

[REDACTED]  
n/a  
Case Number: S200200010

RELEASED IN FULL

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PAGE 01 LIMA 10100 281722Z  
ACTION ARA-00

|      |        |         |         |         |         |        |         |
|------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|
| INFO | OCT-00 | COPY-01 | ADS-00  | AID-00  | INR-10  | SS-00  | CIAE-00 |
|      | EB-08  | H-01    | NSCE-00 | NSAE-00 | COME-00 | SSO-00 | SY-06   |
|      | HA-08  | L-03    | LAB-04  | PM-10   | PA-01   | PC-01  | MCT-03  |
|      | OMB-01 | STR-14  | SIL-01  | INRE-00 | ANAE-00 | A-02   | USIE-00 |
|      | SP-02  | SNP-01  | PRS-01  | SLPD-01 | /079 W  |        |         |

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7910  
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
DIA WASHINGTON DC  
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS

[REDACTED] LIMA 10100

DIA FOR IR BRANCH  
PANAMA FOR ADS

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PTER, SHUM, PGOV, PE  
SUBJECT: GOP BARS MARCH "FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE" AND  
MILITARIZES LIMA

REF: LIMA 9933

1. (U) SUMMARY: REACTING TO TWO PROMINENT  
"DISAPPEARANCES" AND REPORTS OF MASSACRES ATTRIBUTED TO  
BOTH TERRORISTS AND THE SECURITY FORCES, PERU'S  
"UNITED LEFT" (IU) ORGANIZED MARCH "FOR PEACE AND  
JUSTICE" TO BE HELD IN DOWNTOWN LIMA AUGUST 24. GOP  
INITIALLY AUTHORIZED MARCH TO TAKE PLACE. IT REVERSED

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[REDACTED]  
PAGE 02 LIMA 10100 281722Z

ITS DECISION AUGUST 23, HOWEVER, AND ON FOLLOWING DAY

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Case Number: S200200010

PLACED RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER IN LIMA IN HANDS OF ARMED FORCES. ALTHOUGH IU CALLED OFF MARCH, RATHER THAN RISK CONFRONTATION WITH MILITARY, SOME MILITANTS NEVERTHELESS TOOK TO STREETS. VIRTUALLY ALL THOSE ARRESTED WERE SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED. END SUMMARY.

2. [REDACTED] THE DISAPPEARANCE OF NEWSPAPER REPORTER JAIME AYALA AND DISAPPEARANCE/DEATH OF JESUS OROPEZA (REFTTEL) TRIGGERED WAVE OF INDIGNATION THAT CROSSED NORMAL PARTISAN POLITICAL DIVISIONS IN PERUVIAN SOCIETY. NEWS OF LARGE-SCALE MASSACRES AUGMENTED PUBLIC SENSATION OF A SOCIETY IN WHICH VIOLENCE HAD GOTTEN OUT OF HAND. GIVEN THIS BACKGROUND, PERU'S MARXIST FAR LEFT POSITIONED ITSELF TO PROFIT POLITICALLY FROM IDENTIFICATION WITH HUMAN RIGHTS CAUSE. WITH LIMA'S (IU) MAYOR ALFONSO BARRANTES TAKING THE LEAD, THE IU CALLED FOR AUGUST 24 MARCH THROUGH STREETS OF DOWNTOWN LIMA TO DEMONSTRATE IN BEHALF OF "PEACE AND JUSTICE." HOST OF LEFTIST-DOMINATED LABOR AND INTELLECTUAL ORGANIZATIONS, AS WELL AS LEFTIST-DOMINATED LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, BACKED BARRANTES. SEVERAL OTHER SMALL POLITICAL GROUPS ALSO JOINED IN. MARCH'S ANTI-SENDERO, PRO-HUMAN RIGHTS CAST INITIALLY ATTRACTED SUPPORT FROM INDIVIDUAL APRA, CONSERVATIVE POPULAR CHRISTIANS (PPC), AND EVEN GOVERNING POPULAR ACTION (AP) POLITICIANS.

3. [REDACTED] AS OF EARLY AUGUST 23, IT APPEARED MARCH WOULD GO FORWARD. HOWEVER, LATER THAT DAY LIMA PREFECT ARTURO ARRATE ISSUED COMMUNIQUE WITHDRAWING AUTHORIZATION PREVIOUSLY GRANTED. AT CABINET MEETING MORNING OF FOLLOWING DAY, GOP DECIDED TO TAKE FURTHER MEASURE OF PLACING RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER IN CAPITAL IN HANDS OF THE ARMED FORCES. "SUPREME DECREE" CABINET ADOPTED LIMITED MILITARY'S ROLE, HOWEVER, SOLELY TO DAY OF PROPOSED MARCH. GOVERNMENT'S POSITION WAS

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PAGE 03 LIMA 10100 281722Z

BASED CONSTITUTIONALLY ON EXISTING NATIONAL STATE OF EMERGENCY. GOP SAID IT HAD INTELLIGENCE WHICH SUGGESTED THAT "PEACE AND JUSTICE" MARCH, TOGETHER WITH TWO OTHER DEMONSTRATIONS WHICH IU ADHERENTS HAD PLANNED FOR SAME DAY IN LIMA, MIGHT HAVE LED TO VIOLENCE IN STREETS. FURTHERMORE, GOP WAS OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT IMPACT ON COUNTRY'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE.

4. (U) IU ORGANIZERS RESPONDED WITH DECISION TO CALL OFF MARCH, ISSUING STATEMENT THAT DENOUNCED GOVERNMENT'S

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Case Number: S200200010

ATTEMPT TO PIT WOULD-BE DEMONSTRATORS AGAINST NATION'S ARMED FORCES. NEVERTHELESS, AS MARCH'S SCHEDULED HOUR APPROACHED, GROUPS GATHERED AT MARSHALLING SITE AND ATTEMPTED TO FOLLOW PARADE ROUTE AS LAID OUT. SEVERAL PROMINENT IU PERSONALITIES (INCLUDING AT LEAST ONE SENATOR AND DEPUTY) LED DEMONSTRATORS. WAITING POLICE BROKE UP MOST GROUPS BEFORE THEY COULD GET UNDER WAY. TOTAL REPORTED ARRESTS NUMBERED 236. OF THESE, 235 REPORTEDLY WERE RELEASED WITHIN FOLLOWING 48 HOURS.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH PERUVIAN PUBLIC CLEARLY IS DEEPLY DISTURBED ABOUT EXTENT OF VIOLENCE AND INDICATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY SECURITY FORCES, CANCELLATION OF AUGUST 24 MARCH HAS NOT RESULTED IN OUTCRY BEYOND IU. OTHER PARTIES ASSESSED MARCH AS A MARXIST POLITICAL TACTIC AND WERE PROBABLY RELIEVED IT DID NOT COME OFF. WE KNOW THAT APRA LEADER ALAN GARCIA WAS ASKED PERSONALLY BY BARRANTES TO SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATE IN MARCH, BUT DECLINED. JORDAN

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