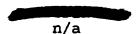
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ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 HA-09 L-03 PM-10 PA-01

INRE-00 JUSE-01 SP-02 /037 W

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O 032230Z JUL 86
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2893
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
USAFSO HOWARD AFB PM
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM

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DIA FOR IR BRANCH

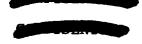
E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, PE

SUBJECT: INTERIOR MINISTER DEFENDS CONDUCT DURING

PRISON TAKEOVERS

REF: LIMA 7635

1. (U) INTERIOR MINISTER ABEL SALINAS TESTIFIED BEFORE CONGRESS' PERMANENT COMMISSION JULY 2 ON THE GOP'S HANDLING OF THE LIMA PRISON RIOTS. SALINAS REPORTEDLY OFFERED CONGRESS LITTLE OR NO NEW INFORMATION ON THOSE EVENTS, INSISTING THAT ONCE GUARDIA REPUBLICANA (GR) UNITS WERE PLACED UNDER MILITARY COMMAND, HIS OWN RESPONSIBILITY ENDED. SALINAS REJECTED CALLS FROM ALL THREE MAJOR OPPOSITION PARTIES FOR HIS RESIGNATION, UNDERSCORING THAT HIS MINISTRY "HAD NOT DIRECTED, COMMANDED, OR PARTICIPATED" IN THE CONTROVERSIAL OPERATIONS TO RETAKE THE PRISONS. HE REITERATED THAT THE GR



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PERSONNEL ACCUSED OF EXECUTING PRISONERS AT LURIGANCHO

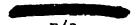
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM E. LANDFAIR DATE/CASE ID: 16 JUL 2002 S200200010

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WOULD BE TRIED UNDER THE MILITARY COURT SYSTEM, AND NOTED THAT THE INSPECTORS GENERAL OF THE THREE POLICE SERVICES WOULD INVESTIGATE THE GR'S ROLE AT THE PRISONS.

- 2. COMMENT: SALINAS' OUTSPOKEN DEFENSE FOLLOWED PRESS ASSERTIONS EARLIER THAT DAY (AND REPEATED PRIVATELY BY APRISTAS) THAT HIS RESIGNATION WAS IMMINENT, ALONG WITH THOSE OF INTERIOR VICE MINISTER AGUSTIN MANTILLA, AND (UNCONNECTED TO THE PRISON EVENTS) THE MINISTERS OF HEALTH AND EDUCATION. ALTHOUGH GARCIA HAS NOT YET RULED PUBLICLY ON SALINAS' AND MANTILLA'S TENURE, WE ASSUME HE WOULD BE LOATH TO PART WITH EITHER ONE (REF A). CERTAINLY SALINAS' REMARKS IN CONGRESS WERE NOT THOSE OF A MAN WITH ONE FOOT OUT THE DOOR.
- THE EDUCATION AND HEALTH MINISTERS HAVE BEEN UNDER FIRE WITHIN THE GOP AND APRA FOR SEPARATE REASONS FOR SOME MONTHS, AND HAD BEEN RUMORED TO BE REPLACED BURING THE TRADITIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY (JULY 28) CABINET CHANGES. ALTHOUGH CERTAIN MEDIA HAVE GIVEN BROAD COVERAGE TO REPORTED RESIGNATIONS AND ALLEGED REPLACEMENTS, GARCIA HAS YET TO MAKE PUBLIC ANY CHANGES. MEANWHILE, WE EXPECT LIMA RUMOR MILL, ENCOURAGED BY THE PRESS, TO CONTINUE IN HIGH GEAR.



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