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ACTION ARA-00

EXCISE

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-07 SS-00 OIC-02 CIAE-00
H-01 IO-19 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 HA-09 L-03
CTME-00 TRSE-00 PM-10 PA-01 OMB-01 INM-08 INRE-00
CG-00 ANAE-00 USIE-00 JUSE-00 SP-02 SNP-01 PRS-01
DS-01 DIG-04 SCT-03 P-02 T-01 DPR-01 /077 W
-----276366 022229Z /61

O 022213Z NOV 89
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3106
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
USAFSO HOWARD AFB PM
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM
DEAHQS WASHDC
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LIMA 16522

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD
DIA FOR OA-5/OS-1D/DB-6D2/JSI-4B/DB-3C1
DEA FOR OF, PS, OC, OI
USUN FOR AMBASSADOR WATSON

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: SNAR, PTER, PGOV, MAAS, PE
SUBJECT: ARCINIEGA DENIES DRUG CORRUPTION

REF: LIMA 16000

1. (C) SUMMARY. GENERAL ALBERTO ARCINIEGA, MILITARY
COMMANDER FOR THE UPPER HUALLAGA VALLEY EMERGENCY
ZONE, DENIED IN PRESS INTERVIEWS OCTOBER 30 THAT HE
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IS COOPERATING WITH NARCOTRAFFICKERS. HE CLAIMED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE	IS/FPC/CDR	Date:	MR Cases Only:		TS authority to:
			EO Citations		
DEPARTMENT OF STATE	IS/FPC/CDR	Date:	() RELEASE	() DECLASSIFY	() CLASSIFY as () S or () DOWNGRADE TS to () S or
			(X) EXCISE	() DECLASSIFY	
			() DENY	IN PART	
			() DELETE Non-Responsive Info		
			FOIA Exemptions		
PA Exemptions					

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THAT RECENT U.S. CRITICISM OF HIM DERIVES FROM THE FAILURE OF U.S. ANTI-NARCOTICS POLICY. ARCINIEGA ADMITTED THAT THE LOCAL COCA GROWERS ARE FEEDING HIS TROOPS AND REPEATS HIS STRATEGY TO SEPARATE THE FARMERS FROM THEIR RELIANCE ON SENDERO LUMINOSO PROTECTION. THE INTERVIEWS VIOLATED THE GAG ORDER PLACED BY THE PERUVIAN MILITARY COMMAND ON THEIR MAVERICK GENERAL SEVERAL WEEKS AGO. EITHER HE SPOKE WITHOUT PERMISSION, OR THE JOINT CHIEFS AUTHORIZED THE INTERVIEWS TO SEND US A MESSAGE. [B1]

END SUMMARY.

2. (U) ARMY GENERAL ALBERTO ARCINIEGA DENIES THAT HE IS PROTECTING NARCOTRAFFICKERS IN THE UPPER HUALLAGA VALLEY, THE EMERGENCY ZONE AREA FOR WHICH HE IS THE POLITICAL-MILITARY COMMANDER. IN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS TO DAILY "LA REPUBLICA" AND WEEKLY MAGAZINE "SI" (WHICH CARRIED ARCINIEGA'S PHOTOGRAPH ON ITS COVER), BOTH APPEARING OCTOBER 30, THE GENERAL REACTED ANGRILY AGAINST CHARGES REPORTED IN THE OCTOBER 1 EDITION OF THE MIAMI HERALD (REFTEL).

3. (U) "SI" CHARACTERIZED ARCINIEGA'S INTERVIEW AS "A DECLARATION OF WAR AGAINST THE U.S. ERADICATION POLICY." HE SPOKE OUT IN OPPOSITION TO ANY POLICY DIRECTED AGAINST THE COCA-GROWING CAMPESINO, INCLUDING THE APPLICATION OF SPIKE. SAID ARCINIEGA, EVERY CAMPESINO ATTACKED (BY ERADICATION) WILL BE, THE NEXT DAY, ONE MORE SENDERO TERRORIST." HE ONCE AGAIN LAUDED THE EFFORTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN CROP SUBSTITUTION AND SAID THAT ALREADY 30,000
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CAMPESINOS ARE READY TO PARTICIPATE.

4. (U) IN BOTH INTERVIEWS ARCINIEGA UNDERScored HIS STRATEGY OF SEPARATING THE COCA GROWER FROM SENDERO LUMINOSO. HE NOTED THAT THERE WERE NO PERUVIAN OR U.S. ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORTS BETWEEN FEBRUARY AND SEPTEMBER, 1989. "WHY," HE ASKED, "BECAUSE THESE INSTITUTIONS RECOGNIZED A LACK OF SECURITY IN THEIR WORK. AND WHEN I GIVE THEM SECURITY, THEY SAY THAT I AM NOT PERMITTING THEM TO ATTACK THE TRAFFICKERS. TO

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JUSTIFY THEIR INACTION, THEY ARE TRYING TO BLAME ME."

5. (U) IN "LA REPUBLICA" ARCINIEGA DENIED CATEGORICALLY THAT HE OR HIS TROOPS RECEIVE MONEY FROM OR COOPERATE WITH TRAFFICKERS. HE ADMITTED THAT THE LOCAL CAMPESINOS ARE FEEDING HIS TROOPS. HE ALSO CLAIMED THAT HIS STRATEGY HAS SERIOUSLY WOUNDED SENDERO EFFORTS IN THE VALLEY. HE STATED THAT HE PERSONALLY GUARANTEES PEACEFUL ELECTIONS IN UCHIZA AND ELSEWHERE IN THE VALLEY.

6. (C) EMBASSY COMMENT: (

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8. (C) THE TONE OF THE INTERVIEW WAS SHARPLY CRITICAL OF WHAT HE CHARACTERIZES AS TOTALLY FALSE ACCUSATIONS BY U.S OFFICIALS WHO DO NOT KNOW THE PERUVIAN REALITY AND WHO ARE TRYING TO COVER UP THE FAILINGS OF THEIR OWN POLICIES. NEITHER "SI" NOR "LA REPUBLICA" MADE A SERIOUS EFFORT TO PRESS ARCINIEGA ON THE SPECIFIC EVIDENCE OF TRAFFICKER INFLUENCE IN THE CITY OF UCHIZA. BOTH PRESS SOURCES HAVE LONG-STANDING EDITORIAL POSITIONS IN OPPOSITION TO U.S. ERADICATION EFFORTS. WITH ITS ANTI-SENDERO, PRO-CAMPESINO MESSAGE, THE ARCINIEGA INTERVIEW IS NOT LIKELY TO ELICIT SIGNIFICANT NEGATIVE REACTIONS FROM MOST PERUVIANS.

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