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INCOMING TELEGRAM (X/100)

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ACTION ARA-00

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INFO 106-00 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-05 SS-00 OIC-02 EB-00
#-01 10-19 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 RA-03 L-03 LAB-04
TRSE-00 PA-01 STR-18 S11-00 IIM-00 INRE-00 RP-10
USIE-00 SP-00 SR-00 PRS-01 DS-00 SCT-03 P-02
/087 V

IN CHARGE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AFFAIRS AT THE SAN CRISTOBAL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF HUAMANGA (UNSCH) WAS SIMILARLY KILLED DURING THE EARLY HOURS OF FRIDAY, JULY 20. A GROUP OF ARMED MEN BROKE INTO HIS HOUSE AND SHOT HIM IN THE HEAD. COLONIO, AGE 35, ALSO SERVED AS DIRECTOR OF PUBLICATIONS AND CONFERENCES FOR THE AYACUCHO LAWYER'S ASSOCIATION (COLEGIO DE ABOGADOS DE AYACUCHO).

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
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INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
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SECDEF WASHDC
CIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC

United States Department of State
Office of FOI, Privacy, & Classification Review
Review Authority: MOSKOWITZ, SAM
Date: 04/24/95
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C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 11367

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD
DIA FOR OA-5/OS-1D/DB-6D2/JS1-4B/DB-3C1

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, PHUM, PINS, PGOV, PE
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS KILLINGS IN AYACUCHO, PERU

REF: A) LIMA 9963, B) LIMA 11209

1. (C) SUMMARY: FOUR INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN HUMAN RIGHTS OR LEGAL WORK HAVE BEEN KILLED BY UNKNOWN ASSAILANTS IN THE CITY OF HUAMANGA, AYACUCHO DEPARTMENT, SINCE JULY 19. COMING FIVE WEEKS AFTER THE DETENTION/DISAPPEARANCE OF AYACUCHO HUMAN RIGHTS WORKER GUADALUPE CCALLOCCUNTO, THESE LATEST INCIDENTS HAVE LED A NUMBER OF HUMAN RIGHTS WORKERS TO FEAR THEY ARE NOW PRIME TARGETS IN THE STRUGGLE TO CONTROL THE VIOLENCE-WRACKED CITY, THE BIRTHPLACE OF SENDERO LUMINOSO. END SUMMARY.

2. (C) HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER HAS MET IN RECENT DAYS WITH A NUMBER OF LIMA-BASED HUMAN RIGHTS WORKERS AND RECENTLY-DISPLACED PERSONS FROM AYACUCHO. ALTHOUGH WE ARE UNABLE TO VERIFY DIRECTLY DETAILS OF THE STORIES COMING OUT OF AYACUCHO (SEVERAL OF WHICH HAVE APPEARED IN THE PRESS), THE PANORAMA IS CLEARLY ONE OF A CITY HOTLY CONTESTED. THE STRUGGLE IS WAGED CLANDESTINELY, IN THE SHADOWS. THERE ARE NO CLEAR BATTLE LINES, NO SANCTUARIES OR SAFEHAVENS. ONLY ONE SIDE WEARS A UNIFORM - AND EVEN THEN, NOT ALWAYS. THE WEAPON OF CHOICE IS A PISTOL, AND AT CLOSE RANGE. THE LATEST BATTLES APPEAR CENTERED AROUND THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN CRISTOBAL OF HUAMANGA (UNSCH). THE FOLLOWING RECOUNTING IS BASED ON POLOFF'S CONVERSATIONS IN LIMA, MINIMALLY SUPPLEMENTED BY PRESS ACCOUNTS.

FOUR KILLINGS

3. (U) MAXIMO RICO BAZAN, A LEGAL ADVISOR WITH THE AYACUCHO DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, WAS KILLED DURING THE EARLY HOURS (BEFORE SUNRISE) OF THURSDAY, JULY 19, WHEN MASKED GUNMEN BROKE INTO HIS HOUSE. RICO, AGE 30, WAS SHOT THREE TIMES IN THE HEAD. HIS WIFE AND THREE CHILDREN, WHO WITNESSED THE KILLING, WERE NOT INJURED. FERNANDO LUIS COLONIO ARTEAGA, LAWYER

4. (U) GABRIEL TUPIA HUAMANCUSI, A 25-YEAR-OLD MINING ENGINEERING STUDENT AT UNSCH AND THE PRESIDENT OF A PEASANT HOUSING RIGHTS GROUP, WAS KILLED EARLY SATURDAY, JULY 21. MASKED GUNMEN BROKE INTO HIS HOUSE AND SHOT HIM IN THE HEAD. EARLY TUESDAY, JULY 24, CIRO ARAMBURU VILLANUEVA, UNSCH BIOLOGY PROFESSOR AND CHIEF OF THE UNIVERSITY'S SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICE, WAS MURDERED IN HIS BED. ARMED GUNMEN HAD BROKEN INTO HIS HOUSE AND SHOT HIM SEVEN TIMES. HE WAS 52 YEARS OLD. HIS DAUGHTER, ALCIRA ARAMBURU, WHO HAD BEEN SLEEPING IN THE NEXT ROOM, WAS INJURED. SHE IS NOW INTERNEED IN AYACUCHO'S HOSPITAL.

5. (C) HUMAN RIGHTS CONTACTS ALSO REPORT THAT, FOR THE SECOND TIME IN THREE WEEKS, ARMY TROOPS BROKE INTO THE HUAMANGA HOUSE OF MAURO VEGA, HUMAN RIGHTS WORKER WITH SERPAJ-AYACUCHO AND COLLEAGUE OF THE DISAPPEARED HUMAN RIGHTS WORKER GUADALUPE CCALLOCCUNTO. FAMILY MEMBERS ASSERT THAT ARMY PERSONNEL (WHO APPARENTLY DID NOT HIDE THEIR ARMY MEMBERSHIP) RETURNED TO THE HOUSE DURING THE EARLY HOURS OF FRIDAY, JULY 20, LOOKING FOR VEGA AND THREATENING TO KILL HIM. (AS REPORTED REFTEL, VEGA

SLIPPED OUT OF AYACUCHO FOR LIMA SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, AFTER ARMY TROOPS ENTERED HIS HOUSE ON JULY 6. HE HAS NO CURRENT PLANS TO RETURN TO AYACUCHO.) ALL OF THE ACTIONS DETAILED ABOVE OCCURRED BETWEEN THE HOURS OF MIDNIGHT AND FOUR A.M. ON THE DAYS IN QUESTION, DURING HOURS OF MILITARY-ENFORCED CURFEW.

IN A WAR ZONE

6. (U) AYACUCHO, AN EMERGENCY ZONE CONTINUALLY SINCE 1983, IS THE SINGLE MOST CONFLICTIVE DEPARTMENT IN ALL OF PERU. EIGHT YEARS OF MILITARY "CONTROL" HAVE FAILED TO PACIFY THE CITY OR DEPARTMENT. ALTHOUGH AYACUCHO HAS JUST 2.8 PERCENT OF PERU'S TOTAL POPULATION, THE HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP "APRODEH" REPORTS THAT AYACUCHO SUFFERED 12 PERCENT OF ALL TERRORIST ATTACKS IN 1989. ACCORDING TO FIGURES OF THE SENATE COMMISSION ON VIOLENCE, THESE ACTIONS (AND THE MILITARY RESPONSE) WERE PARTICULARLY FATAL: AYACUCHO PRODUCED 28 PERCENT OF ALL TERRORISM-RELATED DEATHS IN 1989. NEARLY ONE IN EVERY 500 "AYACUCHANOS" DIED IN 1989 ALONE. PARANOIA, SUSPICION AND DISTRUST ARE RUNNING AT ALL TIME HIGHS. A NEIGHBOR OR FRIEND BY DAY MAY BE A MILITARY OR GUERRILLA INFORMANT (OR WORSE) BY NIGHT.

7. (C) THE LATEST ROUND OF VIOLENCE BEGAN WITH SENDERO LUMINOSO'S CALL FOR THREE DAYS OF "ARMED STRIKE" JUST PRIOR TO THE JUNE 10 PRESIDENTIAL RUNOFF ELECTION. SENDERO IS ALSO SAID TO BE IN THE MIDDLE OF A BASE-BUILDING CAMPAIGN AT THE UNSCH, THE UNIVERSITY WHERE THE MOVEMENT WAS FIRST FOUNDED AND TOOK ROOT IN THE 1960S. SENDERO NONETHELESS MUST COMPETE TODAY WITH OTHER LEFTIST GROUPS FOR STUDENT SUPPORT - AND SENDERO CLEARLY SEES MURDER AND

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INTIMIDATION OF OPPONENTS AS LEGITIMATE TOOLS AT ITS
READY DISPOSAL.

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8. (C) BOTH PRESS AND DISPLACED PERSONS REPORTS MAKE CLEAR THAT MIL. SECURITY FORCES HAVE ALSO STEPPED UP THEIR OWN ACTIVITIES IN HUAMANGA, ESPECIALLY AROUND THE UNIVERSITY. ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL COORDINATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, THERE ARE 111 UNRESOLVED CASES OF "DISAPPEARANCES" NATIONWIDE DATING FROM THE MONTHS JANUARY-JULY, 1990 - A TOTAL WELL BELOW THE 1989 RATE. MORE THAN HALF OF THE CURRENT CASES (58 OF 111), HOWEVER, ARE FROM AYACUCHO. (BY COMPARISON, JUNIN AND APURIMAC ARE THE ONLY TWO OTHER DEPARTMENTS TO REGISTER EVEN AS MANY AS TEN DISAPPEARANCES).

9. (C)

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COMMENT:

10. (C) BOTH COLONIO AND ARAMBURU WERE APPARENTLY WELL-KNOWN IN AYACUCHO AND TO SOME IN LIMA'S HUMAN RIGHTS COMMUNITY FOR THEIR WORK AT THE UNIVERSITY. WE, HOWEVER, HAVE NO BASIS FOR COMMENTING ON THE POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OR BELIEFS (WHATEVER THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN) OF ANY OF THE FOUR KILLED. INITIAL PRESS REPORTS OUT OF AYACUCHO SAID, WITHOUT EXPLANATION, THAT MUNICIPAL LAWYER RICO BAZAN WAS KILLED BY SENDERO. LIMA-BASED HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS CONCEDE THAT IS POSSIBLE (ESPECIALLY GIVEN SENDERO'S ATTACKS ON ALL FACETS OF GOVERNMENT), BUT THEY DOUBT IT. THE ACTIVISTS PRIVATELY BLAME THE MILITARY FOR THE CURRENT SPATE OF "BEDROOM ASSASSINATIONS". IN ONE SENSE THEY DON'T CARE WHO IS GUILTY OF THE KILLINGS - THEY JUST WANT THEM STOPPED.

11. (C) PRESIDENT FUJIMORI ISSUED A RINGING ENDORSEMENT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AS A TOP GOVERNMENTAL PRIORITY IN HIS JULY 28 INAUGURAL ADDRESS (REF B). EMBOFFS, ARMA AND MAAG PERSONNEL WILL BE STRESSING TO OUR NEW POLICE AND DEFENSE MINISTRY CONTACTS THE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY OF CONDUCTING MILITARY OPERATIONS, INCLUDING IN THE AYACUCHO REGION, IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH PERUVIAN AND INTERNATIONAL LAW.

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