

[REDACTED]
Case Number: S200200010
[REDACTED]

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.5(D)

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ACTION SS-00

INFO LOG-00 OASY-00 ADS-00 CORE-00 /000W
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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2645
NSC WASHDC
CIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC

[REDACTED] SECTION 01 OF 06 LIMA 11947

DECAPTIONED

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR EXTEND CLASSIFICATION
TAGS: PHUM, PTER, PREL, EAID, PINR, US, PE
SUBJECT: JOURNALISTS BRIEF US ON DEATH SQUAD
[REDACTED]

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REF: LIMA 11678

1. [REDACTED] - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: TWO PERUVIAN JOURNALISTS REVIEWED FOR US THEIR MOST RECENT AND LARGELY UNPUBLISHED INFORMATION ON THE ARMY INTELLIGENCE DEATH SQUAD KNOWN AS "COLINA."

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[REDACTED] DESCRIBED THE ORIGINS OF THE UNIT IN MARCH 1990, ITS LEADERSHIP UNDER [REDACTED]

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MAJOR SANTIAGO MARTIN RIVAS, AND ITS ALLEGED LINKS TO SIE (THE ARMY'S INTELLIGENCE SERVICE), INTELLIGENCE DIRECTORATE (DINTE), AND THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SIN), INCLUDING DE FACTO SIN CHIEF VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS. THE [REDACTED] COLINA GROUP EXISTED FOR NEARLY THREE YEARS WITH SUPPORT FROM ARMY INTELLIGENCE AND THE SIN. [REDACTED] DESCRIBED IN DETAIL THE BARRIOS ALTOS KILLINGS OF 1991 --

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM E. LANDFAIR
DATE/CASE ID: 19 JUL 2002 S200200010
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 25X6
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 5 NOV 2019

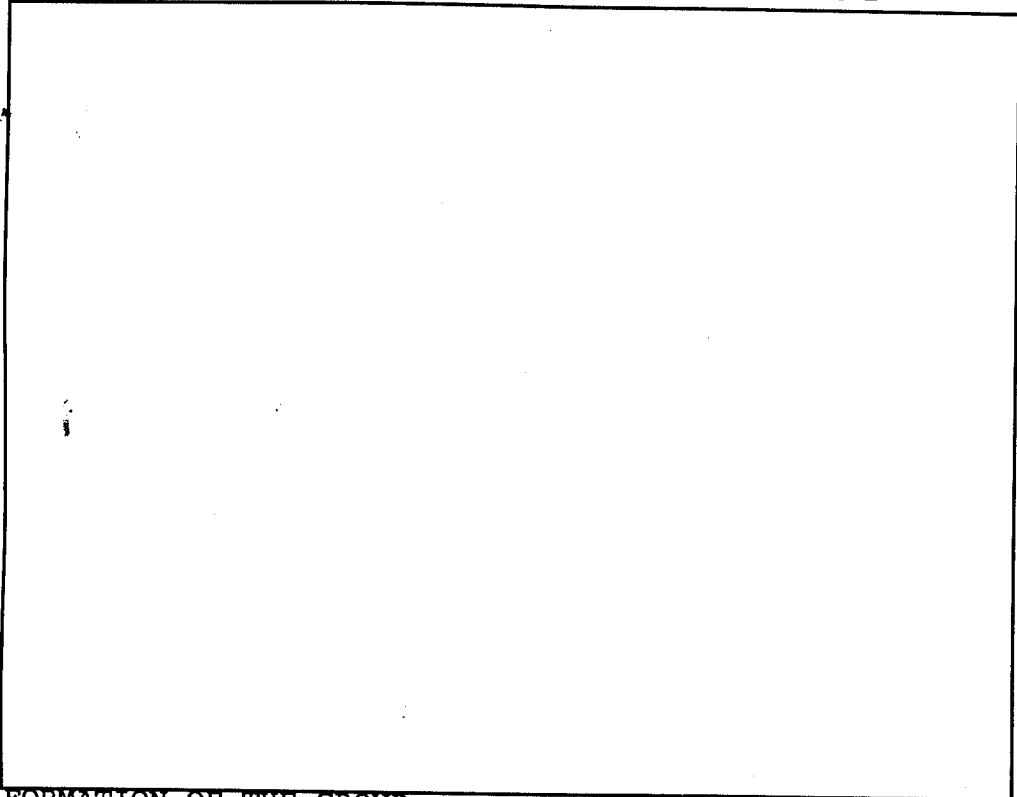
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ALLEGEDLY PLANNED AS AN ASSASSINATION -- AND THE LA CANTUTA DISAPPEARANCES OF 1992, PLANNED AS AN ARREST. WHILE JOURNALISTS ARE FAIRLY CONFIDENT [REDACTED] ALLEGATIONS CANNOT BE CONFIRMED. THE GENERAL OUTLINES OF THE [REDACTED] ABOUT COLINA COINCIDE WITH OTHER INFORMATION (ITSELF OFTEN SKETCHY) ABOUT THE WORKINGS OF THIS SO-CALLED "DEATH SQUAD;" MANY OF THE SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS ARE POSSIBLY TRUE, BUT UNCONFIRMED. END SUMMARY.

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3. TWO JOURNALISTS BRIEFED POLCOUNS NOVEMBER 2



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FORMATION OF THE GROUP

4. THE GROUP WAS FORMED IN MARCH 1990 BY SIE (ARMY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE) WHILE HEADED BY GEN. HANKE. A COL. CORDOBA, ALSO IN SIE, WAS INVOLVED IN THE FORMATION. THE UNIT MAY ORIGINALLY HAVE BEEN DESIGNED AS AN ELITE GROUP THAT WOULD ATTACK SENDERO GUERRILLAS. [REDACTED] THE

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GROUP -- FIRST KNOWN AS "ESCORPIO" (SCORPION) -- WAS BUILT AROUND A NUCLEUS OF NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICERS WHO WERE INTELLIGENCE SPECIALISTS ("AIO'S") AND VETERANS OF THE UPPER HUALLAGA AND AYACUCHO FRONTS. THE PRINCIPAL NCO'S CLAIMED TO HAVE SUGGESTED THAT MAJOR SANTIAGO MARTIN RIVAS COMMAND THE UNIT (SINCE NCO'S CANNOT FORMALLY HEAD AN OPERATIONAL UNIT IN THE ARMY).

UNIT'S SCOPE

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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5. EVEN BEFORE IT BEGAN OPERATIONS, MAJOR MARTIN SHIFTED THE UNIT'S EMPHASIS TOWARDS MORE UNCONVENTIONAL COUNTERTERRORIST ACTIVITIES. MARTIN ESTABLISHED THE UNIT'S THREE MAIN ACTIVITIES: SURVEILLANCE OF TERRORISTS; "ELIMINATIONS"; AND "ATENTADOS" (ATTACKS). THE LAST CATEGORY CONSISTED OF CARRYING OUT ATTACKS

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P 051516Z NOV 93
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2646
NSC WASHDC
CIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PHUM, PTER, PREL, EAID, PINR, US, PE
SUBJECT: JOURNALISTS BRIEF US ON DEATH SQUAD THAT COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE TERRORISTS, IN ORDER TO JUSTIFY CONTINUATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS, AND TO BUILD SUPPORT FOR A DEATH PENALTY. [REDACTED] ONE EXAMPLE OF AN ASSASSINATION BY "ESCORPIO" IN 1990, THAT OF A JOURNALIST WHO WORKED FOR RADIO TINGO MARIA (IN THE UHV TOWN OF THE SAME NAME).

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PERSONNEL INVOLVED

6. "ESCORPIO" HAD THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL:



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MAJOR SANTIAGO MARTIN RIVAS, AND NCO'S SOSA, CARVAJAL (AKA "PETETE"), "CHIQUITO" "GOLIATH," BARUNTO, "JORGITO," "CUCHARA," "CHOLACO" (REAL SURNAME: PINO), AND TWO OTHERS. ITS HEADQUARTERS AND SUPPLY ROOM WERE LOCATED FROM 1990 TO DECEMBER 1991 AT THE SIN (NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE) COMPOUND AT LAS PALMAS IN A BUILDING NOMINALLY ASSIGNED TO THE MOTOR POOL MAINTENANCE SERVICE. THE JOURNALISTS, WHO HAD A DETAILED DRAWING OF THE SIN COMPOUND, POINTED OUT THE BUILDING TO POLCOUNS. ARMY COL. NAVARRO WAS THE COORDINATOR IN 1990 WHO SERVED AS THE LIAISON BETWEEN "ESCORPIO" AND DINTE.

EFFORTS TO EXPAND

7. BY THE BEGINNING OF 1991, [REDACTED] "ESCORPIO" WAS ALREADY WELL-KNOWN WITHIN THE ARMY AND THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY. IT HAD GAINED THE CONFIDENCE OF HIGHER OFFICIALS (UNNAMED). MAJOR MARTIN FREQUENTLY DROPPED THE NAME OF SIN ADVISER VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS AS ONE OF HIS PATRONS. MARTIN SOUGHT TO INCREASE THE UNIT'S PROFILE. HE DEvised A "PLAN KYOTO" TO INCREASE ITS SIZE [REDACTED] THE NAME OF THE PLAN WAS MARTIN'S EFFORT TO INGRATIATE HIMSELF WITH

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FUJIMORI AND MONTESINOS). THE PLAN WAS APPROVED.

"COLINA"

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[REDACTED]

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8. IN AUGUST 1991, MARTIN CHOSE THE 27 PERSONS WHO WOULD FORM THE NEW GROUP. IT CHANGED NAMES FROM "ESCORPIO" TO "COLINA," AT THE DIRECTION OF COL. FERNANDO RODRIGUEZ ZABALBEASCOA, WHO WAS THE COORDINATOR BETWEEN THE UNIT AND DINTE (THE ARMY'S INTELLIGENCE DIRECTORATE). JOURNALISTS EXPLAINED THAT COLINA WAS THE SURNAME OF AN ARMY OFFICER WHO HAD INFILTRATED SL; HE WAS MISTAKENLY KILLED BY THE SECURITY FORCES DURING A SWEEP WHEN HE COULD NOT IDENTIFY HIMSELF. RODRIGUEZ IS CURRENTLY THE ARMY ATTACHE IN BOLIVIA. CAPTAIN CARLOS PICHILINGUE WAS ADDED AS THE ADMINISTRATIVE CHIEF; MAJOR MARTIN WAS CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AND "COLINA'S" OVERALL COMMANDER. THE UNIT HAD THREE SQUADS ("DESTACAMENTOS") HEADED BY THREE NCO'S: SOSA, CARVAJAL, AND SUPO. THE UNIT CONDUCTED TRAINING AT A MILITARY BEACH, LA TIZA, SOUTH OF LIMA. THERE WERE SEVEN WOMEN IN THE GROUP. ALL PERSONNEL WERE GRADUATES OF THE ARMY INTELLIGENCE COURSE FOR NCO'S, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO GRADUATED IN 1977, 1978, AND 1980. IN ADDITION, MAJOR MARTIN AND SEVERAL OTHER MEMBERS OF COLINA WERE ASSIGNED TO THE SPECIAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP ("GEIN") OF DINCOTE (THE COUNTERTERRORISM POLICE). SEVERAL OTHER MEMBERS OF "COLINA" WERE ASSIGNED TO A SEPARATE DINCOTE UNIT KNOWN AS THE DETECTIVE BRIGADE ("BREVET").

FINANCES

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
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9. MARTIN RECEIVED 15,000 DOLLARS PER MONTH FROM A DISBURSING OFFICIAL AT THE ARMY COMMAND IN SAN BORJA. HE GAVE 2,000 DOLLARS PER MONTH TO COL. RODRIGUEZ (AND PREVIOUSLY TO COL. NAVARRO) AS HIS SHARE. WHAT HE DID WITH THE REST WAS UNCLER TO HIS TROOPS; HE ALLEGEDLY PROMISED THEM 350 DOLLARS PER MONTH, BUT ONLY GAVE THEM 70 SOLES PER MONTH (IN 1991 ABOUT 65 DOLLARS). MARTIN ALSO RECEIVED EXTRA MONEY FOR CERTAIN SPECIFIC OPERATIONS. HE ALSO ALLEGEDLY RECEIVED MONEY TO GIVE TO SENDERO INFORMANTS;

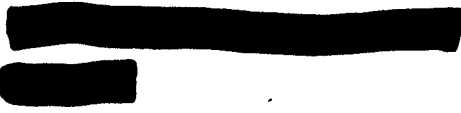


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INFO LOG-00 OASY-00 ADS-00 CORE-00 /000W
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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2647
NSC WASHDC
CIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC



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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PHUM, PTER, PREL, EAID, PINR, US, PE
SUBJECT: JOURNALISTS BRIEF US ON DEATH SQUAD

THE SIE HAD GIVEN MARTIN RESPONSIBILITY FOR RUNNING THESE INFORMANTS, INCLUDING AIO CARLOS TALLEDO. JOURNALISTS CLAIMED THE LATTER, WHO WAS JUST JAILED FOR GIVING INFORMATION TO SENDERO, HAD BEEN SET UP BY MARTIN.

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ARMAMENT



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10. [REDACTED] "COLINA'S"
ORIGINAL ARMAMENT INCLUDED AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF

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MP-5 SUBMACHINEGUNS WITH SILENCERS, MP-9/HK-3,
200 GRENADES, 2,000 STICKS OF DYNAMITE, AND 60
RPGS. THE UNIT HAD LISTENING DEVICES MADE IN
GERMANY. DURING THE UNIT'S TRAINING, THE UNIT
BELIEVED ITS MAIN GOAL WAS TO KILL SL FOUNDER
ABIMAEL GUZMAN AND OTHER SL LEADERS.

THE BARRIOS ALTOS KILLINGS

11. "COLINA'S" FIRST ACTION WAS ON NOVEMBER 3,
1991, AGAINST A PARTY ORGANIZED BY SUSPECTED SL
MEMBERS ON JIRON HUANTA IN THE BARRIOS ALTOS
SECTION OF LIMA. THE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PARTY
CAME FROM A SIN INFORMER IN SL'S "DEMOCRATIC
LAWYERS" FRONT GROUP. SUPPOSEDLY THOSE ATTENDING
WOULD INCLUDE IMPORTANT MEMBERS OF SL'S "SOCORRO
POPULAR" UMBRELLA FRONT GROUP. MAJOR MARTIN
PLANNED THE OPERATION SO THAT THEY WOULD KILL ALL
SUSPECTED SL MEMBERS. THE UNIT TRAINED WITH A
MOCK-UP OF THE TARGET AT THE MILITARY BEACH AT
LA TIZA. [REDACTED] MAJOR MARTIN
CLAIMED TO HAVE APPROVAL FROM DINTE AND FROM
MONTESINOS. ALL "COLINA" PERSONNEL PARTICIPATED
IN THE OPERATION; EVEN COL. RODRIGUEZ JOINED IN
TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE RETURNING "COLINA" RESERVE
FORCE ("FUERZA DE CONTENCIÓN"). A FEW MINUTES
BEFORE THE UNIT ATTACKED THE HOUSE ON JIRON
HUANTA, [REDACTED] MARTIN WAS USING
HIS CELLULAR PHONE, AND AFTERWARDS SAID,
"MONTESINOS FINALLY GAVE THE GREEN LIGHT." AFTER

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THE OPERATION IN WHICH 17 PEOPLE DIED, INCLUDING
ONE CHILD, THE UNIT WENT TO LA TIZA TO CELEBRATE.

12. AT THE END OF DECEMBER 1991, THE SIN TOOK

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BACK THE BUILDING "COLINA" HAD BEEN USING ON THE SIN COMPOUND. COLINA MOVED ITS OPERATIONS TO AIO CARVAJAL'S HOUSE IN THE MILITARY HOUSING AREA (VILLA MILITAR) IN NEARBY CHORRILLOS. AT AN UNDETERMINED TIME, MAJOR MARTIN ALSO BEGAN TO USE AN ENGINEERING SERVICES COMPANY, "COPRANSA," AS A FRONT FOR THE UNIT'S ACTIVITIES.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

13. ON JUNE 23, 1992, AT 0100 HOURS, 17 PERSONS FROM THE UNIT, LED BY MAJOR MARTIN, ABDUCTED JOURNALIST PEDRO YAURI BUSTAMANTE IN HUACHO. YAURI WAS A SUSPECTED SL MEMBER; HE WAS KILLED AND BURIED AT A NEARBY BEACH. (COMMENT: YAURI WAS ABDUCTED BY UNKNOWN PERSONS ON THAT DATE, AND DISAPPEARED. THE ALLEGATION THAT "COLINA" KILLED HIM IS QUITE PLAUSIBLE. END COMMENT.)

14. [REDACTED] AN OPERATION AT AN UNSPECIFIED DATE IN 1992 THAT OCCURRED IN SANTA (NEAR CHIMBOTE). SOME PERUVIANS OF ORIENTAL ANCESTRY HAD COMPLAINED TO FUJIMORI ABOUT TERRORISTS IN THEIR FACTORY; "COLINA" WAS SENT TO KILL THEM. [REDACTED] ONCE IN 1992, MAJOR MARTIN HAD TAKEN THE UNIT TO

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THE JUNGLE FOR OPERATIONS, BUT HAD ASSOCIATED WITH KNOWN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS, INCLUDING ONE KNOWN AS "CARUSSO." [REDACTED] MARTIN USED THE UNIT'S TRUCKS TO BRING BACK A SHIPMENT OF COCAINE TO LIMA.

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LA CANTUTA:

15. THIS OPERATION WAS A RESPONSE TO THE JULY 16, 1992 TARATA CARBOMBING BY SL. THE SIN AND SIE HAD ALREADY BEGUN TO INFILTRATE LA CANTUTA. ONE OF THE SIN'S FEMALE AGENTS, POSING AS A

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INFO LOG-00 OASY-00 ADS-00 CORE-00 /000W
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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2648
NSC WASHDC
CIA WASHDC
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[REDACTED] SECTION 04 OF 06 LIMA 11947
[REDACTED]

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PHUM, PTER, PREL, EAID, PINR, US, PE
SUBJECT: JOURNALISTS BRIEF US ON DEATH SQUAD
STUDENT AND PROBABLY INFILTRATED INTO SL'S
SUPPORT GROUP, INFORMED THE SIN ON JULY 17 THAT A
WOUNDED SL MEMBER HAD COME TO HER ROOM AT LA
CANTUTA FOR ASSISTANCE. THE SIN CONCLUDED THAT
THE ONLY RECENT ACTION IN WHICH THIS PERSON COULD
HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WAS THE TARATA ATTACK. THE
[REDACTED] ONE OF THE SIN AGENTS ALSO
COMMUNICATED HER INFORMATION TO MAJOR MARTIN.
(COMMENT: THE JOURNALISTS EXPLAINED THAT SINCE
THE PERSONS SIN HAD INFILTRATED INTO SL AND THE
AIO'S ALL CAME FROM A RELATIVELY SMALL ARMY
INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY, SOMETIMES THEY WOULD

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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SHARE INFORMATION WITH COLLEAGUES WITHOUT GOING
THROUGH PROPER CHANNELS. THE JOURNALISTS ALSO
CLAIMED THAT THE INFILTRATOR WAS ONE OF THE THREE
FEMALE SIN AGENTS EXPOSED BY "SI" MAGAZINE
RECENTLY; A "SI" JOURNALIST HAD TOLD POLCOUNS
THAT THE THREE WOMEN WERE ENROLLED IN A LA
CANTUTA ENTRANCE STUDY COURSE AT THE TIME OF THE

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DISAPPEARANCES. END COMMENT.) MAJOR MARTIN RECEIVED ORDERS TO CAPTURE A NUMBER OF SUSPECTED SL MEMBERS AT LA CANTUTA, INTERROGATE THEM, AND THEN TURN THEM OVER TO DINCOTE (COUNTERTERRORISM POLICE). MARTIN TOLD HIS PERSONNEL THAT BOTH DINTE AND MONTESINOS HAD APPROVED THE OPERATION; GEN. PEREZ DOCUMENT (HEAD OF THE SPECIAL FORCES DIVISION RESPONSIBLE FOR LA CANTUTA AREA) HAD INITIALLY DENIED PERMISSION, BUT HAD BEEN OVERRULED.

16. AT 2300 ON JULY 17, THE ENTIRE "COLINA" UNIT DEPARTED IN FOUR VEHICLES FROM THE CHORRILLOS MILITARY HOUSING AREA. AT 0100 ON JULY 18, THE GROUP ARRIVED AT THE MILITARY CHECKPOINT OUTSIDE LA CANTUTA. THERE MAJOR MARTIN HAD A LONG DISCUSSION WITH ARMY SPECIAL FORCES LT. "MEDINA" (JOURNALISTS SAID HIS REAL NAME IS AQUILINO PORTELLA NUNES). "MEDINA" AUTHORIZED THEIR ENTRY AT 0115. THE GROUP PROCEEDED TO THE FACULTY HOUSING AREA. FIRST THE GROUP "ARRESTED" A PROFESSOR WHO WAS AN INFORMANT. THEY MADE HIM PUT ON A SKI MASK AND A PONCHO TO HIDE HIS IDENTITY. THEN THE GROUP ENTERED THE HOUSE OF

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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LA CANTUTA PROFESSOR MUNOZ. THE INFORMANT, WHO WAS IN A RED TOYOTA WITH CAPTAIN PICHILINGUE, THEN IDENTIFIED PROFESSOR MUNOZ AS AN SL MEMBER. MUNOZ WAS PLACED IN ONE OF THE VEHICLES.

17. AT 0205, THE GROUP PROCEEDED TO THE MALE STUDENTS' DORMITORY. OF THE APPROXIMATELY 40 STUDENTS, SEVEN WERE IDENTIFIED BY THE INFORMANT AS SL MEMBERS. THESE PERSONS WERE PLACED IN ONE OF THE GROUP'S PICKUP TRUCKS. AT 0305, THE GROUP DROVE TO THE WOMEN'S DORMITORY. THERE THEY TOOK THE APPROXIMATELY 60 WOMEN OUTSIDE, AND CAME UP WITH AN INITIAL GROUP OF 13 SUSPECTED SL MEMBERS. THE INFORMANT HAD TROUBLE POSITIVELY IDENTIFYING THE SL MEMBERS, BUT EVENTUALLY WINNED THEM DOWN TO THREE, WHO WERE PLACED IN A PICKUP TRUCK. ONE OF THE THREE, NORMA ESPINOZA, APPARENTLY RECOGNIZED THE INFORMER, INSISTED SHE WAS NOT IN

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SL, AND CLAIMED HER UNCLE WAS A POLICE OFFICER. AFTER SHE THREW HERSELF FROM THE PICKUP, MARTIN AGREED SHE WOULD BE FREED.

18. AT ABOUT 0400, THE GROUP DEPARTED LA CANTUTA AND HEADED TOWARDS LIMA. TAKING THE HUACHIPA ("RAMIRO PRIALE") HIGHWAY, THEY ENTERED AN ABANDONED FIELD USED BY THE POLICE AS A FIRING RANGE AT THE KILOMETER 1.5 MARK ON THE HIGHWAY (COMMENT: "SI" MAGAZINE PUBLISHED THIS ALLEGATION ON NOVEMBER 2. END COMMENT.). MAJOR MARTIN TOLD THE GROUP THAT THE SUSPECTED SL MEMBERS WOULD BE SHOT. SOME OF THE PERSONNEL,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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INCLUDING AIO'S SOSA AND CARVAJAL, DISAGREED. MARTIN OVERRULED THEM, AND HAD THE 10 SUSPECTED TERRORISTS LINED UP AT THE EDGE OF THE FIELD. UNIDENTIFIED PERSONNEL FROM THE UNIT KILLED THE NINE STUDENTS (ONE OF WHOM YELLED A "VIVA" FOR GUZMAN AND THE PARTY) WITH SILENCED SUBMACHINEGUNS. MAJOR MARTIN KILLED THE PROFESSOR WITH HIS PISTOL AS THE PROFESSOR ATTEMPTED TO MAKE A PRO-SL SPEECH. MARTIN THEN ORDERED THE GROUP TO BURY THE BODIES, USING SHOVELS THEY HAD BROUGHT. THE DIGGING WAS DIFFICULT, AND DAWN WAS APPROACHING, SO THE BODIES WERE LEFT IN SHALLOW GRAVES. MARTIN THEN

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INFO LOG-00 OASY-00 ADS-00 CORE-00 /000W
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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2649
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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PHUM, PTER, PREL, EAID, PINR, US, PE
SUBJECT: JOURNALISTS BRIEF US ON DEATH SQUAD
ORDERED MEMBERS OF THE UNIT TO BURY THE BODIES
IN DEEPER GRAVES IN THE SAME LOCATION; THIS WAS
DONE ON JULY 20.

19. AFTER THE REVELATIONS IN CONGRESS IN APRIL
1993 ABOUT THE LA CANTUTA DISAPPEARANCES,
INCLUDING REPORTS THAT THE BODIES HAD BEEN
BURIED IN HUACHIPA, MARTIN ORDERED MEMBERS OF
THE UNIT TO REMOVE THE BODIES TO A SITE NEAR
CIENEGUILLA (COMMENT: REMAINS OF FIVE BODIES
FOUND NEAR CIENEGUILLA WERE ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN
FROM SOME OF THE DISAPPEARED LA CANTUTA PERSONS;

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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THE GOP HAS SENT THE REMAINS TO THE UK FOR DNA
TESTS TO ESTABLISH THEIR IDENTITIES. END
COMMENT.) [REDACTED] THE INITIAL
HIDING OF THE BODIES WAS NOT DONE WELL, SINCE
AIO'S SOSA AND CARVAJAL -- WHO HAD DISAGREED
WITH KILLING THE PERSONS -- DID NOT MAKE A
SERIOUS EFFORT TO DISPOSE OF THEM.

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20. THE SEPTEMBER 1992 CAPTURE OF GUZMAN WAS A
MAJOR BLOW TO THE GROUP, [REDACTED] THAT
AND SUBSEQUENT CAPTURES OF SENIOR SL MEMBERS BY
DINCOTE HAD UNDERMINED THE RATIONALE FOR HAVING
A TEAM SPECIALIZING IN ASSASSINATIONS AND
DISAPPEARANCES. IN ADDITION, THERE WERE GROWING
ALLEGATIONS THAT MARTIN HAD MISUSED THE GROUP'S
BUDGET, INCLUDING ACCUSATIONS MADE BY AIO CARLES
TALLEDO (JAILED FOR BELONGING TO SL). WHEN GEN.
CHIRINOS REPLACED GEN. RIVEROS AS HEAD OF DINTE
IN NOVEMBER 1992, HE ORDERED AN AUDIT OF THE
GROUP'S FINANCIAL DEALINGS. NEWS OF THIS REACHED

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MAJOR MARTIN WHEN HE AND THE REST OF COLINA WERE ON AN OPERATION IN THE JUNGLE AREA OF LA MERCED. MARTIN ASKED MONTESINOS AND ARMY GEN. HERMOZA TO OVERRULE CHIRINOS. WHEN CHIRINOS LEFT HIS POST SUDDENLY IN LATE DECEMBER 1992, HIS REPLACEMENT, GEN. NADAL, NONTHELESS UPHELD THE NEED FOR THE AUDIT TO CONTINUE. FOLLOWING THE REVELATIONS IN THE PRESS IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 1992 ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF "COLINA," THE ARMY AND SIN DECIDED TO SUSPEND THE UNIT.

[REDACTED]

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21. COMMENT: THE TWO JOURNALISTS ARE WELL-KNOWN TO THE EMBASSY; THEY HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING THE "COLINA," BARRIOS ALTOS, AND LA CANTUTA CASES FOR OVER ONE YEAR.

[REDACTED]

THE JOURNALISTS HAVE DECIDED TO REFRAIN FROM PUBLISHING THE BULK OF THE [REDACTED] ACCUSATIONS FOR THE TIME BEING. THEY HAVE TWO REASONS FOR THIS: FIRST, THEY WANT THE NOVEMBER 2 ALLEGATIONS ABOUT "COLINA'S" USE OF THE HUACHIPA AREA AS AN INITIAL BURIAL GROUND TO BE INVESTIGATED BY THE AUTHORITIES; SECOND, [REDACTED]

22. WITH THESE CAUTIONS IN MIND, THERE ARE NEVERTHELESS SEVERAL SALIENT POINTS MADE [REDACTED]

-- THE "COLINA" AND "ESCORPIO" UNITS EXISTED FOR NEARLY THREE YEARS. THEIR FORMATION, FUNDING, AND OPERATIONS WERE APPROVED BY SIE AND [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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DINTE; THEIR EXISTENCE WAS ALLEGEDLY KNOWN AS
WELL TO SIN PERSONNEL BY VIRTUE OF THEIR LOCATION
ON THE SIN COMPOUND [REDACTED]

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-- AT LEAST SOME OF THE GROUP'S ACTIVITIES
CONSISTED OF ASSASSINATING SUSPECTED SL MEMBERS,
ALTHOUGH THE LA CANTUTA OPERATION MAY WELL HAVE
BEGUN AS A LEGAL DETENTION OF SL MEMBERS.

-- THE "COLINA" UNIT CONTINUED TO FUNCTION EVEN
AFTER THE NOVEMBER 1991 BARRIOS ALTOS KILLINGS
AND THE JULY 1992 LA CANTUTA DISAPPEARANCES.

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2650
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BRAYSHAW##
[REDACTED]
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