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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA-00

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AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY QUITO

SECRET SECTION 01 OF 06 LIMA 09224

STATE FOR INM, ARA/AND; DEA FOR OC, DO, OF, OISL, OS,  
PS.

E.O. 12356: OADR  
TAGS: SNAR, PE

SUBJECT: SITUATION REPORT IN THE UPPER HUALLAGA  
VALLEY; TERRORIST ACTIVITY AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH  
TRAFFICKERS; OPERATION CONDOR GFZH-87-8001, [redacted]  
CCX: OPERATION SNOWCAP GFAN-87-8003, [redacted]

REF: LIMA 032125Z, DTD AUG 87.

1. SECRET --- ENTIRE TEXT.

2. DEA HAS BEEN OPERATING IN THE POLICE EMERGENCY  
ZONE IN THE UHV SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS PHASE OF  
THE CONDOR OPERATIONS, JULY 15. DEA AGENTS HAVE  
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PARTICIPATED IN EVERY SIGNIFICANT OPERATION THROUGHOUT

DEPT OF STATE APPEALS REVIEW PANEL (ARPA)

FONIA/PA

Reliance  
Exemption  
FOIA

Mandatory Review

Declassify  
Declassify in Part  
Class. Rev/Renew

Exempt from G.L. 02.01.02.07B  
ARP Action Cert. [signature] Date 07/05/98

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United States Department of State  
Office of FOI, Privacy, & Classification Review  
Review Authority: MOSKOWITZ, SAM  
Date: 04/24/98  
Case ID: 9303561

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THE UHV, INCLUDING TOCACHE, PROGRESO, PARAISO, UCHIZA AND OTHER SURROUNDING AREAS. DEA CA HAS TASKED AGENTS WITH REPORTING ON THE TERRORIST PRESENCE, NUMBERS, LEVEL OF ACTIVITY, AND INFLUENCE IN THE UHV. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] THIS REPORT IS BY NO MEANS CONCLUSIVE, AND RAISES SEVERAL OBVIOUS QUESTIONS TO WHICH THERE ARE NO ANSWERS AT THIS TIME.

3. THE COMMAND STRUCTURE AS ESTABLISHED BY [REDACTED] HAS HIM ON PAPER AS BEING RESPONSIBLE ONLY FOR COODOR DRUG OPERATIONS WITH A GUARDIA CIVIL COLONEL IN CHARGE OF ANTI-TERRORIST OPERATIONS IN THE EMERGENCY ZONE. [REDACTED]

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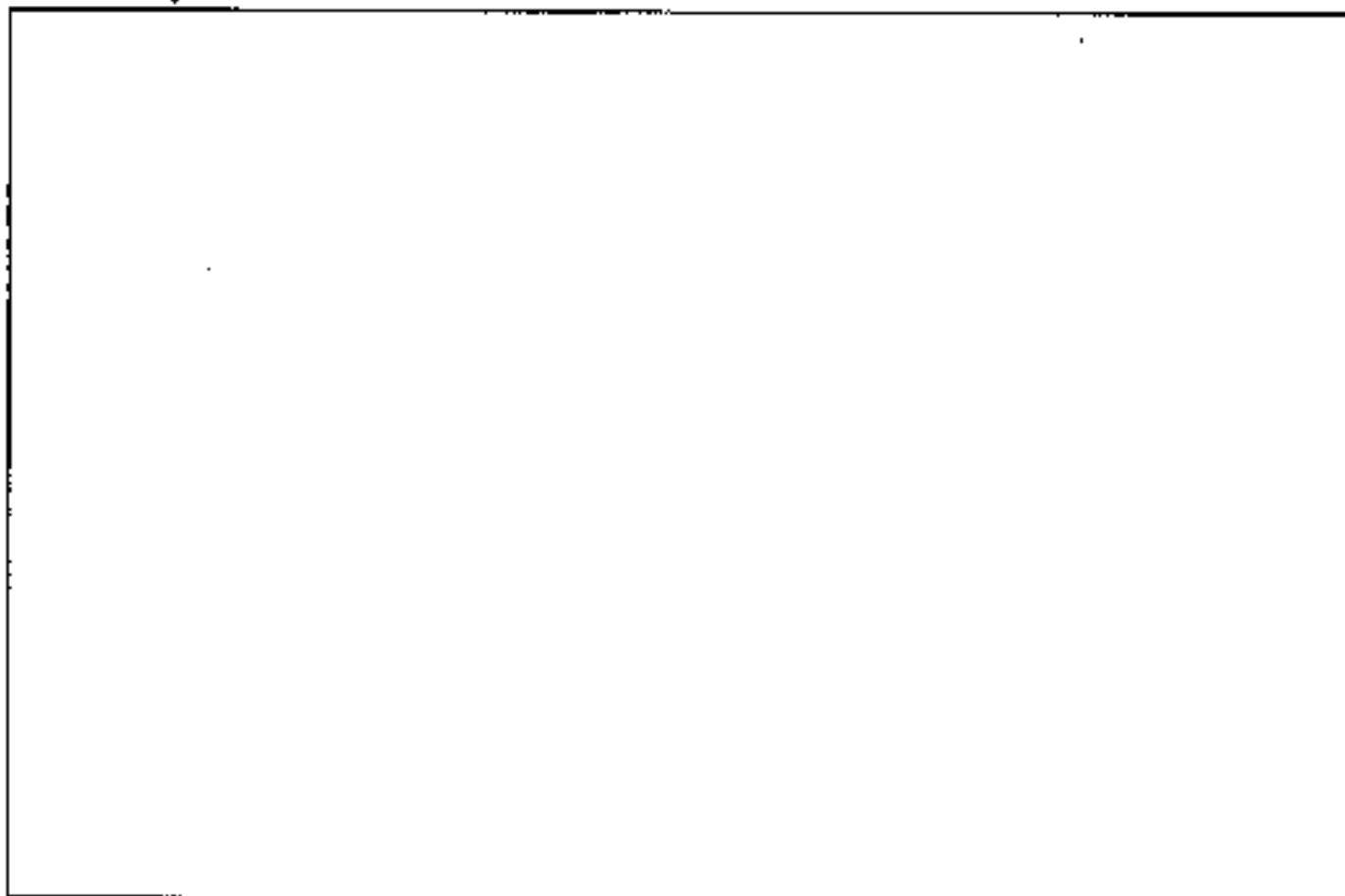
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AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY QUITO

SECRET SECTION 02 OF 06 LIMA 09224

STATE FOR INM, ARA/AND; DEA FOR OC, DO, OF, OISL, OS,  
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E.O. 12356: OADR  
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ATTEMPTING TO [REDACTED] RELEASE THIS  
INFORMATION.

B1,B7C

6. TERRORISTS GROUPS PRESENTLY INTERACT WITH  
TRAFFICKERS IN THE UHV IN A VARIETY OF WAYS.  
FOLLOWING IS A DESCRIPTION OF HOW THIS RELATIONSHIP  
DEVELOPED IN TOCACHE, WHICH WE BELIEVE TO BE FAIRLY  
TYPICAL. AS TOCACHE STARTED TO GROW AS A SIGNIFICANT  
TRAFFICKING CENTER, THE MRTA SEEMS TO BE THE FIRST  
GROUP THAT MADE AN ALLIANCE WITH THE VARIOUS  
TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS. MRTA WAS NOT THEN A STRONG  
FORCE WITHIN THE UHV, AND EVEN TODAY TAKES A BACKSEAT

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TO THE SL IN TERMS OF INFLUENCE. NEVERTHELESS, THEY  
PROVIDED PROTECTION TO LOADS OF COCAINE BEING TAKEN

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OUT OF THE TOCACHE AREA TO AIRSTRIPS FOR ONWARD MOVEMENT TO COLOMBIA. TRAFFICKER RIVALRY IN TOCACHE WAS ONE OF THE REASONS FOR THE CREATION OF A GROUP CALLED THE RONDAS CAMPESINAS, IN ESSENCE A GROUP OF THUGS THAT PROTECTED CERTAIN TRAFFICKERS AND ALSO PROVIDED PROTECTION FOR DRUG LOADS HEADING NORTH. RONDAS CAMPESINAS HAVE BEEN IN EXISTENCE FOR YEARS THROUGHOUT THE UHV OR LOCAL CIVIC ACTION AND SELF-DEFENSE GROUPS. THIS FORM OF "SELF-ENFORCEMENT" WAS APPARENTLY VERY EFFECTIVE WITHIN THE VARIOUS COMMUNITIES PRIOR TO TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS ABSORBING THE RONDAS INTO THEIR SECURITY FORCES. THE SL DID NOT ENTER THE PICTURE UNTIL A SERIES OF ARMED CONFRONTATIONS BROKE OUT AMONG SEVERAL TRAFFICKING GROUPS. SL HAD REMAINED IN THE WINGS, SO TO SPEAK, LIMITING THEIR ACTIVITIES TO EXTORTION OF LOCAL BUSINESSMEN AND SMALLER, LESS ORGANIZED TRAFFICKERS, AND RECRUITING MEMBERS FROM THE COMMUNITIES. SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, APPARENTLY FEELING THE TIME WAS RIGHT, SL INSTIGATED SEVERAL ARMED ENGAGEMENTS WITH THE RONDAS CAMPESINAS. THE SL WAS CLEARLY SUPERIOR IN THESE FIGHTS, AND SUBSEQUENTLY NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENTS WITH ALL THE MAJOR TRAFFICKER ORGANIZATIONS IN THE AREA. THE RONDAS CAMPESINAS WERE DISBANDED.

7. THE DOOR TO DOOR RECRUITING BY THE SL HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS NOT BEING VERY SUCCESSFUL AT LEAST IN TERMS OF NUMBERS ACTUALLY SIGNED UP. THE RECRUITERS

UNITED

HE/SHE IS SENT TO TRAINING CAMP FOR TWO MONTHS. AFTER

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TRAINING, THEY RETURN TO THEIR VILLAGES AND BECOME PART OF THE LOCAL SL CONTINGENT.

8. THE SL NEGOTIATED A PROTECTION FEE SCALE WITH THE TRAFFICKERS FOR LOADS LEAVING THE TOCACHE AIRPORT. USD 2,000 TO 3,000 PER PLANE WAS ASSESSED FOR LOADS OF UP TO FIVE HUNDRED KILOS. LARGER LOADS WERE USUALLY NEGOTIATED IN ADVANCE WITH THE PARTICULAR TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATION. ONE SOURCE OF INFORMATION REPORTS THAT IN ADDITION TO THE SL, THE GUARDIA CIVIL COMMANDER WAS RECEIVING APPROX USD 6,000 PER PLANE LOAD FROM THE

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TRAFFICKERS TO SIMPLY STAY AWAY DURING THE LOADING PERIOD.

9. AN INTERESTING SIDE NOTE. DURING THE HEYDIO XUM S ALLEGEDLY WENT FOR RENOVATIONS OF SCHOOLS AND REPAIR OF ROADS IN THE CITY. THE TRAFFICKER RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS FUND LEFT TOWN JUST PRIOR TO THE CONDOR OPERATION AND ALLEGEDLY ABSCONDED WITH APPROX USD 30,000. IS THERE NO HONOR AMONG TIEVES?

10. THE BRUTAL ATTACK ON THE GUARDIA CIVIL STATION IN UCHIZA IN MAY OF THIS YEAR WAS ORIGINALLY REPORTED AS CARRIED OUT BY THE SL FOR REASONS NOT EXACTLY CLEAR TO US AT THE TIME. [REDACTED]

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S E C R E T SECTION 03 OF 06 LIMA 09224

STATE FOR INM, ARA/AND; DEA FOR OC, OO, OF, OISL, OS,  
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E.O. 12356: OADR  
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11. IN AN OPERATION THAT OCCURED THIS LAST WEEK, DEA  
AGENTS OBSERVED THE CAPTURE OF THREE SUSPECTED SL  
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MEMBERS IN SANTA ROSA, WHICH IS BETWEEN TOCACHE AND  
PUCALLPA.

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SANTA ROSA IS A SMALL VILLAGE WITH A POPULATION OF APPROX 60 INHABITANTS. ALTHOUGH NOT ARMED WITH ANY AMOUNT OF SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS, OTHER THAN 10 SHOTGUNS AND ONE AUTOMATIC RIFLE (AN OLDER MODEL US MADE RUGER), THEY HAD IN THEIR POSSESSION A LIST OF WEAPONS, GRENADES AND EXPLOSIVE MATERIAL THAT WERE APPARENTLY AVAILABLE FOR THEIR USE. THEY INCLUDED:

- 9 FAL RIFLES
- 15 MACHINE GUNS
- 7 HAND GRENADES
- 9MM PISTOLS (2)
- 7 REVOLVERS
- 2,628 ROUNDS OF UNSPECIFIED AMMUNITION
- 100 STICKS OF DYNAMITE

ALSO FOUND AT THE LOCATION WAS A CRUDELY CONSTRUCTED BOMB MADE OUT OF A METAL INSECT SPRAY CONTAINER.

12. IN LATE JUNE THERE WAS AN ATTACK BY THE SL ON A SMALL POLICE POST IN JUANJUI.

[REDACTED] AS A [REDACTED] RESULT, SL SUSTAINED W [REDACTED] POST (IT WAS DOUBLED IN SIZE SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE THE ATTACK). THE POLICE SUSTAINED SEVERAL MINOR WOUNDS.

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13. REPORTS ON THE INFLUENCE EXERTED BY THE SL/MRTA IN THE ZONE ARE VARIED. FIGURES DISCUSSED WITHIN  
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PERUVIAN MILITARY CIRCLES APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN INFLATED, I.E. 2,000 PLUS MEMBERS. SOME OF THE AUTHORITY THE TERRORISTS ALLEGEDLY EXERCISED IN THE ZONE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN BASED MORE ON EXAGGERATED NUMBERS. HOWEVER EVEN WITH THE SMALLER NUMBERS THEY ARE AN EFFECTIVE FORCE. THE GUARDIA CIVIL MAINTAINS THAT THERE WERE NEVER MORE THAN 200 TO 300 SL MEMBERS AND, OF THEM, ONLY 80 TO 100 ARE CONSIDERED HARD CORE MEMBERS. THE MRTA DOES

NOT APPEAR TO BE ORGANIZED AS WELL AS THE SL. THEY

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ARE MUCH SMALLER IN NUMBERS AND NOT AS WELL EQUIPPED AS THE SL, ALTHOUGH, AS NOTED ABOVE, THEY SEEM TO HAVE ALIGNED THEMSELVES WITH THE TRAFFICKERS QUICKER THAN THE SL. DURING ONE OF THE INITIAL OPS NEAR TOCACHE, A HOUSE TO HOUSE SEARCH TURNED UP 75 LEAFLETS OF MRTA MATERIAL. THEY APPEARED TO BE RECENTLY PRINTED, AND AN ANALYSIS OF THE MATERIAL CONFIRMED THAT THE PRINTING WAS IN ALL LIKELIHOOD FROM A MRTA SOURCE. NEIGHBORS NEAR THE MRTA HOUSE SAID THERE WERE THREE INDIVIDUALS WHO LIVED IN THE HOUSE AND CLAIMED TO BE MRTA. NEIGHBORS SAID THESE INDIVIDUALS WERE MORE INVOLVED IN ASSISTING TRAFFICKERS THAN IN TERRORIST ACTIVITIES.

14. A RECENT EXAMPLE OF THE VIOLENCE ASSOCIATED WITH THE SL OCCURRED ON 7/21/87 IN PUERTO PIZANA. THE MAJORITY OF THE CITIZENS WERE ROUNDED UP BY SL MEMBERS

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SECRET SECTION 04 OF 06 LIMA 09224

STATE FOR INM, ARA/AND; DEA FOR OC, DD, OF, OISL, OS,  
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E.O. 12356: OADR  
TAGS: SNAR, PE  
SUBJECT: SITUATION REPORT IN THE UPPER HUALLAGA

IN THE TOWN PLAZA TO HEAR ANTI-GOVERNMENT SPEECHES.  
TO DEMONSTRATE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO THEM IF THEY  
COOPERATED WITH THE GOVERNMENT, THEY PULLED TWO YOUNG  
WOMEN FROM THE CROWD AND EXECUTED THEM IN FRONT OF  
EVERYONE.

15. INTELLIGENCE FROM DEA SOURCES INDICATES THE  
TERRORISTS WHO LEFT TOCACHE PRIOR TO THE INVASION ARE  
HIDING OUT IN THE MOUNTAINS AND SMALLER VILLAGES  
WAITING TO SEE IF THE POLICE PRESENCE WILL CONTINUE.  
IT IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO GAUGE THE COMPARATIVE  
POPULARITY OF THE SL AND TRAFFICKERS, OR OF THE NEW  
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POLICE PRESENCE, IN THE AREAS TAKEN OVER TO DATE IN  
THE ZONE. A LARGE NUMBER OF PERSONS HAVE THANKED THE

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POLICE FOR RETURNING AND PUTTING AN END TO INDISCRIMINATE KILLINGS, EXTORTION AND GENERAL LAWLESSNESS. HOW MUCH OF THAT IS SELF-SERVING IS ANYBODY'S GUESS -THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE SLOWDOWN IN DRUG TRAFFIC HAS TO ENGENDER A CERTAIN NOSTALGIA FOR THE GOOD OLD DAYS.

RELUCTANT TO BELIEVE THAT HIS FORCES ARE AS POPULAR AS LOCAL CITIZENS TELL HIM THEY ARE, EVEN HE IS IMPRESSED AT THE LARGE NUMBER OF CITIZENS WHO ARE CONTACTING THE POLICE TO FINGER TERRORISTS AND TRAFFICKERS, TO PINPOINT LOCATIONS AND DESCRIBE VEHICLES AND ROUTES EMPLOYED. THIS UNEXPECTED LOAD OF INTELLIGENCE IS ONE OF THE REASONS FOR THE DELAYS WE ARE ENCOUNTERING IN OUR CONDOR OPERATIONAL TIMETABLE. SEVERAL OF THE CLANDESTINE LABS FOUND THUS FAR WERE ALSO POINTED OUT TO US BY LOCAL CITIZENS. AS IN OTHER TRAFFICKING COMMUNITIES IN THE AREA IT SEEMS THAT THE VAST SUMS OF MONEY DERIVED FROM TRAFFICKING STAYS IN THE HANDS OF A FEW AND DOES NOT TRICKLE DOWN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC AS SOME HAD ASSUMED.

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] IN A MEETING HELD IN NUEVO SAN

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MARTIN, LOCATED SEVERAL HOURS BY CAR NORTH OF TOCACHE. THE MEETING WAS CALLED BY THE SL COMMITTEE LEADERS FROM TOCACHE AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS. THE SIXTY PLUS PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED SL AND MRTA MEMBERS AND WHAT WERE DESCRIBED AS SIGNIFICANT TRAFFICKERS FROM THE UHV. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO INTRODUCE FOUR ALLEGED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COLOMBIAN NATIONAL LIBERATION ARMY (ELN), AND FOUR ALLEGED REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA.

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[REDACTED]  
THE COCA FARMERS AGAINST THESE EFFORTS. THE NICARAGUANS ECHOED THESE STATEMENTS AND PROVIDED DETAILS ABOUT THE FIGHT AGAINST THE US SUPPORTED CONTRAS. BOTH THE COLOMBIANS AND THE NICARAGUANS SOLICITED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS PRESENT. THE SOURCE STATES THAT THE SUBJECTS FROM NICARAGUA WORE GREEN ARMY TYPE FATIGUES WITHOUT INSIGNIAS. THE COLOMBIANS DISPLAYED AUTOMATIC WEAPONS, BUT THE SOURCE WAS NOT ABLE TO IDENTIFY THE MAKE. (COMMENT: TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THIS IS THE FIRST INSTANCE OF ANY DEA REPORTING ON COLOMBIAN GUERRILLA GROUPS VISITING PERU OR THE PRESENCE OF NICARAGUANS. THERE ARE SEVERAL ASPECTS OF THE STORY AS TOLD BY THE SOURCE THAT DO NOT FIT AND MAY NEVER BE VERIFIABLE.

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[REDACTED] B1

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STATE FOR INM, ARA/AND; DEA FOR OC, DO, OF, OISL, OS,  
PS.

E.O. 12356: OADR  
TAGS: SNAR, PE  
SUBJECT: SITUATION REPORT IN THE UPPER HUALLAGA

[REDACTED]

17. DURING A VISIT TO THE [REDACTED] OIL  
PLANTATION [REDACTED] DEA CA AND DCM  
HAD OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH SEVERAL STAFF MEMBERS OF  
THE PLANT. A TERRORIST ATTACK ON THE PALM OIL TANKER  
TRUCKS HAD OCCURED SEVERAL DAYS EARLIER AND EVERYONE  
WAS OBVIOUSLY ON A HIGH STATE OF ALERT. SEVERAL STAFF  
MEMBERS COMMENTED THAT THE ATTACKS ON THE TRUCKS WERE  
NOT NECESSARILY IN RETALIATION FOR THE PRESENCE OF  
POLICE FORCES AT THE UHOPAR BASE BUT WAS THE RESULT OF  
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AN ONGOING DISPUTE BETWEEN THE OWNER OF THE TRANSPORT  
TRUCKS WHO ACCORDING TO RUMOR HAD NOT PAID EXTORTION

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MONIES TO THE SL FOR USE OF THE HIGHWAYS FOR A PERIOD OF TIME. THE PLANT MANAGER COMMENTED THAT THE OWNERS WERE PLEASED THAT UHOPAR FORCES WERE ESTABLISHING A BASE ADJACENT TO THEIR PROPERTY AS THEY FELT THIS ADDITIONAL PROTECTION WOULD THWART ANY TERRORIST ACTION AGAINST THE PLANTATION. THERE ARE APPROX 150 UHOPAR TROOPS STATIONED AT THIS FORWARD BASE, AND ABOUT 180 CONTRACT GUARDS ON THE PLANTATION. THE PLANTATION GUARDS ARE PROVIDED AND TRAINED BY AN [REDACTED] WHO IS ASSOCIATED WITH A FIRM CALLED [REDACTED]. THE PRIMARY MISSION OF THE UHOPAR TROOPS IS TO ASSIST CONDOR OPERATIONS.

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18. TOCACHE HAS ALWAYS BEEN KNOWN TO BE A SIGNIFICANT TRANSHIPMENT/STAGING AREA AND MEETING PLACE FOR NEGOTIATIONS, BUT THE INTELLIGENCE DEA HAS OBTAINED SINCE THE POLICE TAKEOVER INDICATES AN EVEN GREATER ROLE THAN HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY BELIEVED. THERE ARE NUMEROUS INCIDENTS OF MEETINGS BETWEEN WHAT HAVE BEEN DESCRIBED AS HIGH LEVEL COLOMBIAN TRAFFICKERS AND PERUVIAN SUPPLIERS NEGOTIATING LONG TERM PURCHASING AGREEMENTS INVOLVING LARGE LOADS OF COCAINE PASTE/BASE; ONE ORGANIZATION CONDUCTED NEGOTIATIONS FOR APPROX 20,000 KILOS OF BASE TO BE DELIVERED WITHIN A TWO MONTH TIME FRAME. CURRENT STATUS OF TRAFFICKING OPERATIONS IN THE UHV AND EVEN FURTHER NORTH IS IN

DISARRAY. WE HAVE REPORTS OF AT LEAST TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF COLOMBIAN TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS WHO HAVE TRAVELED TO LIMA TO DISCUSS THE POLICE ACTIONS WITHIN THE UHV AND TO LOOK FOR ALTERNATE  
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SMUGGLING METHODS AND ROUTES. INTELLIGENCE INDICATES THAT THERE ARE STILL APPROXIMATELY THREE TO FOUR-THOUSAND KILOS OF COCAINE PBC HIDDEN THROUGHOUT THE UHV WAITING FOR EITHER THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE POLICE FORCES OR AN OPPORTUNE TIME TO SMUGGLE IT OUT OF THE AREA. GUARDIA CIVIL REPORTS VIRTUALLY ALL DRUG AIR TRAFFIC FROM COLOMBIA (IQUITOS TO TINGO MARIA AND FURTHER SOUTH) HAS STOPPED. DEA HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM THIS AT THIS TIME, BUT IT IS LOGICAL TO ASSUME THAT THE COLOMBIAN AND PERUVIAN TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS HAVE NOW REALIZED THERE WILL BE A

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PERMANENT POLICE PRESENCE IN THE TOCACHE ZONE, AND ARE NOW SCRAMBLING TO REORGANIZE THEIR SMUGGLING EFFORTS. SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS OPS, THERE HAS BEEN A DECREASE IN THE PRICE OF COCA LEAVES FROM A HIGH OF USD 50 PER 25 KILOS TO RECENT QUOTES OF USD 10. THERE HAS NOT BEEN A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OR DECREASE OF PBC DURING THIS PERIOD AS THERE STILL APPEARS TO BE A STOCK ON HAND WITH NO BUYERS FOR THE PENDING COCA LEAF HARVEST. SOME COCA FARMERS NEAR TOCACHE HAVE COMPLAINED RECENTLY THAT THEY ARE NOT MAKING ENOUGH MONEY TO MAKE IT WORTH THEIR WHILE TO GROW COCA AT USD 10 PER 25 KG. WE WILL MONITOR THIS PRICE DECREASE VERY CLOSELY TO DETERMINE IF IT IS A RESULT OF THE RECENT CONDOR OPS OR A NORMAL MARKET FLUCTUATION.

19. WE CAN EXPECT SOME TYPE OF REACTION FROM THE TERRORISTS, TRAFFICKERS OR BOTH. IT WOULD BE NICE TO PREDICT WHERE OR WHEN. WHEN THIS INITIAL PHASE OF THE OPERATION STARTS TO WIND DOWN AND THE BULK OF THE POLICE FORCES RETURNS TO ITS REGULAR BASES AND COMPLACENCY SETS IN, A PROVOCATION COULD VERY WELL

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SECRET SECTION 06 OF 06 LIMA 09224

STATE FOR INM, ARA/AND; DEA FOR OC, OO, OF, OISL, OS,  
PS.

E.O. 12356: OADR

TAGS: SNAR, PE

SUBJECT: SITUATION REPORT IN THE UPPER HUALLAGA

TAKE PLACE. THE NUMBER OF POLICE NEWLY ASSIGNED AS  
PERMANENT PERSONNEL IN THE ZONE SHOULD DISCOURAGE ANY

LARGE SCALE ATTEMPT AT RETAKING ANY PART OF THE ZONE  
BY EITHER GROUP, BUT SMALLER TARGETS, I.E. PATROLS,  
COULD BE PLACED AT RISK.

20. THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXAMPLE OF AN ATTEMPTED  
RETALIATORY ACTION BY THE SL. ABOUT A WEEK AGO A  
TRAGEDY WAS AVERTED BY THE QUICK THINKING OF THE  
SENIOR EVERGREEN CONTRACT PILOT. THREE HELICOPTERS  
WERE ASSIGNED TO LAND AT PORVENIR, A SMALL VILLAGE

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APPROX 20 MINS NORTH OF TOCACHE. THE INTELLIGENCE  
OBTAINED BY GUARDIA CIVIL INDICATED SEVERAL PBC LABS

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IN THE AREA. WHILE MAKING HIS APPROACH IN THE LEAD HELICOPTER FOR A FINAL LANDING AT THE TOWN PLAZA, HE NOTICED WHAT SEEMED TO BE AN INORDINATE NUMBER OF PEOPLE STANDING OUTSIDE OF THE HOUSES SURROUNDING THE PLAZA. AT THE LAST MINUTE HE ABORTED THE LANDING AND INSTRUCTED THE REMAINING SHIPS TO LAND AT A FIELD ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN. SUBSEQUENT DEBRIEFING OF THE RESIDENTS INDICATED THE PRESENCE OF APPROXIMATELY 40 SL MEMBERS ARMED WITH AUTOMATIC WEAPONS AND WHAT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN AT LEAST TWO GRENADE LAUNCHERS. THEY COMMANDED THE RESIDENTS TO LEAVE THEIR HOUSES AND INTENDED TO ATTACK THE SHIPS UPON LANDING. THERE WERE ALLEGEDLY EIGHTY SL MEMBERS AT THE VILLAGE IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THE ATTEMPTED LANDING WITH FORTY MEMBERS ESCAPING INTO THE JUNGLE.

21. THE PUBLICATION OF PHOTOS IN A POPULAR PERUVIAN NATIONAL MAGAZINE OF SEVERAL DEA AGENTS AND EVERGREEN PERSONNEL HAS GIVEN THEM UNWANTED NOTORIETY. ON 7/24/87 DURING OUR ASSAULT ON NUEVO PROGRESO A FREE LANCE WOMAN REPORTER AND A MALE COMPANION SPORTING A BEARD ATTEMPTED TO ENTER THE AREA. THEY WERE STOPPED BY WHAT THEY REPORTED WERE FOUR ARMED SL MEMBERS FLEEING THE CITY. THE BEARDED COMPANION WAS REPEATEDLY ACCUSED BY THE TERRORISTS OF BEING THE DEA AGENT IN THE MAGAZINE ARTICLE. EVENTUALLY BOTH MALE AND REPORTER WERE RELEASED UNHARMED. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, ALL AGENTS AND EVERGREEN PERSONNEL INVOLVED HAVE ALTERED THEIR APPEARANCES AS BEST AS POSSIBLE BY REMOVING FACIAL HAIRS AND CUTTING THEIR HAIR. ALL DEA AND EVERGREEN PERSONNEL ARE STILL VERY MUCH AWARE OF  
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THE NEED FOR CONTINUED HEIGHTENED SECURITY AWARENESS.

22. THE INTERDICTION PROGRAM IS PROCEEDING WELL. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE ERADICATION PHASE OF THE PROGRAM WILL BEGIN VERY SHORTLY. WE BELIEVE THAT THE TIMING IS RIGHT TO AGAIN BRING UP THE ISSUE OF HERBICIDE SPRAYING WITH THE GOP. IN PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS ABOUT SPRAYING, GOP OFFICIALS DID NOT RESIST THESE PROPOSALS AND APPEARED TO BE CAUTIOUSLY INTERESTED. OCH, DEA, NAU AND POL WILL BEGIN INHOUSE STRATEGY SESSIONS ABOUT WHEN AND IN WHAT FORMAT TO

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PRESENT A SPRAYING PROJECT PROPOSAL TO GOP. WATSON

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