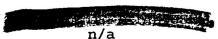
## DECONTROLLED/UNCLASSIFIED



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ACTION ARA-16

CIAE-00 OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-10 H-01 INFO

SY-06 HA-08 L-03PM-09 PA-01 · NSC-01 NSAE-00

USSS-00 SYE-00 USIE-00 SP-02 SNP-01 MCT-02 ANAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6931

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY QUITO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO.

USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN

DIA WASHDC

LIMA 1131

PANAMA FOR ADS

DIA FOR IR BRANCH

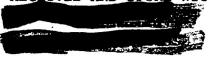
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TAGS: PTER, PINR, SHUM, PINS, PE

SUBJ: (U) MURDERED PERUVIAN JOURNALISTS BURIED

REF: LIMA 1019

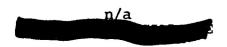
1. FUNERAL OF PERUVIAN JOURNALISTS KILLED IN RURAL AYACUCHO (REF A) TOOK PLACE FEBRUARY 1. AMBASSADOR ORTIZ AND THREE USIS OFFICERS EXPRESSED THE EMBASSY'S CONDOLENCES AT WAKES FOR THE VARIOUS VICTIMS. USIS OFFICERS VISITED HEADQUARTERS OF MARXIST "EL DIARIO DE MARKA" WHERE THEY WERE VERY WELL-RECEIVED AND SPOKE WITH EDITOR JOSE MARIA SALCEDO AT SOME



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LENGTH.

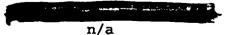


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE **REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM E. LANDFAIR** DATE/CASE ID: 26 JUL 2002 S200200010

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- 2. THE LARGE CROWD INCLUDED CONTINGENTS FROM VARIOUS LEFTIST PARTIES, STRIKING MINERS AND TEACHERS UNION MEMBERS, WHICH ADDED A POLITICAL DIMENSION ADVERSELY COMMENTED UPON BY SOME FAMILY MEMBERS AND MORE MODERATE ELEMENTS. PRO-GOVERNMENT PRESS IS FOCUSING ON THIS UNSEEMLY BEHAVIOR AND, IN THE PROCESS, ATTEMPTING TO SHIFT PUBLIC'S ATTENTION AWAY FROM THE MASSACRE ITSELF.
- 3. PRESIDENT BELAUNDE APPROVED THE FORMATION OF A SPECIAL, INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATING COMMISSION, AS CALLED FOR BY PRESS AND PERUVIAN CONGRESS' PERMANENT COMMISSION. AGREEING UPON ITS COMPOSITION IS PROVING DIFFICULT. FOR EXAMPLE, THE UNITED LEFT (IU) INSIST THAT THE INVESTIGATIVE BODY NOT INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT.
- 4. DETAILS ON GORY MASSACRE ARE NOT WHOLLY CONSISTENT OR LOGICAL. OF EIGHT DEAD JOURNALISTS, SEVEN
  WERE ASSOCIATED WITH OPPOSITION PRESS. CONSERVATIVE
  "LA PRENSA" FEBRURARY 2 CLAIMED ILL-FATED EXPEDITION HAD BEEN
  ORGANIZED BY A MEMBER OF THE STAFF OF MARXIST DAILY
  "EL DIARIO MARKA"--A PAPER WHICH NUMBERED THREE OF ITS
  REPORTERS AMONG THE EIGHT DEAD. EXACT PURPOSE FOR
  WHICH THIS GROUP TRAVELLED INTO A REGION KNOWN TO BE
  DANGEROUS--AND FOR WHICH ARMY PROTECTION WAS NOT SOUGHT-REMAINS UNCLEAR. SOME LIMA RUMORS CLAIM GROUP WAS
  INTERESTED IN DISPROVING GOVERNMENT CLAIMS OF SPONTANEOUS
  ANTI-TERRORIST "FRONTIER JUSTICE"" ACTIONS BY
  RURAL PEASANTRY. OTHER RUMORS ALLEGE GROUP HOPED
  TO MAKE CONTACT WITH LOCAL SENDERO LEADERS--AN OBJECTIVE

TARREST FOR THE STATE OF THE ST

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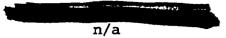
IMPLICIT IN GENERAL NOEL'S ASSERTION (DENIED BY THE OPPOSITION) THAT A RED FLAG WAS FOUND AMONG JOURNALISTS' EFFECTS.

'5. THE DEGREE TO WHICH LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL OFFICIALS MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN INSTIGATING MASSACRE ALSO REMAINS UNCLEAR. ALL GOP OFFICIALS, FROM PRESIDENT DOWN, STATE THAT THE CULPRITS WILL BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE. HUAYCHAC LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR FORTUNATO GAVILANO (MASSACRE SITE, UCHURACCAY, LIES IN HIS DISTRICT)



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WAS ARRESTED AFTER, ALLEGEDLY, BLOOD STAINED WEAPONS AND ROLLS OF FILM TAKEN FROM SLAIN JOURNALISTS WERE FOUND IN HIS RESIDENCE. OTHER LOCAL OFFICIALS ALSO REPORTEDLY WERE DETAINED.

6. WHATEVER THE DIRECT COMPLICITY OF LOW LEVEL PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN THE ATTACK, ANOTHER ISSUE IS WHAT ROLE THE SECURITY FORCES HAVE IN INCITING AND CONDONING SUCH FRONTIER JUSTICE. THE GOVERNMENT'S LAUDATORY WELCOME TO A RECENT CASE OF ANTI-SL VIGILANTEISM BY VILLAGERS IN THE REGION WOULD CERTAINLY LEAD TO THE ASSUMPTION THAT VIOLENCE AGAINST STRANGERS WOULD BE ENDORSED PARTICULARLY BY THE CONTROVERSIAL FRONT LINE ANTI-TERRORIST UNITS KNOWN AS "SINCHIS".



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