

Case Number: S200200010

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ACTION ARA-00

INFO

)	LOG-00 MSC-01 PM-10 SP-02 P-02	ADS-00 NSCE-00 PA-01 SNP-01 T-01	AID-00 NSAE-00 OMB-01 C-01 /054 W	INR-10 SSO-00 INM-07 PRS-01	SS-00 HA-09 INRE-00 DS-01	CIAE-00 L-03 ANAE-00 DSE-00	H-01 TRSE-00 USIE-00 SCT-02
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O 242307Z MAY 88 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8893

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ AMEMBASSY OUITO

USAFSO HOWARD AFB PM USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CARACAS DEAHQS WASHDC DIA WASHDC AMEMBASSY ASUNCION RELEASED IN PART B1, 1.5(D)

SECTION 01 OF 04 LIMA 06901

ASUNCION FOR GARLAND DENNETT

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

DEA FOR OF, PS, OC, OI

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD JOHN YOULE

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PHUM, PTER, PE

SUBJECT: GROWING INDICATIONS OF ARMY SUMMARY

EXECUTIONS AT CAYARA

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REF: LIMA 6773

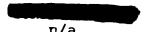
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM E. LANDFAIR

DATE/CASE ID: 29 JUL 2002 S200200010

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 25X1



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1. SUMMARY:

THERE ARE MOUNTING INDICATIONS THAT THE ARMY CARRIED OUT SUMMARY EXECUTIONS MAY 14 IN CAYARA (REF). PAST THREE DAYS SAW A FLURRY OF REPORTS. PRESS ARTICLES MAY 20, SOURCED TO THE ARMY, CLAIMED THAT 300 CAYARA RESIDENTS TOOK PART IN THE MAY 13 AMBUSH OF AN ARMY CONVOY. THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE ISSUED A STATEMENT MAY 21 THAT DENIED A MASSACRE OCCURRED, BASED ON A HIGH-LEVEL VISIT TO CAYARA THAT DAY. THE TUNE BEGAN TO CHANGE MAY 22. PRESIDENT GARCIA MADE A SURPRISE TRIP TO CAYARA THAT DAY; DESPITE FULSOME PRAISE FOR THE MILITARY, GARCIA HELD OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF A MASSACRE. VILLANUEVA'S OFFICE UPDATED ITS EARLIER STATEMENT TO INCLUDE DETAILED ALLEGATIONS BY CAYARA RESIDENTS THAT THE KILLINGS HAD OCCURRED OUTSIDE THE TOWN AT JECCHUA. AYACUCHO SPECIAL PROSECUTOR ESCOBAR RETURNED FROM CAYARA AND TOLD PRESS MAY 22 THAT THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT SOLDIERS HAD EXECUTED 20 TO 30 PERSONS.

ON MAY 23 ESCOBAR ANNOUNCED HE FOUND 28 BODIES IN THREE UNMARKED GRAVES NEAR CAYARA. LATER THAT DAY CONGRESS NAMED A COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE. VILLANUEVA REITERATED HIS CALL FOR A JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION, WHILE GARCIA USED A MAY 23 APRA SPEECH TO REPEAT HIS PRAISE FOR THE MILITARY. THE MILITARY CONTINUES TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS, ICRC, AND HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS FROM CAYARA. IT IS UNCLEAR WHY GARCIA FEELS OBLIGED TO TAKE A HIGH PROFILE ON THE KILLINGS. POSSIBLY HE FELT UPSTAGED BY HIS PRIME MINISTER. THE MILITARY IS FRUSTRATED IN COUNTERINSURGENCY AND PUTS THE BLAME PARTLY ON HUMAN

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RIGHTS CONCERNS. THE GOP'S HANDLING OF CAYARA WILL REMAIN IMPORTANT FOR CIVIL-MILITARY RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

3. (U) THERE WAS A FLURRY OF GOP VISITS TO CAYARA AND OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUES ON THE ALLEGED MAY 14 MASSACRE THERE OF INHABITANTS BY ARMY PATROLS (REF). IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER, DEVELOPMENTS WERE:

n/a

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4. (U) ADDITIONAL ARMY BACKGROUND ON EVENTS:

SEVERAL LIMA DAILIES CARRIED REPORTS MAY 21 ON CAYARA ATTRIBUTED TO MILITARY SOURCES. THE ARMY VERSION CONTAINS AN ALLEGATION, OMITTED IN EARLIER GOP COMMUNIQUES, THAT UP TO 300 RESIDENTS OF CAYARA HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE MAY 13 AMBUSH OF AN ARMY PATROL NEAR CAYARA. WHEN ARMY PATROLS ARRIVED, THEY TRACKED THE ATTACKERS TO CAYARA, AND ENGAGED IN SHOOTOUTS. THE REPORTS PLACED NO NUMBER ON PRESUMED GUERRILLA CASUALTIES; THE IMPLICATION WAS THAT ANY PERSONS WHO DIED IN CAYARA WERE GUERRILLAS.

5. (U) MINISTERIAL VISIT TO CAYARA; GOP DENIALS OF MASSACRE:

ON MAY 21 THE GOP SENT A HIGH-LEVEL GROUP TO VISIT CAYARA. ITS MEMBERS WERE DEFENSE MINISTER GENERAL (RET) ENRIQUE LOPEZ ALBUJAR, JUSTICE MINISTER CAMILO CARRILLO, LIMA AUXILIARY BISHOP MONSIGNOR BEAUZEVILLE, AND LIMA BAR ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT RAUL FERRERO COSTA. BASED ON THEIR TRIP, PRIME MINISTER ARMANDO VILLANUEVA ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE THAT CATEGORICALLY DENIED REPORTS OF A MASSACRE OR ARMY WRONGDOING.

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INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00 H-01 MSC-01 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 HA-09 L-03TRSE-00 PM-10 PA-01 OMB-01 INM-07 INRE-00 ANAE-00 USIE-00 SP-02 SNP-01 C-01 PRS-01 DS-01 DSE-00 SCT-02 P-02 T-01 /054 W

O 242307Z MAY 88

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8894
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY OUITO

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USAFSO HOWARD AFB PM USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES AMEMBASSY CARACAS DEAHQS WASHDC DIA WASHDC AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

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ASUNCION FOR GARLAND DENNETT

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

DEA FOR OF, PS, OC, OI

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD JOHN YOULE

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6. FLIES IN THE OINTMENT:

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FERRERO COSTA (PROTECT) WAS DISTURBED BY THE COMMUNIQUE, WHICH HE TOLD US WAS RELEASED WITHOUT HIS KNOWLEDGE. THE GROUP DID NOT SEE ANY SIGNS OF VIOLENCE IN CAYARA, HE SAID, BUT THERE WERE SUFFICIENT REPORTS OF KILLINGS BY SOLDIERS OF TOWNSPEOPLE IN THE NEARBY COUNTRYSIDE (NOTE: IN A PLACE CALLED JECCHUA) TO WARRANT A SERIOUS INVESTIGATION. HE TOLD US HE COMPLAINED TO VILLANUEVA THAT THE GOP COMMUNIQUE WAS "INCOMPLETE AND IMPRECISE" AND THAT IF THIS WERE NOT CORRECTED, HE (FERRERO COSTA) AND BEAUZEVILLE WOULD SPEAK OUT. VILLANUEVA REPORTEDLY AGREED TO ADDRESS FERRERO COSTA'S CONCERN.

(U) SPECIAL PROSECUTOR SAYS MASSACRE LIKELY:

ON MAY 22, THE AYACUCHO SPECIAL PROSECUTOR (FISCAL)

n/a

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FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, CARLOS ESCOBAR, REPORTED ON HIS VISIT TO CAYARA MAY 20-21. HE TOLD THE PRESS THAT WHILE HE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO FIND ANY BODIES IN CAYARA OR TO CHECK THE NEARBY COUNTRY-SIDE, THERE WERE NUMEROUS INDICATIONS THAT SOLDIERS HAD EXECUTED 20 TO 30 TOWNSPEOPLE IN JECCHUA.

8. (U) GARCIA VISIT TO CAYARA:

ON MAY 22 THE PRESIDENT MADE A SURPRISE TRIP TO AYACUCHO AND CAYARA. IN SUBSEQUENT STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS, GARCIA EMPHASIZED HIS SUPPORT FOR THE ARMY'S COUNTERINSURGENCY EFFORTS IN AYACUCHO,

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AND PAID HOMAGE TO THE SOLDIERS WHO DIED IN THE MAY 13 AMBUSH. BUT HE ALSO HELD OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT EXCESSES HAD OCCURRED IN CAYARA, AND SAID GOP AUTHORITIES WERE CONTINUING TO INVESTIGATE. IN AN APPARENT DEMONSTRATION OF EVENHANDEDNESS, HE REITERATED HIS SUPPORT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, BUT BLASTED JOURNALISTS HERE AND ABROAD WHO WERE INTERESTED ONLY IN GOP VIOLATIONS.

9. (U) THE GOP CORRECTS ITSELF:

ALSO ON MAY 22, VILLANUEVA'S OFFICE ISSUED AN ADDITIONAL COMMUNIQUE ON THE FINDINGS OF THE MAY 21 MINISTERIAL VISIT TO CAYARA. THE NEW STATEMENT ADDED THAT THE GROUP HAD RECEIVED TESTIMONY FROM CAYARA RESIDENTS THAT THE ALLEGED MASSACRE HAD OCCURRED AT JECCHUA, ONE AND A HALF HOURS FROM CAYARA. THE STATEMENT NOTED THAT THIS INFORMATION HAD BEEN PROVIDED TO THE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR, AND THAT THE MILITARY HAD BEEN ORDERED TO ASSIST THE JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION.

10. (U) MARXIST CONGRESSMEN VISIT:

FIVE MARXIST CONGRESSMEN VISITED CAYARA MAY 21.

n/a

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THEY REITERATED INITIAL VERSIONS OF AN ARMY MASSACRE BASED ON INTERVIEWS WITH SURVIVORS, BUT WERE UNABLE TO OFFER ADDITIONAL PROOF.

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O 242307Z MAY 88
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8895
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
USAFSO HOWARD AFB PM
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
DEAHQS WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

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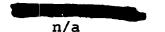
ASUNCION FOR GARLAND DENNETT

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DEA FOR OF, PS, OC, OI

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD JOHN YOULE

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NOR HAS THE MILITARY

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PERMITTED JOURNALISTS OR LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS REPRESENTATIVES TO TRAVEL THERE.

12. (U) SPECIAL PROSECUTOR FINDS BODIES:

ON MAY 23 ESCOBAR TOLD THE PRESS HE HAD LOCATED 28 BODIES IN OR NEAR CAYARA, LOCATED IN THREE SEPARATE UNMARKED GRAVES. THE PERSONS APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN KILLED RECENTLY. ESCOBAR ASKED FOR TECHNICAL AND FORENSIC ASSISTANCE FROM LIMA TO PURSUE THE INVESTIGATION.

13. (U) CONGRESS NAMES COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE:

CONGRESS AGREED MAY 23 TO NAME A SPECIAL INVESTIGATORY COMMISSION ON CAYARA. COMPOSED OF SEVEN SENATORS AND SEVEN CONGRESSMEN, IT HAS AN APRISTA MAJORITY (8), BUT ALSO INCLUDES MEMBERS OF ALL OPPOSITION PARTIES. THE COMMISSION REPORTEDLY AGREED TO INVITE DEFENSE MINISTER LOPEZ ALBUJAR TO TESTIFY. MARXIST MEMBERS ANNOUNCED THEY WILL CALL FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE AYACUCHO POLITICAL MILITARY COMMANDER. DURING THE DEBATE, VILLANUEVA READ FOR THE RECORD HIS MAY 23 LETTER TO PERU'S CHIEF PROSECUTOR (FISCAL GENERAL) HUGO DENEGRI, IN WHICH HE CALLED FOR AN IMMEDIATE AND DETAILED INVESTIGATION OF THE DEATHS AT CAYARA.

14. (U) GARCIA REITERATES SUPPORT FOR THE MILITARY:

DURING HIS MAY 23 BIRTHDAY ADDRESS AT APRA HEADQUARTERS, GARCIA REPEATED HIS PRAISE FOR THE MILITARY'S DEFENSE OF DEMOCRACY AGAINST SENDERO, EMPHASIZED ITS PATRIOTISM, AND AFFIRMED THAT ERRORS BY CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS WOULD NOT AFFECT THE INTEGRITY OF THE MILITARY AS AN INSTI-

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TUTION.

15. COMMENT:

IT IS INCREASINGLY LIKELY THAT ARMY PATROLS DID SUMMARILY EXECUTE AT LEAST 20 TO 30 PERSONS AT OR NEAR CAYARA ON MAY 14. WE BASE THIS ON ESCOBAR'S STATEMENTS (HE IS KNOWN AS A STRAIGHT ARROW), THE TESTIMONY OF ALLEGED EYEWITNESSES, THE MILITARY'S EFFORTS TO EXCLUDE INDEPENDENT OBSERVERS AND INVESTIGATORS, AND THE GOP'S SHIFTING ACCOUNTS OF EVENTS. SOME OF THE VICTIMS MAY HAVE BEEN SL MEMBERS OR SUPPORTERS, BUT SO FAR THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THE VICTIMS DIED IN A SHOOTOUT.

WE ARE UNSURE WHY GARCIA FELT OBLIGED TO RAISE HIS OWN PROFILE ON THIS ISSUE BY VISITING CAYARA. IT IS PRECISELY THIS KIND OF GRANDSTANDING THAT RANKLES THE MILITARY, EVEN WHEN THE PRESIDENT THROWS IN PRAISE FOR THE MILITARY. POSSIBLY GARCIA WAS THINKING OF HIS IMAGE OVERSEAS; POSSIBLY HE WAS UNWILLING TO SEE VILLANUEVA REMAIN ON CENTER STAGE (GARCIA HAS A PROVEN RECORD FOR UPSTAGING HIS PRIME MINISTERS); POSSIBLY HE WANTED TO SHOW THAT HE IS IN CHARGE AMID THE CONFUSION RELFECTED IN HIS GOVERNMENT'S COMMUNIQUES.

17. SO FAR WE HAVE NO READOUT ON THE MILITARY'S REACTION TO GARCIA'S VISIT TO CAYARA, RECENT GOP COMMUNIQUES, AND THE FORTHCOMING INVESTIGATION BY CONGRESS. IN THE PAST, GARCIA HAS TAKEN TOUGH POSTURES ON HUMAN RIGHTS BUT HAS NOT INSISTED THAT MILITARY VIOLATORS BE PUNISHED. EVEN SO, THE MILITARY IS INCREASINGLY FRUSTRATED BY ITS LACK OF SUCCESS IN COUNTERINSURGENCY, WHICH IT BLAMES PARTLY ON HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS, AND IT MAY REACT STRONGLY TO EVEN IMPLICIT PRESIDENTIAL CRITICISM. THE CONGRESSIONAL

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O 242307Z MAY 88

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8896
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INVESTIGATION PROMISES TO BE CONTROVERSIAL AND WILL KEEP

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MEDIA ATTENTION ON THE KILLINGS. IN ANY CASE, WE

n/a

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n/a

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EXPECT THE GOP'S HANDLING OF CAYARA TO REMAIN IMPORTANT FOR CIVIL-MILITARY RELATIONS. WATSON

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