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INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 AID-00 ARA-00 CIAE-00 SJK-01 DS-00
EB-00 H-01 INRE-00 INR-05 IO-19 LAB-04 L-03
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 PA-02 PRS-01 P-02 RP-10
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R 291720Z NOV 90
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3400
INFO RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
DIA WASHDC
USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA 1540

UNCLAS LIMA 18128

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PHUM, PTER, ASEC, CASC, PGOV, PE
SUBJECT: PERUVIAN QUARTERLY VIOLENCE REPORT,
JULY-SEPTEMBER, 1990

1. THIS IS THE FIRST OF EMBASSY LIMA'S QUARTERLY
REPORTS ON VIOLENCE IN PERU. THE DATA IS DERIVED FROM
TWO SOURCES:

A. THE PERUVIAN SENATE COMMITTEE ON VIOLENCE AND
PACIFICATION (AKA THE BERNALES COMMISSION).

B. CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS Y PROMOCION DEL DESARROLLO
(DESCO), A GENERALLY LEFTIST THINK-TANK WHICH PUBLISHES
A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER ON POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES, AS
WELL AS A MONTHLY SUMMARY OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE.

WE SELECTED THESE SOURCES SINCE THEY ARE THE TWO
ORGANIZATIONS WHICH CONSISTENTLY PROVIDE A STATISTICAL
ANALYSIS OF THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE IN PERU. FOR
COMPARISON PURPOSES WE WILL LIST THEIR DATA IN PARALLEL
COLUMNS. THE DATA WILL BE PRESENTED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED
FROM THE SOURCES. THE ONLY EXCEPTION IS THAT EMBASSY
LIMA WILL FURTHER BREAK DOWN THE DESCO STATISTICS
GEOGRAPHICALLY USING THE SAME CRITERIA AS DOES THE
SENATE. OF THE TWO SOURCES WE BELIEVE THE SENATE TO BE
THE MORE RELIABLE BUT WE RECOGNIZE THAT ANY STATISTICS
IN PERU WILL HAVE METHODOLOGICAL SHORTCOMINGS. FOR
INSTANCE, MOST VIOLENT ACTS IN LIMA AND THE COAST ARE
RECORDED BUT VIOLENCE IN THE JUNGLE SURELY IS
UNDERREPORTED. THIS UNDERREPORTING IS NOT DUE TO SOURCE
BIAS, BUT RATHER TO THE DIFFICULTY OF COMMUNICATIONS IN
THE UNDERPOPULATED JUNGLE REGIONS.

2. THERE ARE TWO MAJOR CATEGORIES THAT WE WILL REPORT -
VIOLENT INCIDENTS (ATENTADOS) AND DEATHS. INCIDENTS ARE
DEFINED AS ANY VIOLENT POLITICALLY MOTIVATED ACTS
RANGING FROM ASSASSINATIONS TO ARMED
AGITATION-PROPAGANDA. DEATHS INCLUDE BOTH COMBAT AND
NONCOMBAT INCIDENTS. REGIONALLY, INCIDENTS ARE BROKEN

DOWN BY THE TRADITIONAL PERUVIAN DESIGNATIONS OF
METROPOLITAN LIMA, THE REST OF THE COAST, THE HIGHLANDS
(SIERRA) AND THE EASTERN JUNGLE AREAS.

3. BEGIN REPORT -

VIOLENT INCIDENTS BY REGION

Table with columns: SENATE (JULY, AUG, SEPT, TOTAL), DESCO (JULY, AUG, SEPT, TOTAL). Rows include LIMA, COAST, SIERRA, JUNGLE, and TOTAL.

NOTE: DESCO MONTHLY TOTALS DO NOT EQUAL THE SUM OF THE
GEOGRAPHIC AREAS. DESCO PUBLISHES BOTH OVERALL MONTHLY
INCIDENT TOTALS, AS WELL AS A MORE LIMITED NUMBER OF
INDIVIDUAL INCIDENT REPORTS. ONLY INDIVIDUAL REPORTS
ARE IDENTIFIED BY REGION AND, THEREFORE, ARE INCLUDED IN
EMBASSY'S BREAKDOWN BY REGION. END NOTE.

Table with columns: SENATE (JULY, AUG, SEPT, TOTAL), DESCO (JULY, AUG, SEPT, TOTAL). Rows include MILITARY, POLICE, TERRORISTS, CIVILIANS, and TOTAL.

NOTE: DESCO ACCEPTS AT FACE VALUE MILITARY/POLICE PRESS
RELEASES OF TERRORIST DEATHS. THE SENATE COMMISSION
SEEKS ADDITIONAL VERIFICATION OF THESE FIGURES. THIS
ACCOUNTS FOR THE HIGHER DESCO NUMBER FOR TERRORIST
DEATHS. END NOTE.

END REPORT

5. A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM FOR ANY ANALYSIS IS WIDE
VARIANCE BETWEEN SOURCES. FOR EXAMPLE, FOR THE FIRST 7
MONTHS OF 1990 THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS
(COORDINADORA) RECORDED 1370 POLITICAL DEATHS, THE
SENATE 2060 AND DESCO 2742.

6. MOST TABULATORS AGREE THAT OFFICIALLY DECLARED
DISAPPEARANCES, WHILE STILL HIGH THIS YEAR, ARE
SIGNIFICANTLY BELOW LAST YEAR'S RECORD PACE. THE
COORDINADORA LISTS 144 DISAPPEARANCES DURING JANUARY TO
JUNE 1990 WHILE THE FISCALIA (PUBLIC MINISTRY) LISTS 236
FROM JANUARY UNTIL EARLY OCTOBER. WHATEVER NUMBER IS

CORRECT, IT IS FAR OFF THE PACE OF 586 RECORDED BY THE
FISCALIA LAST YEAR. QUINTON

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