

UNCLASSIFIED

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Case Number: S200200010

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B1, 1.5(D)

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ACTION SCT-03

PAGES MISSING

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	CA-02	CCO-00	CG-00	SJK-01	COME-00	CTME-00	ZOVD-00
	DOEE-00	DS-00	EB-01	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	IMMC-01	INRE-00
	INR-01	INSE-00	IO-05	L-02	M-01	NRCE-00	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OIS-01	PA-01	PM-01	P-02	SSO-00
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P 021452Z APR 91
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6504
INFO RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
USMISSION GENEVA 1663
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 2422
USAFSO HOWARD AFB PM
DEPTJUSTICE WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM
USIA WASHDC 3813
CIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC

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USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD
JUSTICE FOR ICITAP - KRISKOVITCH, GARRETSON, DIAZ

TERREP

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EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, PHUM, ASEC, PE
SUBJECT: POLICE COMMANDER, JUAN CARLOS MEJIA LEON,
- ACCUSED IN BOMBING OF LIMA HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE

REF: A) LIMA 3400 B) LIMA 3465
C) ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

B1

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM E. LANDFAIR
DATE/CASE ID: 16 JUL 2002 S200200010
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 25X6
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 2 APR 2017

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n/a

Case Number: S200200010

1. [REDACTED] - ENTIRE TEXT. *
2. SUMMARY: PERUVIAN NATIONAL POLICE COMMANDER, COMANDANTE JUAN CARLOS MEJIA LEON, IS THE PRIME PUBLIC SUSPECT IN THE MARCH 15 LIMA BOMBING OF THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. POST BELIEVES INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION ARE UNLIKELY WITHOUT STRONG OUTSIDE PRESSURE. SEE ACTION REQUESTS, PARA 17. END SUMMARY.
3. EVEN AS THE CONTROVERSY CONTINUES TO SWIRL AROUND THE MARCH 15 LETTER-BOMBING (REFTELS) WHICH INJURED DR. AUGUSTO ZUNIGA PAZ OF LIMA'S COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (COMISEDH), A NUMBER OF FACTS AND ASSERTIONS HAVE COME INTO SHARP FOCUS. PUBLIC ACCUSATIONS OF CULPABILITY CENTER ON PERUVIAN NATIONAL POLICE COMANDANTE JUAN CARLOS MEJIA LEON (POLICIA GENERAL). THE CHIEF FACTS AND ASSERTIONS IN THE CASE ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW.

THE BOMBING'S ANTECEDENTS

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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4. DR. ZUNIGA IS THE ATTORNEY PURSUING THE CASE OF THE OCT. 21 "DISAPPEARANCE" OF CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY STUDENT ERNESTO CASTILLO PAEZ AT THE HANDS OF POLICIA GENERAL ELEMENTS DURING A DAYTIME RAID IN VILLA EL SALVADOR. THE ACCUSED POLICE OFFICIAL: COMANDANTE JUAN CARLOS MEJIA LEON. FUJIMORI PROMISED A VISITING DELEGATION OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN NOVEMBER THAT HE WOULD "FOLLOW THE CASE TO ITS LOGICAL CONCLUSION, WHEREVER IT LEADS."

5. THE EVIDENCE AGAINST MEJIA IN THE DISAPPEARANCE OF CASTILLO IS PRETTY DAMNING: THE MINISTRY ACKNOWLEDGED MEJIA LED THE POLICE OPERATION THAT DAY IN VILLA EL SALVADOR. WITNESSES SAW CASTILLO FORCED INTO A POLICE CAR TRUNK. THE LOCAL POLICE STATION'S REGISTRY OF DETAINEES IS MISSING FOR THE DAY IN QUESTION. "SI" MAGAZINE RECENTLY QUOTED ANONYMOUS COPS AS SAYING MEJIA TOOK CASTILLO TO AN ISOLATED BEACH AND BLEW HIM UP WITH 4 DYNAMITE CHARGES. [REDACTED]

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CHARACTERIZED CASTILLO AS "A MEMBER OF THE MRTA".

6. THE LEGAL CASE AGAINST MEJIA PREVIOUSLY HAD BEEN UPHELD BY THE COURTS OF FIRST AND SECOND INSTANCE - A PERUVIAN FIRST FOR A HABEAS CORPUS CASE. THE SUPERIOR COURT HAD ORDERED THAT A CRIMINAL PROSECUTION BE OPENED AGAINST MEJIA AND OTHER IMPLICATED POLICE PERSONNEL. IT ALSO SENT ITS FINDINGS TO THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES, RECOMMENDING THAT A CONSTITUTIONAL CHARGE BE BROUGHT AGAINST INTERIOR MINISTER ADOLFO ALVARADO FOURNIER.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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7. IN FEB. 1 PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT, ZUNIGA ANNOUNCED THAT THERE WERE THREATS ON HIS LIFE IN RELATION TO THE CASTILLO CASE. ZUNIGA TERMED THESE THE FIRST DEATH THREATS HE HAD EVER RECEIVED AS A HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER. HE TOLD THE COURT, "IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO MY SON, MY WIFE, OR ME, I HOLD THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR RESPONSIBLE."

THE BLAST AND ITS AFTERMATH

[REDACTED]
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INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-05	ADS-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	ARA-01	A-01
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	DOEE-00	DS-00	EB-01	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	IMMC-01	INRE-00
	INR-01	INSE-00	IO-05	L-02	M-01	NRCE-00	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OIS-01	PA-01	PM-01	P-02	SSO-00
	SS-01	TRSE-00	USSS-00	/034W			

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PM AMEMBASSY LIMA

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6505
INFO RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
USMISSION GENEVA 1664
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 2423
USAFSO HOWARD AFB PM
DEPTJUSTICE WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM
USIA WASHDC 3814
CIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC

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USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD
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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, PHUM, ASEC, PE
SUBJECT: POLICE COMMANDER, JUAN CARLOS MEJIA LEON,

8. ZUNIGA OPENED THE HAND-DELIVERED LETTER-BOMB ON MARCH 15. CRIME LAB TECHNICIANS HAVE SINCE TOLD POLOFF THAT IT CONTAINED MILITARY GRADE (C3, C4, A3 OR A4) PLASTIC EXPLOSIVES, KNOWN TO BE IN THE PERUVIAN MILITARY ARSENAL. THE TECHNICIANS ALSO SAID THEY HAD NEVER FOUND THIS PRESENT WHEN ANALYZING THE REMAINS OF AN MRTA OR SL BOMBING. NOR WAS THERE ANY KNOWN USE OF LETTER-BOMBS IN ANY SL OR MRTA INCIDENT. (THESE TECHNICIANS ALSO SAID THE CORRIDOR SCUTTLEBUTT - POSSIBLY REFLECTING THE PUBLIC ACCUSATIONS - WAS THAT MEJIA WAS RESPONSIBLE.) FROM HIS HOSPITAL BED, ZUNIGA HAS PUBLICLY ACCUSED MEJIA AS THE BOMBER. COMISEDH HAS YET TO RECEIVE FROM THE POLICE A FORMAL ANALYSIS OF THE BLAST.

9. DIRCOTE, THE COUNTER-TERRORIST DIVISION OF THE POLICIA TECNICA, HAS FORMALLY BEEN CHARGED WITH CONDUCTING THE BOMBING INVESTIGATION. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THAT CASTILLO WAS "DISAPPEARED" BY THE POLICIA

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[REDACTED]

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GENERAL, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] OTHER

POLICE INVESTIGATORS TOLD US THEY ARE "VERY CAREFUL"
ABOUT WHAT THEY WRITE OR DO, FEARFUL OF IMPLICATING
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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POLICE OFFICIALS. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] MARCH 20 THAT THE POLICE HAD NOTHING TO
DO WITH EITHER THE CASTILLO DISAPPEARANCE OR THE ZUNIGA
BOMBING. [REDACTED] TOLD THE PRESIDENT HIS OWN POLICE
SOURCES SAID OTHERWISE. FUJIMORI HAS YET TO SAY ANYTHING
PUBLICLY ABOUT THE CASE. [REDACTED] HOWEVER,
PRIVATELY RELATED THAT FUJIMORI APPEARED QUITE TROUBLED
BY THE SWIFT, STRONG LANGUAGE USED IN THE WASHINGTON
PRONOUNCEMENTS BY BOTH THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE
CONGRESSIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS.

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11. THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR LATER ANNOUNCED A SPECIAL,
IN-HOUSE COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE: IT IS TO BE COMPOSED
OF THE MINISTRY'S INSPECTOR GENERAL, PLUS THE DIRECTORS
OF INTELLIGENCE AND PUBLIC RELATIONS. PRIME/FOREIGN
MINISTER CARLOS TORRES Y TORRES LARA (APPARENTLY AN OLD
ACQUAINTANCE) WAS AMONG THE WELL-WISHERS WHO VISITED THE
RECUPERATING ZUNIGA IN THE HOSPITAL.

12. ON MARCH 20, THE SUPREME COURT OVERTURNED THE
SUPERIOR COURT'S ORDERING OF CRIMINAL PROSECUTION OF THE
POLICE IMPLICATED IN THE CASTILLO CASE. A NUMBER OF
LEGAL SCHOLARS ARGUE THAT THE SUPREME COURT ACTION WAS
PLAINLY IMPROPER: UNDER PERUVIAN LAW, ONLY THE PLAINTIFF,
NOT THE ACCUSED GOVERNMENT, CAN APPEAL A HABEAS CORPUS
FINDING TO A HIGHER COURT. DR. ZUNIGA HAS SINCE
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

n/a
[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
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ANNOUNCED THAT COMISEDH WILL FILE A LEGAL COMPLAINT ON
BEHALF OF CASTILLO WITH THE INTERAMERICAN COURT OF HUMAN
RIGHTS, IN SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA.

13. THE NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
("COORDINADORA") HELD AN INFORMATIONAL MEETING FOR THE
DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY MARCH 27 AT THE CANADIAN EMBASSY.

[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]
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ACTION SCT-03

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-05	ADS-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	ARA-01	A-01
	CA-02	CCO-00	CG-00	SJK-01	COME-00	CTME-00	ZOVD-00
	DOEE-00	DS-00	EB-01	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	IMMC-01	INRE-00
	INR-01	INSE-00	IO-05	L-02	M-01	NRCE-00	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OIS-01	PA-01	PM-01	P-02	SSO-00
	SS-01	TRSE-00	USSS-00	/034W			

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P 021452Z APR 91
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6506
INFO RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
USMISSION GENEVA 1665
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 2424
USAFSO HOWARD AFB PM
DEPTJUSTICE WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM
USIA WASHDC 3815
CIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, PHUM, ASEC, PE
SUBJECT: POLICE COMMANDER, JUAN CARLOS MEJIA LEON,

CLOSE TO A DOZEN EMBASSIES (LATIN, EUROPEAN AND U.S.) WERE REPRESENTED. THE PERUVIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS INVITED, BUT DID NOT SEND A REPRESENTATIVE. THE COORDINADORA AND COMISEDH OFFICIALS COMMENTED THAT THEY WERE EXTREMELY GRATIFIED BY THE STATEMENTS ISSUED BY A NUMBER OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS, SINGLING OUT THE STATE DEPARTMENT FOR SPECIAL PRAISE. THEY ALSO STATED THAT A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS WERE ALREADY PLANNING TO MAKE THE COMISEDH BOMBING A CENTER-PIECE ISSUE IN THEIR OWN ACTIVITIES.

THE PROTAGONISTS

14. COMANDANTE JUAN CARLOS MEJIA LEON IS ONE OF THE PNP'S TOP EXPLOSIVES EXPERTS. AN EDEX (DEMOLITIONS/EXPLOSIVES SQUAD) AND DELTA GROUP (SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS) GRADUATE, IN 1988 HE FORMED (AND STILL HEADS) THE TRAINING CENTER FOR SPECIAL ASSAULT FORCES (CEFEA). HIS TROOPS OF THE 22ND COMANDANCIA (THE "RAMBOS") HAVE OPERATIONAL AUTHORITY ACROSS LIMA. HE REPORTS DIRECTLY TO GENERAL JOSE FIGUEROA, CHIEF OF THE SEVENTH SUBREGION (GREATER LIMA).

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[REDACTED]

MEJIA WAS BORN JUNE 22, 1949, AND ENTERED THE GUARDIA CIVIL IN AUGUST 1966. IN CONNECTION WITH THE CASTILLO CASE, POLOFF HAD ONCE ASKED POLICE CONTACTS THEIR VIEWS OF MEJIA (PRIOR TO THE BOMBING OF COMISEDH). THESE POLICE CONTACTS TERMED MEJIA A "DIE-HARD ANTI-COMMUNIST" AND "A BIT OF A PSYCOPATH."

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MEJIA HAS NOT BEEN SEEN IN PUBLIC SINCE THE BOMBING; NOR HAS HE MADE ANY STATEMENTS IN RESPONSE TO THE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST HIM.

15. DR. AUGUSTO ZUNIGA PAZ IS HEAD OF THE COMISEDH'S LEGAL DEPARTMENT. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] ZUNIGA HAS BEEN A HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER SINCE THE MID-1970S. HE HAS PROSECUTED SOME OF THE HIGHEST PROFILE HUMAN RIGHTS CASES IN PERU DURING THE PAST 15 YEARS. DR. ZUNIGA RECENTLY DRAFTED THE CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATION WHICH OVERTURNED PRESIDENT FUJIMORI'S SUPREME DECREE 171 (WHICH HAD FORMALLY AUTHORIZED THE MILITARY TO USE PSEUDONYMS IN THE EMERGENCY ZONES AND HAD DIRECTED THAT ALL HUMAN RIGHTS ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE MILITARY BE HEARD ONLY IN MILITARY TRIBUNALS). A FORMER SEMINARIAN AND LATIN SCHOLAR, ZUNIGA IS A STEADFAST OPPONENT OF SL AND MRTA.

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

16. ALL OF THE EVIDENCE POINTS TO THE NEED FOR A [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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THOROUGH INVESTIGATION INTO COMANDANTE MEJIA'S PROBABLE COMPLICITY IN THE COMISEDH BOMBING. HE HAD NOT ONLY THE MOTIVE BUT ALSO THE OPPORTUNITY, TECHNICAL TRAINING AND ACCESS TO THE SPECIAL MATERIALS NECESSARY TO CRAFT THE BOMB. THE CASTILLO DISAPPEARANCE STANDS AS ONE OF THE BEST-DOCUMENTED AND LEGALLY SOUND CASES OF OFFICIAL COMPLICITY IN A DISAPPEARANCE IN LIMA IN A LONG TIME. THE BOMBING OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE, APPARENTLY BY AN AGENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF PERU (EVEN IF HE WAS "FREE-LANCING", AS WE BELIEVE) IS MORE THAN JUST ONE MORE NASTY INCIDENT HERE - IT IS A TEST CASE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S WILLINGNESS TO DEAL FORCEFULLY WITH POLICE

[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]

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	DOEE-00	DS-00	EB-01	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	IMMC-01	INRE-00
	INR-01	INSE-00	IO-05	L-02	M-01	NRCE-00	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OIS-01	PA-01	PM-01	P-02	SSO-00
	SS-01	TRSE-00	USSS-00	/034W			

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P 021452Z APR 91
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6507
INFO RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
USMISSION GENEVA 1666
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 2425
USAFSO HOWARD AFB PM
DEPTJUSTICE WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM
USIA WASHDC 3816
CIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC

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USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD
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TERREP
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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, PHUM, ASEC, PE
SUBJECT: POLICE COMMANDER, JUAN CARLOS MEJIA LEON,

ABUSE. THE PERUVIAN POLICE, AS WELL AS THE MILITARY, CAN
BE EXPECTED TO LOOK TO THE CASE AS A MAJOR TEST OF THE
FUJIMORI GOVERNMENT'S INTEREST - AND ABILITY - TO
PROSECUTE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS COMMITTED BY ITS
FORCES. UP UNTIL NOW THESE FORCES HAVE ACTED WITH
IMPUNITY AS THEY BATTLED (OFTEN COURAGEOUSLY) BOTH THE

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TERRORISTS AND AN INOPERABLE JUDICIAL SYSTEM. IF MEJIA
ESCAPES SERIOUS INVESTIGATION, MUCH LESS PROSECUTION, FOR
AN ARMED ATTACK ON HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS, HOWEVER, THEN
A LOUD, CLEAR MESSAGE WILL HAVE BEEN SENT TO THE SECURITY
FORCES AND HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYERS ALIKE.

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17 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] THE AMBASSADOR WILL BE RAISING THE CASE WITH THE
JUST-INSTALLED INTERIOR MINISTER, ARMY GENERAL VICTOR
MANUEL MALCQVILLANUEVA, LATER THIS WEEK. POST BELIEVES
IT ALSO WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO RAISE
THE CASE WITH AMBASSADOR MAC LEAN. POST WOULD ALSO
APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION WASHINGTON AGENCIES HAVE
REGARDING COMANDANTE MEJIA AND HIS PAST ASSOCIATION WITH
U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.

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QUAINTON

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