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Case Number: S200200010

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ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00 NSCE-00
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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, PTER, PHUM, MILI, PE
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT GARCIA SAYS CRISIS IS OVER

REF: LIMA 7533 AND PREVIOUS

1. [REDACTED] ENTIRE TEXT.

2. POLCOUNS FELDER PAID FAREWELL CALL ON PRESIDENT GARCIA LATE EVENING JUNE 30. CALL CAME IN MIDST OF UNSCHEDULED EVENTS AT PALACE, INCLUDING RESIGNATION OF JUSTICE MINISTER GONZALES POSADA, AND WAS LIMITED TO TWENTY MINUTES. BEYOND PLEASANTRIES, GARCIA WANTED TO TALK ONLY ABOUT THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION. HIS KEY POINT WAS THAT THE CURRENT CRISIS IS OVER. HE HAD STARTED IT AND HE, THEREFORE, COULD CALL IT OFF. GARCIA SAID HE HAD EXAMINED THE HANDLING OF THE EL FRONTON PRISON RIOT AND THE NAVY WAS "COMPLETELY CLEAN." WITH REGARD TO LURIGANCHO, THE GUARDIA REPUBLICANA (GR) WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EXCESSES. HE HAD VERIFIED THAT THE JOINT MILITARY COMMAND NEITHER AUTHORIZED NOR WAS AWARE OF THE MASSACRE. THERE WAS, THEREFORE, NO REASON ITS MEMBERS SHOULD RESIGN. WITH REGARD TO GENERAL RABANAL, GARCIA ASSERTED THAT IF THE COMING INVESTIGATION DETERMINED THAT HE WAS EITHER PRESENT AT OR AUTHORIZED

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THE MASSACRE, HE WOULD HAVE TO BEAR THE RESPONSIBILITY.

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BUT EVEN IN THAT CASE, RABANAL WAS THE ONLY MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES GARCIA CONSIDERED VULNERABLE.

3. PRESIDENT POINTED OUT THAT CRISIS, TERRIBLE AS IT WAS, HAD ITS POSITIVE SIDE. WHILE HE WOULD NOT HAVE WISHED IT TO HAPPEN IN THIS FASHION, FACT IS THAT A GREAT NUMBER OF TERRORISTS HAD BEEN ELIMINATED. EL FRONTON AND LURIGANCHO HAD BEEN SERVING AS INDOCTRINATION CENTERS FOR ACCUSED TERRORISTS LATER RELEASED INTO SOCIETY EITHER BECAUSE OF INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO STAND UP IN COURT OR BECAUSE JUDGES WERE INTIMIDATED. THIS WAS NOW FINISHED. OVER THE LONG TERM, SENDERO LUMINOSO WOULD SUFFER SIGNIFICANTLY AS A RESULT. PERUVIAN PEOPLE HAD TO LEARN TO LIVE WITH HIGH LEVEL OF VIOLENCE, GARCIA ASSERTED. THERE WAS NO ALTERNATIVE. TERRORISM WOULD TAKE TIME TO ERADICATE, BUT HE WAS DETERMINED TO DO IT. IT WAS AN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT PROPOSITION, BUT HE INTENDED TO DO SO WITHOUT CROSSING THE LINE BETWEEN CIVILIZATION AND BARBARITY.

4. COMMENT: CONTRARY TO REPORTS LAST WEEK THAT HE WAS EXCEEDINGLY DEPRESSED (REFTEL), GARCIA EXUDED ON THIS OCCASION HIS NORMAL CHARM AND CONFIDENCE. MEETING TOOK PLACE JUST AFTER APRA POLICY COMMITTEE SESSION WHICH LASTED FIVE HOURS. IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT GARCIA OBTAINED FROM THAT MEETING AGREEMENT ON COURSE OF ACTION WHICH MIGHT WELL PERMIT HIM TO CONTAIN THE CURRENT CRISIS. INDEED, IF IT IS MADE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR TO ARMED FORCES THAT THERE WILL BE NO MILITARY SCAPEGOATING BEYOND GENERAL RABANAL, LIKELIHOOD IS THAT, AS GARCIA SAID, IT WILL DISSIPATE FOR TIME BEING. BUT WOUNDS THAT HAVE BEEN OPENED WILL NOT CLOSE EASILY. GARCIA'S PRESIDENCY

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IS NOW FAR MORE VULNERABLE THAN IT PREVIOUSLY WAS.
END COMMENT.

5. ON WAY OUT OF PRIVATE MEETING WITH GARCIA, PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SECRETARY TIRADO TOLD POLCOUNS THAT GONZALES POSADA WOULD BE NAMED AMBASSADOR TO OAS. HE SAID THAT MINISTER OF INTERIOR SALINAS WOULD RESIGN HIS POSITION IN MID-JULY. JORDAN

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