

L7

[REDACTED]

n/a

Case Number: S200200010

[REDACTED]

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ACTION ARA-00

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 H-01 HA-09 /010 W  
-----302753 060645Z /20

R 052238Z AUG 88  
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0669

[REDACTED] LIMA 10272

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PHUM, PE  
SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE: CAYARA INCIDENT

REF: STATE 244337

1. YOUR PROPOSED RESPONSE ON THE CAYARA INCIDENT IS  
GENERALLY FINE, AND WE APPRECIATE THE NEED NOT TO LOCK  
OURSELVES INTO A POSITION ON WHAT HAPPENED WHILE  
INVESTIGATIONS ARE STILL UNDERWAY. WE NONETHELESS  
THINK SOME REWORKING TO PROVIDE A BIT MORE INFORMATION  
IS POSSIBLE.

2. WE SUGGEST REVISING SECOND SENTENCE OF THE FIRST  
PARAGRAPH TO READ: THE PERUVIAN ARMY IS ALLEGED TO HAVE  
KILLED AT LEAST 28 VILLAGERS DURING OPERATIONS THAT  
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED A MAY 13 AMBUSH, NEAR CAYARA, OF  
A MILITARY CONVOY. FOUR SOLDIERS WERE KILLED IN THAT  
AMBUSH. THE AMBUSH AND AFTERMATH WERE PROMINENT  
NEWS IN PERU AND OUR EMBASSY IN LIMA HAS FOLLOWED THE  
SITUATION CLOSELY. END 1ST PARA. 2ND PARA AS  
FOLLOWS:

SEVERAL FACTORS IMPEDE A COMPLETE, PROMPT AND  
BJECTIVE INVESTIGATION, HOWEVER. THE DEPARTMENT OF  
YACUCHO IS DESIGNATED AN EMERGENCY ZONE AND AS SUCH  
S UNDER THE LEGAL CONTROL OF THE MILITARY, WHO HAVE  
RESTRICTED ACCESS TO THE AREA BY THE PRESS AND INDEPEN-

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ENT OBSERVERS. MOREOVER, CAYARA IS DIFFICULT TO

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n/a

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EACH AND COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE VILLAGE ARE EXTREMELY  
OOR. THUS, AS YET THERE IS NO CONSENSUS AS TO WHAT  
CTUALLY HAPPENED.

## 4. NEW THIRD PARA:

INITIAL CHARGES THAT AS MANY AS 100 (OR 57, ACCORDING TO  
ANOTHER ASSERTION) PEOPLE WERE KILLED DO NOT APPEAR TO BE  
TRUE, BUT IT DOES APPEAR THAT SOME 28 VILLAGERS WERE  
KILLED. A FRESH GRAVESITE CONTAINING BITS OF HAIR AND  
SCRAPS OF BLOOD-STAINED CLOTHING WAS FOUND, BUT THE  
BODIES HAD BEEN REMOVED. PEOPLE CLAIMING TO HAVE WITNES-  
SED AT LEAST SOME OF THE KILLINGS DISAPPEARED AROUND THE  
END OF JUNE, POSSIBLY INTO MILITARY CUSTODY; THE MILITARY  
DENIES HAVING THEM IN CUSTODY.

## 5. NEW FOURTH PARA:

THE GOVERNMENT OF PERU HAS PROMISED A FULL INVESTIGATION  
AND APPOINTED A BIPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSION TO  
THAT END. THE COMMISSION HAS VISITED CAYARA AT LEAST  
ONCE, BUT HAS NOT YET ISSUED A FORMAL REPORT. THE  
PROSECUTOR IN AYACUCHO, WHO ENJOYS A FAVORABLE REPUTATION  
AMONG PERUVIAN HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS, IS ACTIVELY  
INVESTIGATING AND HAS PUBLICLY STATED THAT HE BELIEVES  
28 VILLAGERS WERE KILLED BY THE MILITARY.

6. WE SUGGEST REVISING SECOND SENTENCE OF THE LAST  
PARA TO READ: "...WE WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW ALL  
EFFORTS TO INVESTIGATE THIS MATTER AND IT WILL BE DEALT  
WITH IN THE DEPARTMENT'S COUNTRY REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
PRACTICES FOR 1988."  
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[REDACTED]

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WATSON  
[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]  
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