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APR 9, 1992
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87102 incidents

TO: Robert Morris, RSO
FROM: Robert O'Bannon, ARSO *PAO*
SUBJECT: Interview of [redacted]

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On April 3, 1992, Reporting Agent interviewed [redacted]

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[redacted] regarding the circumstances of the March 31 murder in Ate Vitarte of Zacaris Magallanes Mejia. Sendero Luminoso is reportedly responsible. Magallanes was an administrator of a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) known as Ideas. The interview took place between 1515 and 1610 hours [redacted]

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[redacted] works with a number of NGOs, of which the organization Ideas was one. He added that the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) helps fund NGOs with a five year grant [redacted]

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[redacted]

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According to a information packet (copy attached) provided [redacted] by the Ideas organization, Magallanes had worked with Ideas for twelve years. Ideas is described as a private organization working to promote human resource development through financial and technological assistance to both urban and rural communities. The organization is currently sponsoring programs of development in four regions, one of which is the Ate Vitarte District.

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Magallanes, whose parents migrated to Lima from the Sierras, was a life-long community activist and a founder of the Comunidad Urbana Autogestionaria de Huaycan. He was also President of the Comite de Gestion de Ate Vitarte. At the time of his death, Magallanes, 35, held the position of Enterprises Administrator and was specifically involved in assisting small industries in Ate Vitarte and in creating community awareness of the need for better sanitation methods in the pueblo hovenes. He had recently succeeded in establishing an assistance agreement with the Association of Small Industries of Ate Vitarte (APIAV).

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS, FPC/CDR *msf*

Date, 3/14/94

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With regard to that agreement, [redacted] stated that Magallanes had had difficulty reaching his projected level of impact due to problems with the leadership of the trade association. [redacted] added that Magallanes had been instrumental in ousting certain corrupt leaders of the association. [redacted] said that the agreement between Ideas and the reform leadership of APIAV was signed the night before Magallanes was murdered.

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[redacted] said that Magallanes apparently had not had any inclination that he had been targeted. [redacted] did note that Magallanes-- [redacted] had an encounter two weeks prior to his death with several leftist friends from his youth. Magallanes was allegedly asked if he intended to join Sendero, as they had. Magallanes apparently rejected the notion outright.

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[redacted] advised that Sendero is interested in expanding its influence in Ate Vitarte and that Magallanes' community activism represented a challenge to their authority. [redacted] added that it is not that Sendero is gaining in popularity in such places as Ate Vitarte, but rather that they are taking advantage of the government's failure to maintain a presence in the pueblo hovenes; conducting assassinations of popular community figures such as Magallanes is a means of clearly demonstrating their unimpeded ability to eliminate those who oppose them.

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[redacted] stated that the manner in which Magallanes' was killed--a brazen daylight attack, involving thirteen shots total, two in the head--clearly implicates Sendero.

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[redacted] dismissed the idea that the murder could have been the work of the corrupt leadership which Magallanes had displaced, although his justification for this view seemed specious; that the leadership did not have access to the type of weapons used.

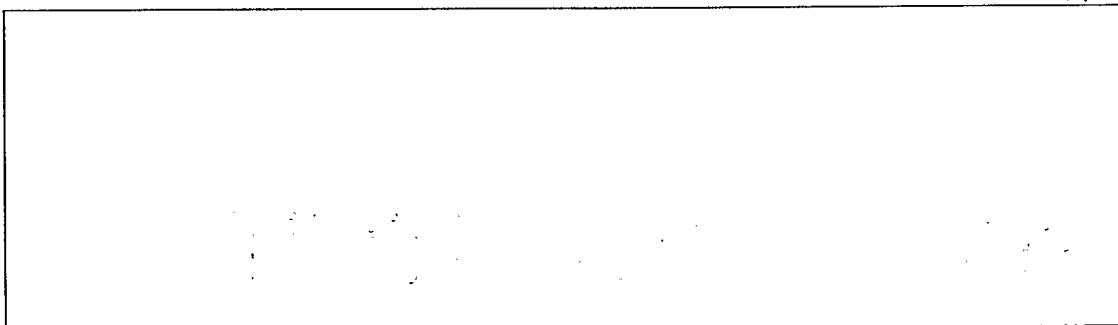
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[redacted] felt that if El Diario makes a "big deal" of the assassination, it may signal that other NGO workers will be targeted as part of a national Sendero strategy.

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[redacted] speculated that if only casual mention of the attack is printed in El Diario, the murder could be construed as an isolated incident peculiar to Ate Vitarte.

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[redacted] Along these lines, [redacted] remarked that intelligence he has recently received from Cajamarca and Ayacucho indicate that "second-string" Senderistas are currently filling the ranks of Sendero in those areas because the veteran fighters have moved into Lima to conduct operations (NFI).

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[redacted]

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