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ACTION H-06

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O 152350Z JAN 92
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4907
DIRONDCP WASHDC IMMEDIATE
DEAHQS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM

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SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: OREP, PREL, PHUM, SNAR, EAID, PE
SUBJECT: STAFFDEL SMITH/ERVIN: MEETING WITH
VICE MINISTER OF INTERIOR

1. [REDACTED] - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: INTERIOR VICE MINISTER MEJIA TOLD
VISITING CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS THAT SETTING UP
THE REGISTRY OF DETAINEES IS IN TRAIN, THANKS TO
[REDACTED]

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MATERIAL ASSISTANCE FROM USG. HE SAID THAT BOTH
POLICE AND JUDICIAL INVESTIGATIONS ARE UNDERWAY
FOR THE BARRIOS ALTOS MASSACRE; HE SAID THAT AN
EARLY PRESS REPORT THAT A USG-PROVIDED VEHICLE
WAS USED IN THE INCIDENT PROVED TO NOT BE TRUE.
HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO IMPROVE POLICE
HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE OVER THE LONG TERM

Current Class: [REDACTED]

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L. MILLS
DATE/CASE ID: 17 APR 2001 200004404

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THOUGH IMPROVED TRAINING. HE SAW NO CONSTITUTIONAL IMPEDIMENTS TO SUBJUGATING POLICE TO MILITARY AUTHORITY IN EMERGENCY ZONES. END SUMMARY

3. CONGRESSIONAL STAFF MEMBERS ROGER ERVIN AND GARE SMITH MET ON JANUARY 15 WITH VICE MINISTER OF INTERIOR DAVID MEJIA. STAFFDEL WAS JOINED BY COLETTA YOUNGERS OF THE WASHINGTON OFFICE ON LATIN AMERICA, A WOLA-FUNDED INTERPRETER, AND DCM. DISCUSSION FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS IN PERU AND GOVERNMENT ACTIONS TO IMPROVE RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

4. MEJIA SAID THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO WORK ON IMPROVING HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE BY MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY FORCES THROUGH BETTER COMMAND AND ORGANIZATION, PARTICULARLY WITHIN THE POLICE. HE SAID THAT TRAINING FOR THE POLICE WILL ALSO BE SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVED, WITH HEAVY EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS. INSTEAD OF SIX MONTHS BASIC TRAINING, ENLISTED POLICE WILL RECEIVE TWO YEARS TRAINING, WHILE OFFICERS' TRAINING WILL BE INCREASED FROM FOUR TO SIX YEARS. HE

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 ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ABUSES HAVE OCCURRED BUT SAID THIS WAS DUE TO INSUFFICIENT ATTENTION BY SENIOR OFFICIALS TO THE IMPACT OF SERVICE IN EMERGENCY ZONES ON MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY FORCES. THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF THIS SERVICE HAD LED TO GENERALIZED CRIMINALITY AMONG THE POLICE AND THIS HAD TO BE CORRECTED. HE DENIED THAT SUBJUGATING POLICE TO MILITARY AUTHORITY IN EMERGENCY ZONES WAS A VIOLATION OF THE CONSTITUTION. IT WAS ALREADY PROVIDED FOR IN THE CONSTITUTION AND RECENT GOVERNMENT DECREES WERE INTENDED TO CLEAR UP AREAS OF CONFUSION IN THE LAW.

NATIONAL REGISTRY OF DETAINEES

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5. AT THE END OF THE MEETING MEJIA PROVIDED AN EXTENSIVE EXPLANATION OF THE PROJECTED PARTICIPATION OF THE POLICE IN THE NATIONAL REGISTRY OF DETAINEES. HE SAID THAT THANKS TO THE MATERIAL ASSISTANCE OF THE U.S. AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM A UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE, THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR WOULD BE ABLE TO FULLY SUPPORT THE REGISTRY. HE SAID THAT POLICE POSTS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY WOULD FUNNEL DATA ON DETENTIONS IN THEIR ZONES UP THROUGH THE BUREAUCRACY. U.S. ASSISTANCE IN COMPUTERS AND RADIOS WOULD SPEED THIS PROCESS AND MAKE RETRIEVAL OF INFORMATION EASIER. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE REGISTRY WILL BE UNDER THE

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 TUTELEARY CONTROL OF THE PUBLIC MINISTRY.

BARRIOS ALTOS

6. STAFFDEL NOTED THAT THERE WERE SPECIAL CONCERNS ABOUT THE RECENT INCIDENT AT BARRIOS ALTOS IN WHICH A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WERE MASSACRED. THEY ASKED WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING TO INVESTIGATE THIS INCIDENT, NOTING THAT

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SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: OREP, PREL, PHUM, SNAR, EAID, PE
 SUBJECT: STAFFDEL SMITH/ERVIN: MEETING WITH

PERUVIANS THEY HAD SPOKEN TO ASSERTED THAT NO
 EFFECTIVE INVESTIGATION WAS IN PROCESS.
 STAFFDEL SAID THERE IS A STRONG SUSPICION THAT
 RIGHT WING PARA-MILITARY GROUPS WERE RESPONSIBLE
 GIVEN THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INCIDENT. THEY
 ALSO ASKED IF IT WAS TRUE THAT A USG-PROVIDED

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 VEHICLE HAS BEEN USED IN THE INCIDENT.

7. MEJIA SAID THAT THE INCIDENT REMAINS UNDER
 ACTIVE INVESTIGATION, BOTH BY THE POLICE AND BY
 THE JUDICIARY, BUT RESULTS HAVE SO FAR NOT BEEN
 PRODUCED. HE SAID THAT THERE ARE SOME
 INDICATIONS THAT IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A SETTLING
 OF ACCOUNTS AMONG TERRORIST GROUPS. HE ASSERTED
 THAT A NUMBER OF THE VICTIMS WERE KNOWN THROUGH
 POLICE RECORDS TO BE SENDERO LUMINOSO
 ACTIVISTS. STAFFDEL ASKED WHAT EVIDENCE EXISTED

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TO SUSTAIN THIS THEORY; AFTER SOME BACK AND FORTH, MEJ IA ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IT WAS ONLY A HYPOTHESIS, BUT INSISTED THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE EITHER FOR THE HYPOTHESIS THAT THE INCIDENT WAS A RIGHT WING PARA-MILITARY ACTION.

8. THE REPORT THAT A USG-PROVIDED VEHICLE WAS USED BY THE PERPETRATORS OF BARRIOS ALTOS, MEJIA SAID, WAS AN EARLY PRESS REPORT THAT PROVED TO BE NOT TRUE. THERE WAS A VEHICLE PROVIDED BY INM TO OFECOD, AN INTERIOR MINISTRY ANTI-DRUG AGENCY, WHICH WAS STOLEN ABOUT THE TIME OF THE BARRIOS ALTOS MASSACRE, BUT IT WAS NOT USED IN THE INCIDENT.

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