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ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-07 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 PA-01 INM-07  
INRE-00 USIE-00 SP-02 PRS-01 DS-01 SCT-02 /021 W  
-----324444 230515Z /23

R 212036Z APR 89  
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7820  
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
USAFSO HOWARD AFB PM  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
DEAHQS WASHDC  
USMISSION GENEVA  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
DIA WASHDC

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPC/CDR *MB*

Date: *2/3/96*

RELEASE  DECLASSIFY  
 EXCISE  DECLASSIFY  
 DENY IN PART  
 DELETE Non-Responsive Info  
FOIA Exemptions \_\_\_\_\_  
PA Exemptions \_\_\_\_\_

MR Cases Only:  
EO Citations \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ TS authority ~~FOIA~~  
 CLASSIFY as  S or  
 DOWNGRADE IS to  S or

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DIA FOR DAH-5/OSC-2D/DB-6D2/JSI-4B/DB-3C1

DEA FOR OF, PS, OC, OI

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD JOHN YOULE

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: ASEC, PTER, PHUM, PE  
SUBJECT: TERRORISTS KILL JOURNALIST IN UHV

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY. UNKNOWN GUNMEN ASSASSINATED A TINGO MARIA RADIO JOURNALIST IN HIS HOME APRIL 19. SOME SOURCES ATTRIBUTE THE ATTACK TO THE SL. WE BELIEVE IT TO BE THE WORK OF THE RODRIGO FRANCO

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COMMAND (CRF). THE CRF HAS PREVIOUSLY THREATENED

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OTHER LEFTISTS IN TINGO MARIA. SL CULPABILITY CANNOT BE RULED OUT. THERE IS RECENT EVIDENCE THAT THE SL TARGETS PERSONS TO MAKE THE KILLINGS LOOK LIKE RODRIGO FRANCO. END SUMMARY.

3. THE DEATH OF IU ACTIVIST AND TINGO MARIA RADIO PERSONALITY, GUILLERMO LOPEZ SALAZAR, APPEARS TO BE THE WORK OF RODRIGO FRANCO COMMAND OR SOME OTHER PARAMILITARY GROUP OPERATING UNDER THE CRF RUBRIC. LOPEZ WAS SURPRISED IN HIS HOME A FEW KILOMETERS OUTSIDE THE UPPER HUALLAGA VALLEY TOWN OF TINGO MARIA EARLY IN THE MORNING, APRIL 19, BY AT LEAST EIGHT MASKED TERRORISTS. THE EIGHT BROKE INTO HIS HOME, DRAGGED HIM FROM HIS BED, AND SHOT HIM TO DEATH IN FRONT OF HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN.

4. PRESS REPORTS IN CENTER-RIGHT "EXPRESO" DESCRIBE THE ATTACKERS AS SENDERO. LEFTIST "LA REPUBLICA" NOTES THAT THE KILLING MAY HAVE BEEN SENDERO (THERE WAS SENDERO LITERATURE FOUND IN THE HOUSE AFTER THE KILLING), BUT THAT LOPEZ HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY THREATENED BY INDIVIDUALS CLAIMING CRF AFFILIATION. NORMALLY RELIABLE "EL COMERCIO" DOES NOT IDENTIFY THE GROUP RESPONSIBLE, A SIGN THAT THE EDITORIAL BOARD THERE SUSPECTS PARAMILITARY INVOLVEMENT.

5. LOPEZ IS THE SECOND TINGO MARIA JOURNALIST KILLED UNDER CONFUSING CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE PAST YEAR. IN 1988 SIXTO AGAPITO, WHO HELD THE SAME POSITION IN THE IU HELD BY LOPEZ, AND ALSO A RADIO JOURNALIST, WAS KILLED BY UNKNOWN ASSAILANTS.

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AGAPITO HAD ALSO BEEN THREATENED BY SUPPOSED CRF PHONE CALLERS. A NUMBER OF OTHER RESIDENTS OF TINGO MARIA, USUALLY WITH LEFTIST LEANINGS, HAVE RECEIVED CRF THREATS. WE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED THREATS TO TINGO MARIA HOSPITAL WORKERS, MANY WHO LEFT THE CITY FEARING FOR THEIR LIVES. (88 LIMA 16189).

6. THOUGH THE KILLING SUPERFICIALLY RESEMBLES AN SL ACT, THERE ARE SUBTLE BUT IMPORTANT SIGNS

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THAT THE KILLERS WERE NOT SENDERO. IN MOST AREAS OF THE SOUTHERN UPPER HUALLAGA VALLEY, AND ESPECIALLY IN THE COUNTRYSIDE AROUND TINGO MARIA, THE SL OPERATES WITH VIRTUAL IMPUNITY. VERY FEW RECENT SL INCIDENTS IN THE VALLEY HAVE INVOLVED MASKED SL. THE TERRORISTS FEEL NO NEED TO HIDE THEIR IDENTITIES IN AN AREA THEY SUBSTANTIALLY CONTROL AND AMONG A POPULATION EITHER SYMPATHETIC TO OR TERRORIZED BY THEIR ARMED COLUMNS. THE FACT THAT THE LOPEZ KILLERS WERE ALL MASKED SUGGESTS NON-SL PERPETRATORS.

7. THE SL ATTACKS AND MURDERS AT NIGHT, BUT NORMALLY ONLY IN AREAS NOT UNDER SL DOMINATION AND WHERE THE SL MUST FLEE TO AVOID SUBSEQUENT POLICE OR MILITARY DETECTION. LOPEZ' HOME WAS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE SEVERAL MILES OUTSIDE OF TINGO MARIA, IN AN AREA WITH NO IMMEDIATE POLICE PRESENCE. THE ATTACK AT NIGHT SUGGESTS THE KILLERS WERE INDEED ATTEMPTING TO HIDE THEIR ACT FROM THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES, BUT IN THIS CASE

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THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES ARE THE SL.

8. SL INVOLVEMENT CANNOT BE TOTALLY DISMISSED.  
RECENT KILLINGS, INCLUDING THE MURDERS OF TWO  
MINERS FEDERATION LEADERS (SEPTEL), MAY HAVE  
BEEN SL ACTS DESIGNED TO IMPLICATE THE CRF. BOTH

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DEAD UNION LEADERS WERE "GUILTY" OF ACTS WHICH  
COULD HAVE INFURIATED EITHER SL OR CRF. THE

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THEORY BEHIND THESE ACTS IS THAT THE SL IS TRYING TO PROMOTE ARMED ANARCHY BY CASTING BLAME ON THE CRF JUST AS THE CRF ATTEMPTS TO LAY SOME OF THEIR ACTS AT THE FEET OF THE SL. INCREASING ACTS OF VIOLENT REPRISALS FITS COMFORTABLY INTO THE SL'S STRATEGY.

WATSON

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