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EXCISE

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ACTION ARA-01

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 AID-01 INR-05 OIC-02 CIAE-00 IO-19
NSCE-00 NSAE-00 L-03 CTME-00 TRSE-00 PM-01 OMB-01
INM-01 INRE-00 CG-00 USIE-00 JUSE-00 FBIE-00 SP-01
DIG-01 SCT-03 /039 M
-----115757 242233Z /70

P 242216Z MAY 90
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8465
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
USAFSD HOWARD AFB PM
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM
SECDEF WASHDC
DEAHQS WASHDC

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPC/CDR *Acum* Date: 9/5/96

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 LIMA 07757

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD
DEA FOR A, AD, AO, DO, OF, DC, OISL, OIOC

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, MASS, PTER, PE
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH GENERAL BRITO, UHV COMMANDER

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY: PERUVIAN ARMY GENERAL MARIO BRITO, THE NEW POLITICAL-MILITARY COMMANDER OF THE UHV, TOLD VISITING EMBOFFS MAY 16 THAT HE WAS TRYING TO IMPROVE COORDINATION WITH POLICE IN THE REGION. HE EMPHASIZED THAT COUNTERNARCOTICS OPERATIONS WERE NOT THE MILITARY'S RESPONSIBILITY, BUT CLAIMED JURISDICTION OVER NARCOTERRORISTS. ACCORDING TO THE CONFIDENTIAL

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GENERAL, SL AND MRTA HAVE THEIR OWN EXCLUSIVE ZONES

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OF OPERATIONS, ALTHOUGH SL'S ENCRDACHMENT INTO MRTA
TERRITORY COULD LEAD TO ARMED ENCOUNTERS BETWEEN THE
TWO GROUPS. IN BRITO'S VIEWS, INTERNATIONAL HUMAN
RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS ARE SYMPATHETIC TO SUBVERSIVES.
THE GENERAL FAVORED PALMAS DEL ESPINO FOR THE
BATTALION TRAINING SITE. HE SEEMED FRUSTRATED BY HIS
INABILITY TO DIRECTLY ENGAGE SL, BUT IS HOPEFUL ABOUT
THE FUTURE PACIFICATION OF THE ZONE. END SUMMARY.

3. TWO MAAG OFFICERS, AIRA AND POLOFF CALLED ON
GENERAL MARIO BRITO, POLITICAL MILITARY COMMANDER OF
FRONT 2 (FORMERLY ZONE 8), UPPER HUALLAGA VALLEY, ON
MAY 16. EMBOFFS WERE ON A RECON FLIGHT THAT HAD THE
CITY OF TARAPOTO, SEAT OF THE FRONT'S HEADQUARTERS,
AS THE LAST STOP. BRITO HOSTED LUNCH. DURING THE
CLOSE TO THREE HOUR VISIT, BRITO EXPLAINED THE ROLE
OF THE MILITARY IN THE UHV, THE ACTIVITIES OF MRTA
AND SL, HIS POSITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND HIS ATTEMPTS
TO IMPROVE COORDINATION WITH THE POLICE.

4. AFTER EXCHANGING PLEASANTRIES, GENERAL BRITO
IMMEDIATELY MADE CLEAR THAT THE ROLE OF THE MILITARY
IN THE UHV WAS TO COMBAT TERRORISM. THE POLICE WOULD
TAKE CARE OF THE NARCOTRAFFICKERS. THIS WAS A
CONSTITUTIONAL MANDATE. IN THE CASE OF
NARCOTERRORISTS, THE ARMY WOULD HAVE JURISDICTION.
HE WAS AWARE OF THE DIFFICULTIES THAT THIS DIVISION
OF RESPONSIBILITIES ENTAILED, BUT HE HAD MET WITH
LOCAL POLICE COMMANDERS TO MAKE COORDINATION MORE
EFFECTIVE. IN FACT, THAT SAME AFTERNOON HE WAS
PLANNING TO GO TO SANTA LUCIA TO MEET WITH THE POLICE
COMMANDER. HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT RUMORS OF AN
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ATTACK BY SENDERO LUMINDSO AROUND MAY 18, THE TENTH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE BEGINNING OF SL'S ARMED STRUGGLE,
AND WANTED TO COORDINATE WITH THE POLICE. BRITO SAID
HE WOULD STAY IN UCHIZA AND "WAIT FOR THE ATTACK."
(NOTE: AS OF MAY 24, THE ATTACK HAD NOT TAKEN PLACE.)

RELATIONS WITH POLICE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 LIMA 07757

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SL AND MRTA ACTIVITIES

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7. IN GEN. BRITO'S ZONE, THE CITY OF JUANJUI WAS THE DIVIDING LINE OF OPERATIONS FOR THE MRTA (TO THE NORTH) AND SL (TO THE SOUTH). SL WAS PUSHING NORTH AND THE GENERAL WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF THERE WERE CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS. GEN. BRITO SEEMED FRUSTRATED BY HIS INABILITY TO FIND SL AND ENGAGE THE ENEMY DIRECTLY. HE SAID SL MEMBERS WERE CAMPESINOS BY DAY AND TERRORISTS AT NIGHT. HE CLAIMED TO HAVE INSTITUTED NIGHT PATROLS AND WAS CONFIDENT THAT TERRORISTS ONLY MOVE AT NIGHT; LOCAL INHABITANTS AVOID NIGHT MOVEMENTS OR STICK TO WELL TRAVELLED ROADS. THE GENERAL DID NOT SAY HOW EFFECTIVE THE NIGHT PATROLS HAVE BEEN.

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8. THE MRTA WAS VERY ACTIVE IN THE RICH, FERTILE VALLEY AROUND MOYOBAMBA (NORTHWEST OF TARPOTO). THE FARMERS IN THE VALLEY HAVE BEEN ON STRIKE ON AND OFF FOR AT LEAST A YEAR BECAUSE THE GOP, THE PURCHASER OF THEIR PRODUCTS, PAID THEM MONTHS LATE WITH DEVALUED CURRENCY. MEANWHILE, THE FARMERS' DEBT TO THE GOP'S AGRARIAN BANK KEPT GROWING, MAKING IT VERY DIFFICULT FOR FARMERS TO MAKE A LIVING. THE MRTA HAD TAKEN UP THE FARMERS' CAUSE AND HAD SET UP TWO FRONT GROUPS TO LEAD AND MANIPULATE THE FARMERS' ACTIVITIES. BUT, THE GENERAL SAID, THE PEOPLE WERE NOT RESPONDING TO MRTA'S ATTEMPTS TO WIN THEM OVER. TWO MRTA MEMBERS RAN FOR THE NATIONAL CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES UNDER THE IU BANNER AND LOST. ONCE THE GOP PAID THE FARMERS, THE
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MRTA'S ABILITY TO GATHER THE PEASANTS TO THEIR CAUSE WOULD DISSIPATE.

HUMAN RIGHTS

9. THE GENERAL SPOKE AT LENGTH ABOUT COMMUNIST TACTICS AND HOW COMMUNISTS HAVE USED HUMAN RIGHTS AS PART OF THEIR STRATEGY. HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED ORGANIZATIONS LIKE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND THE

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INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AS BEING PART OF THE COMMUNISTS' PLANS. WHEN HE WAS SERVING IN AYACUCHO, HE SAID, THE ARMY FOUND THAT LETTERS DELIVERED TO SL PRISONERS THROUGH THE RED CROSS CONTAINED PLANS AND DIRECTIVES FOR OPERATIONS. AFTER THAT EXPERIENCE, HE WOULD NOT ALLOW THE RED CROSS INTO HIS ZONE.

10. U.S. MILITARY OFFICERS CLEARLY POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE TWO THINGS THAT WOULD SPELL TROUBLE FOR USG MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS TO PERU: THE KILLING OF A U.S. CITIZEN INVOLVED IN ANY ASPECT OF COUNTERNARCOTICS AND REPORTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. THE GENERAL UNDERSTOOD, BUT SEEMED DISCONCERTED BY THE COMMENT. GOING OVER OTHER OPTIONS, GEN. BRITO DISCOUNTED AS INEFFECTIVE CHANGING THE LAWS ON TERRORISM (E.G. EXTENDING THE NUMBERS OF DAYS A SUSPECTED TERRORIST COULD BE KEPT IN CAPTIVITY BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT FORMULATED CHARGES); OR UNDERTAKING AN INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO REVEAL SL HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.

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11. HE RECOUNTED HOW SL USED VILLAGE PEOPLE, OFTEN
WOMEN AND CHILDREN, TO ACT AS THE FRONT LINE IN AN SL
ATTACK. WHEN, INEVITABLY, WOMEN AND CHILDREN WERE
KILLED BY THE ARMY, SL CALLED IT A MASSACRE. SL
PROTECTED ITS CADRE AND DID NOT LIKE TO EXPOSE ITS
PEOPLE. HE SAID THAT WHEN SL MEMBERS WENT INTO
BATTLE, THEY OFTEN TIED ROPES TO ONE ANOTHER TO BE
ABLE TO PULL OUT THEIR WOUNDED. HE WAS GLAD THAT NO
MASSACRES, LIKE THOSE AROUND SATIPO, HAD TAKEN PLACE
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IN HIS ZONE.

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BTS

12. THE GENERAL MADE A STRONG PITCH TO PLACE THE PROPOSED BATTALION TRAINING SITE (BTS) AT PALMAS DEL ESPINO. HE SAID THE PRESENCE OF THE BTS THERE WOULD FORCE SUBVERSIVES OUT OF THE AREA. FURTHERMORE, THE ARMY BATTALIONS TO BE TRAINED SHOULD RECEIVE THEIR TRAINING IN THE HIGH JUNGLE OF THE UHV NOT IN THE LEVELED, TRIPLE-CANOPY JUNGLE OF THE AMAZON.

BIO COMMENT

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DEA COMMENT
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14. INITIAL POLICE REPORTS THAT 800 SENDERO TERRORISTS ATTACKED SANTA LUCIA BASE IN APRIL WERE GREATLY EXAGGERATED. SUBSEQUENT POLICE REPORTS REDUCED THE NUMBER TO LESS THAN 100. OUR FIGURES SHOW LESS THAN 50.

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QUANTON

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