

[REDACTED]
n/a
Case Number: S200200010

RELEASED IN FULL

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ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	AMAD-01	A-01	CA-02	CCO-00
	CIAE-00	CTME-00	C-01	OASY-00	DS-00	EAP-01	EB-01
	EUR-01	FBO-01	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	INM-02	INRE-00
	INR-01	IO-19	LAB-04	L-03	ADS-00	M-01	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OCS-06	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPR-01	PA-01	PM-02
	PRS-01	P-01	SCT-03	SIL-00	SNP-00	SP-00	SR-00
	SSC-01	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-17	TRSE-00	T-01	USIE-00
	USSS-00	ASDS-01	RPE-00	/107W			

-----840C83 092127Z /38

P 092125Z DEC 92
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4068
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
DIA WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM

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USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, PREL, PINR, US, PE

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SUBJECT: ARMY OFFICER DISCUSSES COUP
PLOT AND ARMY GROUP'S ROLE IN
BARRIOS ALTOS KILLINGS

1. [REDACTED] ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY: AN ARMY OFFICER GAVE US AN OVERVIEW OF RISING TENSION IN THAT SERVICE. MANIPULATION OF THE ARMY PROMOTION AND ASSIGNMENT LIST, WHOSE PUBLICATION IS IMMINENT,

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IS LIKELY TO FUEL RESENTMENT TOWARDS THE PRESIDENT AND HIS ADVISER MONTESINOS. SO DO RUMORS THAT THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICE TORTURED COUP PLOTTERS, AND THAT THE COUP PLOTTERS WILL BE JAILED AT THE CANTO GRANDE PRISON. WHILE THERE IS NO ONE WHO CAN LEAD A COUP, THE OFFICER PREDICTED THERE WOULD BE ADDITIONAL COUP EFFORTS -- ONLY MORE VIOLENT THAN THE LAST TIME. THE OFFICER CLAIMED THAT THE MEDIA HAD REPORTED CORRECTLY THAT AN ARMY INTELLIGENCE/SIN OPERATIONAL GROUP HAD CARRIED OUT THE BARRIOS ALTOS MASSACRE IN 1991. END SUMMARY.

CONFUSED LOYALTIES IN THE ARMY

3. AN MID-GRADE ARMY OFFICER MET ON DEC. 4 WITH POLCOUNS TO DISCUSS THE POST-COUP PLOTTING ATMOSPHERE IN THE ARMY. HE HAS BEEN A USEFUL SOURCE IN THE PAST. WHILE MOST OF HIS COMMENTS ARE CREDIBLE, WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO

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CROSS-CHECK THEM; THEY ARE REPORTED TO GIVE WASHINGTON A FLAVOR OF OPINION IN THE ARMY.

4. THE OFFICER BEGAN BY RECOUNTING HIS PERSONAL DILEMMA. HE WAS ASKED BY THE COUP PLOTTERS TO JOIN THE CONSPIRACY. HIS RESPONSE WAS THAT A COUP WAS NOT RIGHT AT THIS TIME; WHILE THE ARMY AS AN INSTITUTION WAS BEING SUBVERTED BY NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SIN) ADVISER VLADIMIR MONTESINOS, PRESIDENT FUJIMORI WAS DOING A GOOD JOB AS PRESIDENT. HE SAID HE DECLINED TO JOIN, BUT SAID HE WOULD NOT INFORM ON THEM OUT OF LOYALTY TO THE ARMY.

NO ASSASSINATION PLOT

5. THE OFFICER DISMISSED AS RIDICULOUS THE PRESIDENT'S CLAIMS THAT THE COUP PLOTTERS HAD PLANNED TO KILL THE PRESIDENT AND KEY ADVISERS. NO ONE IN THE ARMY BELIEVED THAT SOMEONE LIKE

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GEN. SALINAS WOULD KILL A PRESIDENT.

BUT PARTICIPATION GREATER THAN PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT

6. PARTICIPATION IN THE CONSPIRACY WAS GREATER THAN THE GOP BELIEVED WAS THE CASE RIGHT AFTER NOV. 12-13. THERE WERE DOZENS OF MID-LEVEL OFFICERS INVOLVED, AND MANY OTHERS ON THE SIDELINES.

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DISCONTENT IS GROWING IN THE ARMY

7. FUJIMORI'S REACTION TO THE COUP PLOTTING HAS WORSENERD EXISTING DISCONTENT IN THE ARMY OVER LOW SALARIES AND PRESIDENTIAL MANIPULATION OF PROMOTIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS. THE PRESIDENT'S PLACING GEN. VALDIVIA UNDER HOUSE ARREST WAS A SLAP AT THE ARMY AS AN INSTITUTION. ADDING TO THE UNREST WERE RUMORS THAT DETAINED OFFICERS HAD BEEN TORTURED, AND THAT FUJIMORI HAD ALREADY ORDERED THAT THE PLOTTERS SERVE THEIR SENTENCES IN SPECIALLY-BUILT CELLS IN CANTO GRANDE PRISON (ARMY OFFICERS USUALLY SERVE THEIR SENTENCES IN ARMY BASES.) IN ADDITION, THERE WAS SPECULATION THAT FUJIMORI AND MONTESINOS WOULD USE THE

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n/a

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SSC-01 SSO-00 SS-00 STR-17 TRSE-00 T-01 USIE-00
USSS-00 ASDS-01 RPE-00 /107W
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SUBJECT: ARMY OFFICER DISCUSSES COUP
PROMOTIONS/ASSIGNMENTS LIST FOR 1993 (WHOSE
PUBLICATION IS IMMINENT) TO ELIMINATE POTENTIAL
OPPOSITION TO THEM IN THE OFFICER CORPS.

MORE COUPS ATTEMPTS?

8. THE RESULT, THE OFFICER SAID, WOULD BE MORE
COUP ATTEMPTS--EVENTUALLY. THERE WERE, HOWEVER,
NO POTENTIAL COUP LEADERS ON THE HORIZON. NOR
WERE ARMY OFFICERS WILLING TO DO MORE THAN
GRUMBLE FOR NOW, SINCE THEY WERE ALL AFRAID THAT
THE SIN WOULD FIND OUT. THE RESULT IS THAT THE
NEXT COUP ATTEMPT IS LIKELY TO INVOLVE A SMALLER
GROUP OF OFFICERS WHO WILL HAVE TO COMPENSATE
FOR THEIR SIZE WITH GREATER USE OF VIOLENCE.
POLCOUNS DESCRIBED OUR TOTAL OPPOSITION TO ALL
COUPS AND COUNTERCOUPS -- A POSITION THAT THE
NEXT U.S. ADMINISTRATION WAS CERTAIN TO SHARE.

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ARMY INTELLIGENCE TEAM DID BARRIOS ALTOS MASSACRE

9. THE OFFICER SAID THAT A DECEMBER 7 "SI" MAGAZINE ARTICLE (SEPTTEL) ACCURATELY DESCRIBED ARMY INTELLIGENCE AND SIN RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE NOVEMBER 1991 BARRIOS ALTOS KILLINGS. CLAIMING TO HAVE RECEIVED HIS INFORMATION FROM A SOLDIER IN THE GROUP THAT CARRIED OUT THE KILLINGS, THE OFFICER SAID THAT THE SIN AND ARMY INTELLIGENCE

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HAD APPROVED THE OPERATION; THE ACTUAL OPERATION WAS PLANNED BY ARMY LIEUTENANT COLONEL FERNANDO RODRIGUEZ ZABALDESCOA (NOW STATIONED IN TACNA).

10. COMMENT: MOST OF THE OFFICER'S STATEMENTS ARE SPECULATIVE OR IMPOSSIBLE TO CROSSCHECK. THEY DO, HOWEVER, TRACK WITH WHAT WE HEAR FROM JOURNALISTS AND POLITICIANS IN TOUCH WITH THE MILITARY. IN THE ABSENCE OF HARD INFORMATION, PERCEPTIONS AND RUMORS IN PERU OFTEN TAKE ON A LIFE OF THEIR OWN. OTHER THAN TO UNDERCUT MONTESINOS, IT IS NOT CLEAR WHAT THE OFFICER WOULD HAVE TO GAIN BY MAKING THINGS UP. WE AGREE THAT THE PUBLICATION OF THE ARMY'S YEAR-END PROMOTION/ASSIGNMENT LIST WILL HAVE MAJOR REPERCUSSIONS FOR CIVIL-MILITARY RELATIONS. THE ALLEGATION THAT THE ARMY CARRIED OUT THE BARRIOS ALTOS MASSACRE COINCIDES WITH OTHER REPORTS THAT THE ARMY IS USING SELECTIVE EXTRAJUDICIAL ASSASSINATIONS TO WEAKEN SENDERO. BRAYSHAW

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