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Case Number: S200200010

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ARA/AND, HA/HR

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R 271853Z OCT 88  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY LIMA

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FOR DCM FROM ARA/AND

E.O. 12356: N/A  
TAGS: PHUM PE  
SUBJECT: AMERICAS WATCH REPORT ON PERU

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY AMERICAS WATCH TO BE RELEASED ON OCTOBER 30 DESCRIBING THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON PERU. THE FULL TEXT OF THE REPORT (SLIGHTLY IN EXCESS OF 100 PAGES) IS BEING SENT TO YOU VIA APO.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

IN "TOLERATING ABUSES: VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN PERU," A 109-PAGE REPORT RELEASED TODAY, AMERICAS WATCH CONCLUDES THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT ALAN GARCIA HAS FAILED, IN ITS THREE YEARS IN OFFICE, TO AFFIRM DEMOCRATIC AUTHORITY OVER THE MILITARY, LEADING TO NO SUBSTANTIAL

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IMPROVEMENT IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION. CIVILIAN LEADERS HAVE TOLERATED THE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS WHICH

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM E. LANDFAIR  
DATE/CASE ID: 29 JUL 2002 S200200010

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SECTORS OF THE SECURITY FORCES MAINTAIN TO BE A NECESSARY CONCOMITANT OF WAR. SINCE 1980, WHEN THE MAOIST EXTREMIST GROUP SENDERO LUMINOSO (SHINING PATH) INITIATED ITS ARMED CONFRONTATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL VIOLENCE HAS SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, CLAIMING THOUSANDS OF VICTIMS.

IN THE PERIOD COVERED BY THIS FIFTH AMERICAS WATCH REPORT ON PERU, THERE WAS A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE MOST SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE LAWS OF WAR. AMONG THEM:

- THE MILITARY'S PRACTICE OF CAUSING FORCED DISAPPEARANCES HAS CONTINUED, PRIMARILY IN THE AYACUCHO EMERGENCY ZONE.

- THE ARMY HAS COMMITTED ADDITIONAL MASSACRES OF PEASANTS IN THE EMERGENCY ZONE, MOST NOTORIOUSLY THE MURDER OF 29 RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGE OF CAYARA, AYACUCHO ON MAY 14, 1988.

- THE INSURGENT GROUPS, ESPECIALLY SENDERO LUMINOSO, CONTINUE TO ENGAGE IN A DELIBERATE PRACTICE OF SELECTIVE MURDERS, IN BOTH THE COUNTRYSIDE AND THE CITIES. THEY ALSO CONTINUE TO PLACE EXPLOSIVES IN PUBLIC PLACES.

- TORTURE AT THE HANDS OF SECURITY FORCES REMAINS A REGULAR METHOD FOR INTERROGATING ALL DETAINEES -- THOSE SUSPECTED OF TERRORISM AS WELL AS THOSE SUSPECTED OF COMMON OFFENSES.

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- THE GOVERNMENT HAS RESTRICTED THE WORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS, PROHIBITING ACCESS TO THE AYACUCHO AREA WHERE THE RURAL POPULATION HAS BEEN DISPLACED OR OTHERWISE AFFECTED BY THE WAR. REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS, HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS, AND JOURNALISTS HAVE ALSO BEEN BARRED FROM THE REGION.

- MILITARY JURISDICTION CONTINUES TO BE THE PRETEXT FOR THE EFFECTIVE IMPUNITY ENJOYED BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE ARMED

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FORCES WHO COMMIT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. TO A LESSER DEGREE, THE SAME IS TRUE FOR ABUSES COMMITTED BY THE POLICE.

IN THIS BLEAK PICTURE THERE ARE TWO BRIGHT SPOTS THAT MUST BE NOTED:

- THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS APPOINTED A SPECIAL "COMMISSIONER" OR PROSECUTOR, CARLOS ESCOBAR PINEDA, TO INVESTIGATE DISAPPEARANCES IN THE EMERGENCY ZONE. ESCOBAR HAS UNDERTAKEN AN INVESTIGATIVE EFFORT THAT IS UNIQUE IN ITS EFFECTIVENESS.

- THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE PRISON MASSACRES IN LIMA AND CALLAO ON JUNE 18 AND 19, 1986, CHAIRED BY SENATOR ROLANDO AMES, CONDUCTED A SERIOUS AND SEARCHING INVESTIGATION INTO THIS MOST BLOODY EPISODE IN RECENT PERUVIAN HISTORY, AND PRODUCED A REVEALING AND CAREFULLY DOCUMENTED REPORT ON THE UNFOLDING OF THE TRAGIC EVENTS.

IN THE VIEW OF AMERICAS WATCH, THE GARCIA GOVERNMENT'S TOLERANCE OF GROSS ABUSES OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS MORE AND MORE APPARENT. THE CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THIS INACTION AND COMPLACENCY, AND FOR ITS ACQUIESCENCE IN THE SERIOUS CRIMES COMMITTED BY THE ARMED FORCES IN THE NAME OF DEFENDING THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM.

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AMERICAS WATCH MONITORS AND PROMOTES HUMAN RIGHTS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN. THE CHAIRMAN IS ADRIAN DEWIND, AND THE VICE CHAIRMEN ARE STEPHEN KASS AND ARYEH NEIER. THIS REPORT WAS WRITTEN BY JUAN MENDEZ, DIRECTOR OF THE WASHINGTON OFFICE OF AMERICAS WATCH, AFTER A JULY 1988 MISSION TO PERU.

AMERICAS WATCH, ASIA WATCH AND HELSINKI WATCH TOGETHER COMPRISE HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH. AFRICA WATCH AND MIDDLE EAST WATCH ARE IN FORMATION. END TEXT.  
SHULTZ

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