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[REDACTED]
n/a
Case Number: S200200010

RELEASED IN FULL

[REDACTED]
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ACTION ARA-00

INFO	OCT-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-10	SS-00	CIAE-00
	DODE-00	H-01	NSC-01	NSAE-00	SY-06	HA-08	L-03
	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-01	MCT-03	OMB-01	SAL-01	A-02
	SYE-00	USIE-00	SP-02	SNP-01	PRS-01	SLPD-01	/053 W
				-----062631 231614Z /53			

P R 231449Z AUG 84
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7838
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMZMBASSY CARACAS 5822
DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS

[REDACTED] LIMA 9933

DIA FOR IR BRANCH
PANAMA FOR ADS

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: SHUM, PTER, PGOV, PE
SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE MOVES TO POLITICAL FOREFRONT
IN PERU

REF: (A) LIMA 9488 (B 83 LIMA 8692

1. [REDACTED] SUMMARY: ONE YEAR AFTER AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S
REPORT ALLEGING WIDESPREAD HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN PERU,
GOP AGAIN FACES ACCUSATIONS THAT SECURITY FORCES ARE
COMMITTING EXCESSES IN PERU'S CONTINUING ANTI-TERRORIST
STRUGGLE. BUT THIS TIME THE ACCUSATIONS, WHICH CENTER ON
DISAPPEARANCE CASES OF TWO PROMINENT INDIVIDUALS, ARE
WINNING WIDE COVERAGE EVEN FROM GENERALLY PRO-GOVERNMENT
[REDACTED]

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PRESS AND CRITICISM FROM PRO-GOP FIGURES IN CONGRESS.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM E. LANDFAIR
DATE/CASE ID: 15 JUL 2002 S200200010

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INTERIOR MINISTER HAS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT LOCAL POLICE OFFICIALS WERE IMPLICATED IN SLAYING OF ONE SUCH "DESAPARECIDO."

2. (U) DISAPPEARANCE OF JESUS OROPEZA. IN AN INITIAL, WRITTEN REPORT TO SENATE OF AUGUST 13, INTERIOR MINISTER LUIS PERCOVICH PROVIDED RESULTS OF AN INTERNAL POLICE INVESTIGATION INTO DEATH OF CAMPESINO ORGANIZATION LEADER JESUS OROPEZA (REF A). REPORT ASSERTED THAT POLICE DETAINED OROPEZA IN PUQUIO ON JULY 27; ATTEMPTED TO TRANSFER HIM TO ARMY GARRISON SOME 90 KILOMETERS DISTANT, LEAVING FOR THIS PURPOSE AT 4 A.M. FOLLOWING MORNING; FOUND GARRISON UNWILLING TO ACCEPT PRISONER, AFTER WHICH POLICE SET OFF ON RETURN TRIP TO PUQUIO WITH OROPEZA; STOPPED ALONG ROAD AT 11 A.M. TO ALLOW HIM TO ATTEND TO "PHYSIOLOGICAL NEEDS;" WITNESSED HIM ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE AFTER WALKING SOME 30 METERS FROM POLICE VEHICLE; OPENED FIRE ON ESCAPEE, ONLY TO BE FORCED TO ABANDON LOCALE IN HASTE UPON SUDDEN APPEARANCE OF 25-30 ARMED MEN (APPARENTLY TERRORISTS). REPORT CONCLUDED BY STATING THAT, WHEN POLICE WERE ABLE TO RETURN TO SITE AFTERWARDS, THEY ENCOUNTERED OROPEZA'S MUTILATED CORPSE--PRESUMABLY HAVING BEEN DONE IN BY THE MYSTERIOUS INTRUDERS.

3. (U) FACED WITH UNFAVORABLE SENATE REACTION PERCOVICH FOLLOWED UP WRITTEN REPORT WITH PERSONAL APPEARANCE, TESTIFYING BEFORE CLOSED SESSION AUGUST 16. AT CLOSE OF SESSION, SENATE ISSUED TERSE COMMUNIQUE NOTING THAT GROUNDS EXISTED "TO PRESUME THAT THE CITIZEN OROPEZA COULD HAVE BEEN VICTIMIZED BY (THOSE) FORCES RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS CUSTODY AND TRANSPORT." PERCOVICH HIMSELF, AFTER NOTING THAT HIS INITIAL REPORT HAD BEEN BUT A TRANSMITTED

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COPY OF REPORT GIVEN HIM BY POLICE, ACKNOWLEDGED THAT PUQUIO POLICE WERE PRESUMABLY RESPONSIBLE FOR OROPEZA'S DEATH. IN FURTHER COMMENTS AUGUST 17, PERCOVICH DENIED THAT ANY PROOF EXISTED TO SUSTAIN CHARGE--MADE BY OROPEZA'S LOCAL ENEMIES IN PUQUIO--THAT DECEASED CAMPESINO LEADER WAS LINKED TO TERRORISTS.

4. (U) DISAPPEARANCE OF AYALA. AGAINST BACKGROUND OF OROPEZA'S DISAPPEARANCE/DEATH, PERU'S ELDERLY ATTORNEY

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GENERAL ("FISCAL DE LA NACION") PERSONALLY SET OFF AUGUST 14 FOR AYACUCHO AND HUANTA TO INVESTIGATE DISAPPEARANCE OF NEWSPAPER REPORTED JAIME AYALA (REF A). RETURNING TO LIMA ON 15TH, A DISAPPOINTED FISCAL DISCLOSED THAT HIS TRIP HAD YIELDED NO CLUES AND THAT HE HAD UNCOVERED NO INFORMATION CONCERNING AYALA'S FATE OR WHEREABOUTS. AT MOMENT, THEREFORE, AYALA DISAPPEARANCE REMAINS SUBJECT FOR CONFLICTING RUMORS AND NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS. HIS BODY, ACCORDING TO SOME, LIES AT BOTTOM OF HIGHLANDS LAKE; OR WAS ONE OF GROUP OF 10 (OR 17) CADAVERS DISCOVERED MORNING OF AUGUST 18 NEAR HUANTA. BUT AYALA'S EMPLOYER, LIMA DAILY "REPUBLICA," PERSISTS WITH "UPBEAT" REPORTS THAT JOURNALIST IS ALIVE, IF NOT WELL, AND RECOVERING FROM INJURIES SUSTAINED AT HANDS OF MARINE CAPTORS. AUGUST 20 LIMA DAILIES CARRIED STORY ASSERTING THAT GROUP OF "ARGENTINE AND PERUVIAN PRIVATE DETECTIVES" HAD LOCATED AYALA, SUPPOSEDLY NOW IN HANDS OF INVESTIGATIVE POLICE (PIP) AND STILL IN HUANTA.

5. [REDACTED] REPERCUSSIONS OF AYALA DISAPPEARANCE WHERE VISIBLE AUGUST 17 IN STREETS OF DOWNTOWN LIMA, WHERE POLICE BROKE UP PROTEST DEMONSTRATION MOUNTED BY "REPUBLICA" PERSONNEL. ALTHOUGH DELEGATION SUCCEEDED IN PRESENTING STATEMENT TO PRESIDENT BELAUNDE'S PRESS SECRETARY, MOST PUBLIC ATTENTION (AND TV NEWS COVERAGE) FIXED ON SCENES OF WATER CANNON AND POLICE CHARGING PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATORS. POLICE COMMUNIQUE CLAIMED VIOLENCE WAS PROVOKED BY [REDACTED]
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COM [REDACTED]

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UNIDENTIFIED "AGITATORS," AN ACCUSATION THAT PERU'S NATIONAL PRESS ASSOCIATION REJECTED IN PUBLIC STATEMENT ISSUED FOLLOWING DAY. INTERIOR MINISTER CALLED POLICE'S "BELLIGERANCE" UNJUSTIFIED AND SAID THOSE FOUND TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR EXCESSES WOULD BE PUNISHED. AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT MEMBERS OF SECURITY FORCES TOO ARE "AFFECTED" BY WAVE OF VIOLENCE AFFLICTING COUNTRY. PERCOVICH'S STAND ELICITED CRITICISM FROM APRA LEADER ALAN GARCIA, WHO SAID GOP'S INTOLERANCE TOWARD GROUP OF PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATORS WAS UNACCEPTABLE.

6. [REDACTED] COMMENT: ALTHOUGH CHARGES OF RIGHTS VIOLATION IN THEMSELVES ARE NOT NEW, MOST SALIENT FEATURE OF CURRENT SITUATION IS DEGREE TO WHICH LOCAL GROUPS (AS OPPOSED TO FOREIGN ONES, SUCH AS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL A YEAR AGO--

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REF B) ARE LEVELING CRITICISM AT GOP AND SECURITY FORCES. IN BOTH NEWS COLUMNS AND EDITORIALS, GENERALLY PRO-GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS (E.G., DAILIES "PRENSA" AND "EXPRESO," WEEKLY "CARETAS") ARE DEVOTING SPACE TO A SUBJECT THAT, UNTIL RECENTLY, WAS VIRTUAL MONOPOLY OF OPPOSITION. SENATE DECLARATION ON OROPEZA DEATH REFLECTED DISTRESS FELT IN RANKS OF POPULAR CHRISTIAN (PPC AND GOVERNING POPULAR ACTION (AP) PARTIES.. (AP) SENATE PRESIDENT (AND FORMER PRIME MINISTER) MANUEL ULLOA URGED AUGUST 19 THAT A RESTORED DEATH PENALTY BE APPLIED TO POLICE WHO COMMIT CAPITAL CRIMES.

7. [REDACTED] PUBLIC ATTENTION, FOR MOMENT, IS FOCUSED ON OROPEZA AND AYALA CASES. BUT WITH GENERAL SUBJECT OF RIGHTS VIOLATIONS OPEN FOR DEBATE, PROSPECT IS FOR MORE COVERAGE OF SAME THEME, BY BOTH LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL PRESS AGENCY CORRESPONDENTS. "PRENSA," FOR EXAMPLE, GAVE FRONT PAGE COVERAGE AUGUST 14 TO REPORTED DEATH OF SIX PROTESTANT EVANGELICAL PARISHIONERS AT HANDS OF MARINES (ALSO IN HUANTA), AND "CARETAS" AMPLIFIED SAME STORY WITH [REDACTED]
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FRONT COVER TREATMBNT ON AUGUST 20. JORDUN
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