

UNCLASSIFIED

SECRET

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SECRET

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ACTION SCT-03

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-05	ADS-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	ARA-01	A-01
	CA-02	CCO-00	CG-00	CIAE-00	SJK-01	COME-00	CTME-00
	DOEE-00	DS-01	EB-01	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	IMMC-01	INRE-00
	INR-05	IO-05	L-02	M-01	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OIC-02	OIS-01	PA-01	PM-01	P-02	SSO-00	SS-01
	TRSE-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	ZOVD-00	/039W		

-----2CAB18 191905Z /38

P 191856Z DEC 90
 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3912
 INFO RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
 AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
 AMEMBASSY QUITO
 DEPTJUSTICE WASHDC
 DIA WASHDC
 USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 2366
 USMISSION GENEVA 1554
 USAFSO HOWARD AFB PM
 USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM

DENIED IN FULL
 B1, 1.5(D), B6

B1(5)(D)

SECRET SECTION 01 OF 04 LIMA 19116

JUSTICE FOR ICITAP
USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

TERREP

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**COPY FROM
 THE COLLECTION OF THE
 NATIONAL SECURITY ARCHIVE**

PAGE 02 LIMA 19116 01 OF 04 191903Z
 E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: PTER, PHUM, ASEC, SNAR, PINS, PE
 SUBJECT: (S) AYACUCHO COP DESCRIBES EXTRA-JUDICIAL
 - KILLINGS

REF: A) LIMA 17789 B) LIMA 18734
 1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: A POLICE SERGEANT HAS DESCRIBED TO POLOFFS
 THE DETAILS OF HIS PARTICIPATION IN AN AYACUCHO-BASED

n/a
 SECRET OF STATE APPEALS REVIEW PANEL (ARP) Page: 1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: SAM A. MOSKOWITZ
 DATE/CASE ID: 28 FEB 2001 200004442

FOIA/PA	Mandatory Review
() Release	() Declassify
(<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>) Excise	() Declassify in Part
() Deny	() Class. Ret/Renew

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Exemptions _____
 ARP Action Cert. _____ Date 10/25/01

POLICE HIT SQUAD. THE TEAM KILLED 300 SUSPECTED SENDERO LUMINOSO (SL) TERRORISTS IN 1989 IN EXTRA-JUDICIAL ASSASSINATIONS. MOST TARGETS WERE VILLAGERS WHO WERE NOT ENTHUSIASTIC IN THEIR PARTICIPATION IN ARMY-SPONSORED RONDAS CAMPESINAS. THE TEAM ALSO KILLED ACCUSED OR CONVICTED SL AS THEY WERE RELEASED FROM AYACUCHO PRISONS. THE POLICE HIT TEAM WAS DISBANDED IN 1990 WHEN THREE OF ITS FOUR MEMBERS WERE KILLED OR INJURED IN AN SL AMBUSH. END SUMMARY.

ASSASSINATION TEAM BASED IN HUANTA, AYACUCHO DEPARTMENT. THEIR MISSION WAS TO LOCATE SENDERO LUMINOSO TERRORISTS IN THE AYACUCHO COUNTRYSIDE AND KILL THEM. TOLD US THAT IN 1989 HIS TEAM EXECUTED APPROXIMATELY 300 SUSPECTED TERRORISTS.

IDENTIFYING THE TARGETS

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4. MOST OF THIS TEAM'S TARGETS WERE IDENTIFIED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ARMY'S ORGANIZATION OF THE RONDAS CAMPESINAS (CIVILIAN SELF-DEFENSE GROUPS) IN HUANTA AND LA MAR PROVINCES. THE ARMY WOULD IDENTIFY A VILLAGE TO BE ORGANIZED, NORMALLY SUBSEQUENT TO PICKING A LEADER JUDGED TO BE LOYAL TO MILITARY OBJECTIVES IN THE AREA. THE ARMY AND THE LEADER WOULD CALL A MEETING OF ALL THE VILLAGERS. ATTENDANCE WAS NOT OPTIONAL.

5. THOSE FROM THE VILLAGE WHO DID NOT ATTEND THIS FIRST MEETING WERE CALLED IN BY THE POLICE FOR QUESTIONING. THE POLICE DEMANDED TO KNOW WHY THE VILLAGER DID NOT ATTEND, AND TO NAME EYEWITNESSES WHO COULD CONFIRM THEIR WHEREABOUTS AT THE TIME OF THE MEETING. ALIBIS WERE VERIFIED. TOLD US THAT A VILLAGER WAS ALLOWED ONE MISTAKE. AFTER THE SECOND MISTAKE, HE WAS KILLED.

6. THE POLICE CONTINUED TO OBSERVE THESE VILLAGERS EVEN AFTER THE RONDAS WAS ORGANIZED. RONDEROS WERE GENERALLY NOT ARMED BY THE MILITARY UNTIL THEY WERE ACTUALLY EN

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ROUTE TO AN ARMED ACTION. ANTI-SENDERO ACTIONS GENERALLY INCLUDED MILITARY, ARMED RONDEROS, AND SEVERAL POLICE. ONE COP HAS SPECIFICALLY ASSIGNED TO OBSERVE THE COMPORIMENT OF THE RONDEROS DURING THE ARMED ACTION. SLACKERS WERE CALLED IN FOR QUESTIONING.

7. OTHER TARGETS WERE IDENTIFIED BY THE RONDEROS THEMSELVES. [] STATED THAT A FELLOW VILLAGER'S TESTIMONY WAS BY ITSELF NOT ENOUGH TO CONDEMN AN ACCUSED

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TERRORIST. BUT IF THE QUESTIONING OF THE SUSPECT DID NOT CLEAR UP THE DOUBTS, THE POLICE PROCEEDED ON THE SUSPICION THAT THE PERSON WAS INDEED SL.

8. [] ALSO STATED THAT HIS UNIT HAD AN INFORMANT INSIDE THE JUDICIAL AUTHORITY. WHEN AN ACCUSED TERRORIST WAS TO BE RELEASED, EITHER BEFORE TRIAL BECAUSE OF LACK OF EVIDENCE OR AFTER SERVING HIS JAIL SENTENCE, [] UNIT WAS WAITING FOR HIM AT THE GATES OF THE PRISON. THE TERRORIST NEVER MADE IT HOME.

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INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-05	ADS-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	ARA-01	A-01
	CA-02	CCO-00	CG-00	CIAE-00	SJK-01	COME-00	CTME-00
	DOEE-00	DS-01	EB-01	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	IMMC-01	INRE-00
	INR-05	IO-05	L-02	M-01	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OIC-02	OIS-01	PA-01	PM-01	P-02	SSO-00	SS-01
	TRSE-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	ZOVD-00	/039W		
					-----2CAB7C	191908Z	/38

P 191856Z DEC 90
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3913
INFO RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO

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SECRET

n/a

UNCLASSIFIED

DEPTJUSTICE WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 2367
USMISSION GENEVA 1555
USAFSO HOWARD AFB PM
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM

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JUSTICE FOR ICITAP
USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

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THE HIT TEAM IS DISBANDED

9. ARMY GENERAL PETRONIO FERNANDEZ-DAVILA WAS ASSIGNED AS THE POLITICAL-MILITARY COMMANDER FOR THE AYACUCHO REGION IN JANUARY, 1990. [THE ARMY THEN DISCONTINUED THE POLICY OF INCLUDING SOME POLICE ON MILITARY ANTI-TERRORIST ACTIONS. THE ARMY CONTINUED TO WORK WITH THE RONDAS CAMPESINAS. THE RONDAS WERE GIVEN A GREATER ROLE IN IDENTIFYING AND ELIMINATING SUSPECTED TERRORISTS. BUT THE POLICE WERE NO LONGER INCLUDED IN MILITARY OPERATIONS.] DID NOT STATE THAT THIS NEW POLICY WAS FERNANDEZ-DAVILA'S, ONLY THAT THE POLICY BEGAN AFTER THE NEW GENERAL'S ARRIVAL. (B1/A)

10. [TOLD POLOFFS THAT THE EXISTENCE OF HIS UNIT HAD BEEN A TIGHTLY-HELD SECRET, EVEN FROM MOST OF HIS FELLOW COPS. PEOPLE KNEW "SOMEBODY WAS DOING SOMETHING", HE SAID, BUT FEW PEOPLE EVER KNEW IT WAS HIM OR THE OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS UNIT. NOR DID ANYONE KNOW THAT THESE DISAPPEARANCES WERE THE WORK OF THE POLICE.] (B1/A)

11. THE TEAM CONTINUED TO OPERATE DURING THE FIRST FEW MONTHS OF 1990, BUT WITH MARKEDLY FEWER ASSASSINATIONS SINCE THE ANTI-TERRORISM CAMPAIGN IN HUANTA AND LA MAR

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PROVINCES WAS NOW EXCLUSIVELY MILITARY. IN MARCH OR
APRIL THREE OF THE FOUR MEMBERS OF HIS TEAM WERE IN A
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POLICE PATROL WHICH WAS AMBUSHED BY SENDERO LUMINOSO.
HIS CAPTAIN WAS KILLED AND TWO FELLOW ENLISTED MEN WERE
SERIOUSLY WOUNDED. [] HAD BEEN IN HIS BARRACKS IN
HUANTA, SICK WITH THE FLU.

12. [] STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT HE IS NO LONGER
INVOLVED IN ANY KIND OF ASSASSINATION TEAM. HE ALSO
STATED THAT TO HIS KNOWLEDGE THE POLICE NO LONGER RUN
SUCH OPERATIONS IN THE TWO NORTHERNMOST PROVINCES OF
AYACUCHO.

13. []
MILITARY-RUN
CREMATORIUM IN PUQUIO, IN AYACUCHO'S LUCANAS PROVINCE.
HE SAID A SECOND CREMATORIUM HAD OPERATED SIMULTANEOUSLY
OUT OF AYACUCHO'S "LOS CABITOS" BARRACKS, HEADQUARTERS OF
THE ARMY'S 2ND DIVISION AND HOME TO THE AYACUCHO
POLITICAL-MILITARY COMMAND. [] STRESSED THAT, TO
HIS KNOWLEDGE, NEITHER CREMATORIA HAS BEEN IN OPERATION
SINCE THE MID-1980S. THE PUQUIO CREMATORIUM, HE
EXPLAINED, HAD BEEN OVERRUN BY SENDERO - EIGHT COPS AND
SOLDIERS DIED. IT NEVER REOPENED. []

B. d.

HE IS CONFIDENT
THAT THERE IS CURRENTLY NO CREMATORIUM IN OPERATION
THERE. (NOTE: [] WOULD MEAN THAT THE
CREMATORIA, OCCASIONALLY RUMORED ABOUT - TYPICALLY IN THE
PAST TENSE - BY SOME HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS, OPERATED AT
THE HEIGHT OF THE 1983-84 MILITARY COUNTER-SUBVERSIVE
OFFENSIVE IN AYACUCHO UNDER THE THEN-PRESIDENT FERNANDO
BELAUNDE TERRY. END NOTE.)

B. d.

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THE RATIONALE FOR THE KILLING

14. [WAS NEITHER PROUD NOR ASHAMED OF HIS ROLE AS AN EXTRAJUDICIAL ASSASSIN. HE WAS CONFIDENT OF HIS TEAM'S ABILITY TO CORRECTLY IDENTIFY SL SUPPORTERS, AND HE SHARED THE VIEW OF EVERY POLICE AND MILITARY WE HAVE SPOKEN WITH THAT THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM IS

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	CA-02	CCO-00	CG-00	CIAE-00	SJK-01	COME-00	CTME-00
	DOEE-00	DS-01	EB-01	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	IMMC-01	INRE-00
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	TRSE-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	ZOVD-00	/039W		

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P 191856Z DEC 90
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3914
INFO RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
DEPTJUSTICE WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 2368
USMISSION GENEVA 1556
USAFSO HOWARD AFB PM
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM

S E C R E T SECTION 03 OF 04 LIMA 19116

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PAGE 02 LIMA 19116 03 OF 04 191906Z
E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, PHUM, ASEC, SNAR, PINS, PE
SUBJECT: (S) AYACUCHO COP DESCRIBES EXTRA-JUDICIAL
INCAPABLE OF DEALING WITH TERRORISM AS A LAW ENFORCEMENT
ISSUE. BUT HE SHARES THE PREJUDICE OF MANY OF HIS
COLLEAGUES; ANY MEMBER OF A LEFTIST PARTY WAS
AUTOMATICALLY CONSIDERED A PRIME SUSPECT FOR
INVESTIGATION, AND POSSIBLE ASSASSINATION.

15. [] BELIEVED THAT A FELLOW POLICE OFFICER IN
HUANTA WAS AN SL SNITCH. HE HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION
"FROM LIMA" TO KILL THE MAN. HE BELIEVES THE COP LEAKED
THE INFORMATION TO SL THAT RESULTED IN THE AMBUSH ON HIS
TEAM. LIMA HAS DENIED HIM PERMISSION TO KILL THE MAN BUT
PROMISED THAT ANOTHER POLICE UNIT WOULD BE ASSIGNED TO
WATCH HIM. [] INDICATED THAT, ON TWO OTHER
PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, HE HAD REQUESTED PERMISSION "FROM
LIMA" TO KILL FELLOW POLICE OFFICERS. PERMISSION WAS
GRANTED.

16. [] HATRED OF SL IS PROFOUND. HE DESCRIBED
FINDING THE CORPSE OF A FELLOW POLICEMAN LAST YEAR. THE
TERRORISTS HAD REMOVED THE MAN'S LOWER JAW, AND HAD
OPENED THE CHEST CAVITY, REMOVING THE LUNGS, HEART AND
INTESTINES. SL HAD FILLED THE CAVITY WITH HUMAN FECES.
"THEY ARE NOT SOLDIERS," HE SAID, "THEY ARE NOT SATISFIED
WITH JUST KILLING PEOPLE."

17. HE ALSO EXPRESSED HIS DISDAIN FOR WHAT HE PERCEIVES
AS THE INDISCRIMINATE KILLING COMMITTED BY SOME IN THE
MILITARY. []

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18. [] MENTIONED TWO INCIDENTS. [] KIDNAPPED
A KNOWN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKER FROM AYACUCHO. HE TOOK THE
MAN TO A VILLAGE RUN BY AN ARMY-SPONSORED RONDA, AND HAD

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THE VICTIM HIDDEN IN A HOLE NEAR THE TOWN. HE EXPECTED TO HOLD THE MAN FOR RANSOM, PAID BY THE WIFE. BUT THE WIFE UNEXPECTEDLY WENT TO THE PROSECUTOR AND FILED A COMPLAINT. THE CASE WAS NOW PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE. [] TO COVER HIS TRACKS, [] WENT TO THE VILLAGE AND KILLED NOT ONLY THE TRAFFICKER BUT EVERY VILLAGER WHO KNEW ABOUT THE MAN AND [] ROLE IN KIDNAPPING HIM.

B(1)(a)

B(1)(a)

WHY [] TALKED TO US

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20. POLOFFS WERE INTRODUCED TO

B(1)(a)

THE INTRODUCTION OCCURRED DURING POLOFFS THREE-DAY VISIT TO AYACUCHO, DECEMBER 4-6 (SEPTEL). POLOFFS EXPLAINED THEY WERE INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING HOW THE BATTLE AGAINST SENDERO WAS PROGRESSING, WHAT INITIATIVES AND METHODS SEEMED TO PRODUCE RESULTS, AND WHICH DID NOT. "ANYTHING YOU COULD TELL ME, CARLOS, YOU CAN ALSO TELL THEM IN THE STRICTEST OF CONFIDENCE." POLOFFS SPOKE WITH HIM BRIEFLY IN AYACUCHO. [] NOTED THAT HE WOULD

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INFO LOG-00 ACDA-05 ADS-00 AID-01 AMAD-01 ARA-01 A-01
CA-02 CCO-00 CG-00 CIAE-00 SJK-01 COME-00 CTME-00

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DOEE-00	DS-01	EB-01	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	IMMC-01	INRE-00
INR-05	IO-05	L-02	M-01	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
OIC-02	OIS-01	PA-01	PM-01	P-02	SSO-00	SS-01
TRSE-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	ZOVD-00	/039W		
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P 191856Z DEC 90
 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3915
 INFO RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
 AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
 AMEMBASSY QUITO
 DEPTJUSTICE WASHDC
 DIA WASHDC
 USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 2369
 USMISSION GENEVA 1557
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 USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM

S E C R E T SECTION 04 OF 04 LIMA 19116

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 SUBJECT: (S) AYACUCHO COP DESCRIBES EXTRA-JUDICIAL
 SOON BE TRAVELING TO LIMA ON PERSONAL BUSINESS. SEVERAL
 DAYS AFTER ARRIVING IN LIMA, HE MET WITH POLOFFS DURING A
 TWO-HOUR LUNCH.

21. [] SEEMED TO BE A MAN WHO WANTED TO TELL
 SOMEONE "OFFICIAL" ABOUT HIS ACTIVITIES OF THE PAST
 COUPLE YEARS. FOR MOST OF HIS EIGHT YEARS AS A COP HE
 HAS BEEN PERFORMING DUTIES HE COULD TALK TO NO ONE ABOUT,
 NOT EVEN HIS FELLOW POLICE OFFICERS. HE WAS NOT SEEKING
 APPROVAL FOR HIS ACTIVITIES, NOR HAD HE COME TO POLOFFS
 TO "CONFESS HIS SINS." HE DISCUSSED THESE MATTERS IN A
 STRAIGHTFORWARD MANNER, AS IF HE WERE DISCUSSING
 OPERATIONAL ISSUES WITH KNOWLEDGEABLE COLLEAGUES WHO
 SIMPLY HAD BEEN WORKING IN ANOTHER PART OF PERU. POLOFFS

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EXPLAINED THE USG'S OBJECTION TO MANY OF THE PRACTICES
HAD DESCRIBED, BUT FURTHER NOTED THE IMPORTANCE
OF THE EMBASSY'S PROPERLY UNDERSTANDING THE REALITY OF
PERU'S WAR AGAINST THE TERRORISTS.

B17)

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