO" ASSERTIONS THAT THE U.S. IS ALREADY AIDING PERU IN COUNTER-TERRORISM.

5. (C) COMMENT:

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING PERU WITH MILITARY ADVISERS IS CLEARLY PREMATURE. THE "LA REPUBLICA" ARTICLE NONETHELESS DID NOT COME OUT BADLY. THE "EXPRESO" AND "COMERCIO" ARTICLES, ON THE OTHER HAND, ARE EXTREMELY DAMAGING. THE DETERIORATING POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION HERE HAS PEOPLE READY TO BELIEVE ANYTHING AND THE OFF-THE-WALL QUALITY OF AN ANONYMOUS U.S. OFFICIAL GRATUITOUSLY SPECULATING ABOUT SL ASSASINATING A SOVIET GENERAL IS LIKELY TO GENERATE MALICIOUS AND WILDLY INVENTIVE INTERPRETATIONS OF OUR INTENTIONS. AT A MINIMUM, THE ARTICLE WILL MAKE THE PERUVIANS WONDER AT OUR JUDGMENT AND LEAVE THEM LESS LIKELY TO ASSUME THE POLITICAL RISKS OF CLOSER MILITARY TIES.

WATSON

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** [REDACTED]

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