

[REDACTED]  
n/a  
Case Number: S200200010

RELEASED IN FULL

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PAGE 01 LIMA 06773 01 OF 03 202318Z  
ACTION ARA-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-10	SS-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00
	H-01	MSC-01	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	SSO-00	HA-09	L-03
	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-01	OMB-01	INM-07	INRE-00	USIE-00
	SP-02	SNP-01	C-01	PRS-01	SCT-02	P-02	T-01
	/053 W						

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O 202312Z MAY 88  
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8839  
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
AMEMBASSY ASUNCION  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
DIA WASHDC  
DEAHQS WASHDC

[REDACTED] SECTION 01 OF 03 LIMA 06773

DIA FOR OA-5/OS-1D/DB-6D2/JSI-4B/DB-3C1

DEA FOR OF, PS, OC, OI

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION FOR GARLAND DENNETT

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD JOHN YOULE

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PHUM, PTER, ICRC, PE  
SUBJECT: ALLEGATIONS OF ARMY MASSACRE IN CAYARA, AYACUCHO

REF: LIMA 6705

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PAGE 02 LIMA 06773 01 OF 03 202318Z

1. [REDACTED] - ENTIRE TEXT.

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n/a

Case Number: S200200010

## 2. SUMMARY:

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 IN WHAT IS FAST BECOMING A MAJOR PUBLIC ISSUE, SEVERAL INHABITANTS OF THE AYACUCHO VILLAGE OF CAYARA ALLEGE THAT THE ARMY KILLED BETWEEN 30 AND 100 RESIDENTS THERE MAY 14. THE ARMED FORCES DENY IT, CLAIMING THAT 16 GUERRILLAS DIED IN OR NEAR CAYARA FOLLOWING A MAY 13 SENDERO AMBUSH OF A NEARBY ARMY PATROL. THE MILITARY HAS DENIED ACCESS TO CAYARA BY THE ICRC, REPORTERS, AND HUMAN RIGHTS WORKERS; REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRESIDENT REPORTEDLY HAVE VISITED CAYARA, BUT HAVE NOT MADE PUBLIC STATEMENTS. LED BY PRIME MINISTER VILLANUEVA, THE APRA MAJORITY IN CONGRESS HAS SO FAR BLOCKED OPPOSITION REQUESTS FOR A CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION. IT IS TOO SOON TO JUDGE WHAT HAPPENED IN CAYARA, BUT GOP EFFORTS TO MONOPOLIZE THE INITIAL INVESTIGATION SUGGEST, AT A MINIMUM, THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS UNSURE ITSELF OF THE ARMY VERSION. THE INCIDENT TOOK PLACE TWO DAYS BEFORE THE NEW VILLANUEVA CABINET TOOK OFFICE AND ANNOUNCED A TOUGHER APPROACH TO SUBVERSION. VILLANUEVA IS ASSUMING A HIGH PROFILE ON THE GOP'S HANDLING OF CAYARA, POSSIBLY WITH A VIEW TO WINNING THE TRUST AND CONFIDENCE OF THE MILITARY.  
 END SUMMARY.

3. ALL ACCOUNTS, INCLUDING THE MILITARY'S, BEGIN WITH A MAY 13 AMBUSH BY SL GUERRILLAS  
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PAGE 03 LIMA 06773 01 OF 03 202318Z

OF AN ARMY CONVOY NEAR CAYARA, ABOUT THREE HOURS DRIVE SOUTH OF AYACUCHO ON THE HIGHWAY TO HUANCAPÍ. THE ARMY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT A CAPTAIN AND THREE SOLDIERS DIED IN THAT ATTACK. SEVERAL DAYS LATER, CAYARA INHABITANTS BEGAN TO ARRIVE IN AYACUCHO TO CLAIM THAT, EARLY MAY 14, ARMY PATROLS ENTERED CAYARA AND ORDERED THE INHABITANTS INTO THE TOWN SQUARE. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS,

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Case Number: S200200010

SEVERAL INHABITANTS WHO WERE NOT IN THE SQUARE HEARD SCREAMING, AND SAW SOLDIERS KILL MOST OF THE MEN WHO WERE ASSEMBLED. THE SURVIVORS TOLD THE AYACUCHO PROSECUTOR (FISCAL) THAT AS MANY AS 57 PERSONS ARE DEAD OR PRESUMED DEAD, AND AN ADDITIONAL 18 HAVE DISAPPEARED. (ANOTHER ACCOUNT CLAIMS 47 DEAD AND 50 DISAPPEARED). SOME SENSATIONALIST PRESS ACCOUNTS SAY THE MILITARY BOMBARDED THE TOWN. SURVIVORS SAY THE DEAD INCLUDE CAYARA'S VICE-MAYOR, JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, AND SCHOOL PRINCIPAL; THE DISAPPEARED INCLUDE THE TOWN'S MAYOR AND THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR.

4. IN A MAY 18 COMMUNIQUE, THE MILITARY DENIES THAT SUMMARY EXECUTIONS OCCURRED. THE MILITARY'S VERSION IS THAT FOLLOWING THE MAY 13 AMBUSH, IT SENT PATROLS TO THE AREA TO PURSUE THE GUERRILLAS (THE MILITARY ALSO CLAIMED THAT SIX GUERRILLAS DIED IN THE AMBUSH, AND THAT SEVERAL GUERRILLAS WERE WOUNDED). THE GUERRILLA COLUMN MEANWHILE HAD RETREATED TOWARDS CAYARA. WHEN THE MILITARY ARRIVED AT THE TOWN, THEY FOUND IT ABANDONED,

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PAGE 01 LIMA 06773 02 OF 03 202320Z  
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	PM-10	PA-01	OMB-01	INM-07	INRE-00	USIE-00	SP-02
	SNP-01	C-01	PRS-01	SCT-02	P-02	T-01	/053 W
					-----321466	202346Z	/66

O 202312Z MAY 88  
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8840  
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

n/a

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n/a

Case Number: S200200010

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
AMEMBASSY ASUNCION  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
DIA WASHDC  
DEAHQS WASHDC

[REDACTED] SECTION 02 OF 03 LIMA 06773

DIA FOR OA-5/OS-1D/DB-6D2/JSI-4B/DB-3C1

DEA FOR OF, PS, OC, OI

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION FOR GARLAND DENNETT

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD JOHN YOULE

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PHUM, PTER, ICRC, PE

SUBJECT: ALLEGATIONS OF ARMY MASSACRE IN CAYARA, AYACUCHO

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SEVERAL CHILDREN AND  
OLD PERSONS. THE LATTER SHOWING THE MILITARY  
THAT THERE WERE FOUR BODIES IN THE VILLAGE

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PAGE 02 LIMA 06773 02 OF 03 202320Z

CHURCH. AFTERWARDS, SAY THE MILITARY, THERE  
WERE SEVERAL SHOOT-OUTS WITH GUERRILLAS IN THE  
IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF CAYARA, IN WHICH THERE  
WERE UNCONFIRMED LOSSES BY THE GUERRILLAS.  
THE COMMUNIQUE NOTES THAT THE AYACUCHO FISCAL  
WAS INFORMED SO THAT HE COULD CARRY OUT THE  
APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTION. THE COMMUNIQUE  
ENDS BY SAYING THERE IS NO TRUTH TO ALLEGATIONS  
OF A LARGE LOSS OF LIFE AMONG CAYARA RESIDENTS,  
OR OF A MILITARY BOMBARDMENT OF CAYARA.  
THESE ALLEGATIONS, IT CONTINUES, ARE DESIGNED  
TO IMPEDE THE EFFORTS OF THE SECURITY FORCES  
TO CAPTURE THE GUERRILLAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE  
MAY 13 AMBUSH. SUBSEQUENT PRESS REPORTS  
CLAIM THE MILITARY SAY THAT 16 GUERRILLAS  
DIED NEAR CAYARA.

5. INITIAL ATTEMPTS BY HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICIALS

n/a

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n/a

Case Number: S200200010

AND REPORTERS IN AYACUCHO TO INVESTIGATE THE ALLEGATIONS HAVE BEEN FRUSTRATED BY THE MILITARY'S REFUSAL TO PERMIT ROAD TRAVEL TO THE ZONE BY OUTSIDERS. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) SUBDELEGATE IN AYACUCHO (PROTECT) TOLD US MAY 20 THAT THE MILITARY DENIED PERMISSION FOR THE ICRC TO VISIT CAYARA. AYACUCHO VICE MAYOR JAIME URRUTIA AND RAUL RODRIGUEZ (WHO HEADS INDA, AN INDEPENDENT DEVELOPMENT GROUP THAT OPERATES IN NEARBY HUANCAPI) ALSO TOLD US THAT REPORTERS SO FAR HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO GET PAST MILITARY CHECKPOINTS. RODRIGUEZ COMPLAINED THAT PERSONNEL FROM HIS OFFICE WHO REGULARLY TRAVEL BETWEEN AYACUCHO AND HUANCAPI WERE ALSO

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PAGE 03 LIMA 06773 02 OF 03 202320Z

DENIED ACCESS BY THE MILITARY. RODRIGUEZ, WHO HAD EITHER TALKED DIRECTLY TO THE CAYARA RESIDENTS MAKING THE ALLEGATIONS OR TO PEOPLE WHO HAD INTERVIEWED THE RESIDENTS, TOLD US HE BELIEVED THE MILITARY HAD IN FACT EXECUTED PEOPLE IN CAYARA IN REPRISAL FOR THE MAY 13 AMBUSH; HE PLACED THE DEATH TOLL AT ABOUT 30. URRUTIA ALSO ACCEPTED ALLEGATIONS OF AN ARMY MASSACRE.

6. THE STATUS OF EFFORTS BY AYACUCHO SPECIAL PROSECUTOR (FISCAL) CARLOS ESCOBAR IS UNCLEAR. INITIAL REPORTS HAVE THE MILITARY REFUSING HIM LOGISTICAL SUPPORT TO TRAVEL TO CAYARA; SUBSEQUENT REPORTS ARE THAT THE MILITARY IS READY TO HELP HIM. ONE PRESS STORY NOTES THAT ESCOBAR'S MANDATE IS TO INVESTIGATE DISAPPEARANCES, NOT EXECUTIONS; ANOTHER ACCOUNT CLAIMS THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (FISCAL SUPREMO) AMENDED ESCOBAR'S MANDATE ACCORDINGLY. ESCOBAR HAS A REPUTATION FOR HONESTY AND COULD CONDUCT A REASONABLY IMPARTIAL INVESTIGATION IF PERMITTED ACCESS TO THE SCENE.

7. OPPOSITION PARTIES, PARTICULARLY THE UNITED

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Case Number: S200200010

LEFT (IU), HAVE CALLED FOR THE FORMATION OF A CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATORY COMMISSION. PRIME MINISTER VILLANUEVA RETURNED TO HIS SENATE SEAT MAY 19 TO ASK THE CONGRESS TO WITHHOLD ANY ACTION FOR AT LEAST FIVE DAYS, WHILE THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND THE ARMED FORCES CONDUCT THEIR OWN INVESTIGATIONS. VILLANUEVA POINTED TO THE MILITARY COMMUNIQUE

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PAGE 01 LIMA 06773 03 OF 03 202320Z  
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-----321473 202346Z /66

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8841  
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
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AMEMBASSY QUITO  
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 SUBJECT: ALLEGATIONS OF ARMY MASSACRE IN CAYARA, AYACUCHO

AS SOLID INDICATION THAT NO MASSACRE HAS  
 OCCURRED. THE APRISTA MAJORITY BACKED UP  
 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]

PAGE 02 LIMA 06773 03 OF 03 202320Z

VILLANUEVA AND DID NOT NAME A SPECIAL COM-  
 MISSION. FOUR OR FIVE IU CONGRESSMEN REPORT-  
 EDLY TRAVELLED MAY 20 TO AYACUCHO TO CARRY  
 OUT THEIR OWN INVESTIGATION.

8. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, PRESIDENT GARCIA  
 SENT SEVERAL PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES (UNIDEN-  
 TIFIED) BY MILITARY HELICOPTER TO CAYARA ON  
 MAY 19. GARCIA'S ENVOYS MADE NO PUBLIC STATE-  
 MENTS ABOUT THEIR TRIP.

9. COMMENT:

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 THE CAYARA CASE SHOWS EVERY SIGN IT WILL BECOME  
 A MAJOR ISSUE FOR THE GOP AND A TEST OF THE  
 VILLANUEVA CABINET. ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO  
 CONFIRMED INFORMATION AS YET, PAST CASES OF  
 MILITARY SUMMARY EXECUTIONS (INCLUDING  
 ACCOMARCA IN 1985, PARCO/POMATAMBO IN 1986)  
 SUGGEST THAT ACCUSATIONS OF AN ARMY MASSACRE  
 ARE WITHIN THE REALM OF THE POSSIBLE. EFFORTS  
 BY THE MILITARY TO DENY ACCESS TO CAYARA BY  
 INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATORS, AND THE GOP'S  
 MANEUVERS TO POSTPONE OR BLOCK A CONGRESSIONAL  
 INVESTIGATION, LEND CREDIBILITY TO THE  
 ACCUSATIONS. AT A MINIMUM, THEY SUGGEST THAT  
 THE GOP IS UNCERTAIN OF THE ARMY'S PUBLIC  
 VERSION.

10. PRIME MINISTER VILLANUEVA HAS ASSUMED A  
 HIGH PROFILE ON THE GOP'S RESPONSE. ALTHOUGH  
 THE ALLEGED MASSACRE DID NOT OCCUR ON HIS  
 WATCH (HE WAS SWORN IN MAY 16), HIS INITIAL  
 [REDACTED]

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n/a

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Page: 8

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n/a

Case Number: S200200010

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PAGE 03 LIMA 06773 03 OF 03 202320Z

PUBLIC STATEMENTS (REF) INDICATED A TOUGHER  
STANCE ON TERRORISM. BY STANDING BY THE  
MILITARY AT THIS TIME, HE MAY BE BUILDING UP  
A FEW IOU'S FROM THE ARMED FORCES FOR HIMSELF  
AND THE GOP.

WATSON

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Page: 8

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Document: L000001.....Printed 8 page(s)