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ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00  
H-01 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 HA-09 L-03 PM-10  
PA-01 OMB-01 INM-07 INRE-00 SP-02 SNP-01 PRS-01  
DS-01 DSE-00 SCT-02 /050 W

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O 252142Z JUN 86  
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2726  
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
USAFSO HOWARD AFB PM  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM  
DEAHQS WASHDC  
USIA WASHDC 5854  
DIA WASHDC

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DIA FOR IR BRANCH

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PHUM, PTER, PGOV, PINS, PREL, PE  
SUBJECT: GARCIA DECLARES 95 POLICE ARRESTED FOR  
SUMMARY EXECUTIONS AT LURIGANCHO PRISON

1. (U) PRESIDENT GARCIA ADDRESSED THE NATION JUNE 24  
TO REPORT THAT THE INITIAL RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATION  
OF LAST WEEK'S PRISON RIOTS REVEALED THAT POLICE  
(GUARDIA REPUBLICANA) HAD SUMMARILY EXECUTED AN  
ESTIMATED 30 TO 40 PRISONERS WHO HAD SURRENDERED  
AT LURIGANCHO PRISON. HE DECLARED THAT 15 POLICE  
OFFICERS AND 80 POLICEMEN INVOLVED IN THE KILLINGS  
WERE IN CUSTODY AND WOULD BE TRIED. "WITHOUT

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AUTHORITY," HE SAID, "THERE IS NO DEMOCRACY."

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GARCIA EMPHASIZED THAT AS PRESIDENT HE COULD NOT PERMIT "EXCESSES," "CRIMINAL VENGEANCE" OR "THE LAW OF THE JUNGLE." HE DECLARED "WHAT OCCURRED AFTER THE SURRENDER IN LURIGANCHO IS NOTHING MORE THAN A CRIME, WHICH I WILL NOT COVER UP."  
GARCIA SOUGHT TO CONTRAST EVENTS AT LURIGANCHO WITH THE RETAKING OF EL FRONTON PRISON, WHERE HE POINTED TO THE FACT THAT 35 PRISONERS WHO SURRENDERED HAD HAD THEIR LIVES RESPECTED. AT SAME TIME, HE REITERATED THAT GIVEN THE NATURE OF THE TERRORIST PRISONERS AND THE CAREFUL PREPARATION FOR THE RIOTS, "SEVERITY" IN SUPPORT OF THE LAW WAS NEEDED, AND THAT HE WOULD NOT HESITATE TO USE IT AGAIN UNDER THE SAME CIRCUMSTANCES. GARCIA ALSO UNDERScoreD THAT THE ARMED FORCES JOINT COMMAND HAD CARRIED OUT ITS ACTIONS UNDER ORDERS FROM THE GOVERNMENT, THAT THE ARMED FORCES HAD OBEYED LOYALLY, AND THAT THE GOP SUPPORTED THEIR ACTIONS.

2. (U) IN ADDITION, THE PERUVIAN EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE IS ASSUMING A HIGHER PROFILE ON THE PRISON EVENTS. IN A JUNE 24 LETTER TO THE ARMED FORCES JOINT COMMAND, ASSISTANT LIMA BISHOP AUGUSTO BEUZEVILLE REQUESTED PERMISSION FOR A CATHOLIC CHURCH COMMISSION TO ENTER THE THREE PRISONS (STILL UNDER MILITARY CONTROL) IN ORDER TO GIVE SPIRITUAL AND MATERIAL ASSISTANCE TO SURVIVORS AND THE WOUNDED. ANOTHER ARCHBISHOP COMPLAINED PUBLICLY THAT PRISON CHAPLAINS HAD BEEN DENIED ACCESS TO PRISONS. THE EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE ALSO ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE JUNE 24 IN WHICH IT REITERATED ITS CONDEMNATION OF VIOLENCE, CALLED FOR AN "OBJECTIVE INVESTIGATION" OF THE UPRISING, AND CALLED UPON SECURITY FORCES TO RESPOND

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TO TERRORISM WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE LAW AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

3. COMMENT: GARCIA'S SPEECH RECALLS, ON THE SURFACE, HIS RAPID REACTION IN SEPTEMBER 1985 TO THE ACCOMARCA AND PUCAYACU MASSACRES, IN WHICH THREE GENERALS WERE REMOVED FROM THEIR POSITIONS. THIS TIME WE BELIEVE THINGS WILL NOT BE SO EASY, AND IT MAY BE DIFFICULT FOR GARCIA TO CONTROL THE PROCESS HE HAS

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SET IN MOTION. PERSONS ALLEGEDLY GUILTY OF KILLING PRISONERS CONVENIENTLY ARE MEMBERS OF THE POLICE (UNDER CONTROL OF INTERIOR MINISTRY), NOT THE ARMED FORCES. IT IS NOT CLEAR, HOWEVER, HOW ACCUSED POLICEMEN COULD HAVE CARRIED OUT KILLINGS IN WHAT WAS AN ARMY-DIRECTED OPERATION WITHOUT SHARING BLAME WITH THE ARMY. ALSO, THERE ARE ALLEGATIONS THAT THE NAVY MAY HAVE CARRIED OUT SIMILAR DEEDS, THAT ALL OF THE DEAD HAVE BEEN BURIED, SOME REPORTEDLY IN MASS GRAVES, WILL PROBABLY IMPEDE AN INVESTIGATION AND ANY TRIAL OF THE POLICE. NOTWITHSTANDING STRONG POPULAR SUPPORT FOR USE OF FORCE EVIDENT IN OPINION POLLS, GARCIA NOW WILL HAVE HIS HANDS FULL TRYING TO AVOID IMAGE THAT HE IS ENGAGING IN TRANSPARENT SCAPEGOATING OF POLICE TO AVOID CONFRONTATION WITH MILITARY AND TO ATTEMPT TO SALVAGE HIS OWN POSITION. JORDAN

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