

[REDACTED]

n/a

Case Number: S200200010

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ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	ACDE-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	C-01
	OASY-00	DODE-00	EB-01	HA-09	H-01	INM-02	TEDE-00
	INR-00	IO-16	JUSE-00	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01
	SNP-00	SP-00	SR-00	SS-00	STR-01	TRSE-00	T-00
	USIE-00	RPE-01	PMB-00	/060W			

-----46AB7C 131528Z /38

P 131530Z MAY 94  
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6900  
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
USMISSION GENEVA  
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM

[REDACTED] SECTION 01 OF 02 LIMA 04353

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR  
TAGS: PHUM, KJUS, PREL, PE  
SUBJECT: PERUVIAN HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERS  
- DISCUSS HUANUCO KILLINGS WITH  
- THE AMBASSADOR

REF: LIMA 3892

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1. [REDACTED] - ENTIRE TEXT
2. SUMMARY: IN A MAY 9 MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR, MEMBERS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COORDINADORA SAID AN OBSTRUCTING OF INVESTIGATION AND CONTRADICTIONARY STATEMENTS WERE EVIDENCE THAT THE PERUVIAN ARMY WAS PURPOSELY TRYING TO COVER UP KILLINGS OF NON-COMBATANTS IN NORTHERN HUANUCO. "OPERATION ARIES" SOUNDED LIKE A PROPAGANDA PLOY TO MAKE THE

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PUBLIC THINK HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS WERE INTERFERING IN "THE FINAL BATTLE" AGAINST TERRORISM IN THE HUALLAGA, ONE MEMBER SAID. IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO KNOW FULL EXTENT OF WHAT HAPPENED IN THE ZONE, BUT THE COORDINADORA BELIEVES THE ARMY KILLED AT LEAST 23 PEOPLE ON THE WEST BANK OF THE HUALLAGA RIVER, AND POSSIBLY 40 MORE IN AN AREA FURTHER WEST KNOWN AS GANADERIA. THE COORDINADORA HAS TWELVE HOURS OF RECORDED TESTIMONY FROM ALLEGED WITNESSES TO BACK UP ITS PUBLIC DECLARATIONS. SOME MEMBERS OF THE COORDINADORA BELIEVE THAT THE PRESS AND THE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR ARE "SUBJUGATED" TO THE ARMY AND THAT A SERIOUS INVESTIGATION WILL NOT BE CARRIED OUT. END SUMMARY.

3. AMBASSADOR, POLCOUNS AND POLOFF CALLED ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION, THE COORDINADORA, MAY 9. THE RECENT EVENTS IN NORTHERN HUANUCO, IN WHICH THE ARMY HAS BEEN ACCUSED OF ATROCITIES AND

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MURDERS OF NON-COMBATANTS, WAS THE MAIN TOPIC OF DISCUSSION. CARLOS BASOMBRIO, DIRECTOR OF THE LEGAL DEFENSE INSTITUTE (IDL), VENTURED THAT THE EXACT TRUTH OF WHAT HAPPENED IN THE ZONE MAY NEVER BE FULLY KNOWN. IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE THE NUMBER OF DEAD; IT COULD BE MUCH GREATER THAN WHAT THE COORDINADORA HAS DENOUNCED. THE COORDINADORA BELIEVES, BASED ON INITIAL EYEWITNESS REPORTS AND VISITS TO THE AREA, THAT AT LEAST TEN PEOPLE WERE KILLED IN THE WEST-BANK SETTLEMENT OF MOLLUNA AND AT LEAST 13 IN NEARBY MOHENA. THERE WERE CREDIBLE BUT UNCONFIRMED (AND SOMEWHAT LESS SUBSTANTIATED) REPORTS OF 40 DEAD, HOWEVER, IN GANADERIA, A CATTLE-RAISING AREA WEST OF MOLLUNA AND MOHENA.

4. BASOMBRIO POSTULATED THAT THE EXTENT OF THE MILITARY OPERATION IN THE ZONE, CALLED "OPERATION ARIES," MAY HAVE BEEN INVENTED OR EXAGGERATED AFTER THE KILLINGS WERE DENOUNCED. BASOMBRIO NOTED THAT THE PRO-GOVERNMENT MEDIA HAD LABELED

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THE OPERATION "THE FINAL BATTLE" AGAINST SENDERO LUMINOSO IN THE HUALLAGA REGION; HE DID NOT NECESSARILY BELIEVE THIS. THIS STORY COULD HAVE BEEN CONCOCTED TO MAKE THE PUBLIC BELIEVE THAT THE COORDINADORA HAD "INTERFERED IN THE 'FINAL BATTLE'," HE HYPOTHESIZED. THE STORY, WHICH INCLUDED SELF-CONTRADICTIONARY STATEMENTS BY THE ARMY COMMAND, SMELLED OF A COVERUP, HE ADDED. "THEY WANT TO NIP THIS WHOLE THING IN THE BUD AND NOT LET IT GROW AND GET OUT OF HAND LIKE IT

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DID IN THE LA CANTUTA CASE."

5. COORDINADORA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ROSA MUJICA NOTED THAT THE FIRST REPORTS THE ORGANIZATION RECEIVED FROM THE ZONE WERE SO AMAZING THAT "WE DID NOT BELIEVE THEM." THAT IS WHY THE COORDINADORA SENT A TEAM TO THE AREA IN MID-APRIL; "WE WANTED TO HEAR TESTIMONY FIRST-HAND." THAT MISSION WAS FOLLOWED BY PUBLIC DENUNCIATION OF THE ARMY'S ABUSES IN THE ZONE, WHICH RESULTED IN A SUBSEQUENT VISIT BY A CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSION ACCOMPANIED BY ROGER NIEGO, A COORDINADORA LAWYER. BASOMBRIO NOTED THAT THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSION WAS "OBSTRUCTED" BY THE

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P 131530Z MAY 94

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n/a

Case Number: S200200010

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6901  
 INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
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 AMEMBASSY QUITO  
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USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR  
 TAGS: PHUM, KJUS, PREL, PE  
 SUBJECT: PERUVIAN HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERS  
 MILITARY FROM SEEING THE ZONE WHERE THE GRAVEST  
 REPORTS HAD ORIGINATED; HOWEVER, THE VISITORS DID  
 SEE IN MOLLUNA EXACTLY WHAT ALLEGED EYEWITNESSES  
 TO THE KILLINGS HAD DESCRIBED. BASOMBRIO NOTED

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 THE COORDINADORA HAS TWELVE HOURS OF RECORDED  
 TESTIMONY ON THE MASSACRES.

6. MUJICA STATED THAT, FOR HER, THE ONE THING  
 THAT STOOD OUT ABOUT THE WHOLE AFFAIR WAS "THE  
 POWER OF THE MILITARY TO SUBJUGATE THE PRESS."

7. ROGER NIEGO THEN RECOUNTED THE VISIT MADE BY  
 THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSION (HE WAS INVITED TO  
 ACCOMPANY THE DELEGATION BY OPPOSITION MEMBERS  
 OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE WITH THE CONSENT  
 OF THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, CARLOS BLANCO, OF THE  
 MAJORITY PRO-GOVERNMENT PARTY). NIEGO REVIEWED  
 MUCH OF WHAT HAD BEEN REPORTED PREVIOUSLY  
 (REFTEL). HE NOTED THAT MEMBERS OF THE  
 COMMISSION DISCOVERED TWO BODIES IN MOLLUNA AND  
 FIVE MORE IN A NEARBY AREA CALLED PUERTO MOLLUNA,  
 ALL ON THE SURFACE OF THE GROUND. AT FIRST,  
 NIEGO NOTED, THE ARMY CLAIMED THAT IT COULD NOT  
 HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE BECAUSE IT HAD NOT BEEN TO  
 THOSE PLACES. "THEN THEY CHANGED THEIR STORY,"  
 NIEGO SAID, "AND CLAIMED THAT THE BODIES BELONGED  
 TO TERRORIST COMMANDERS KILLED IN BATTLE." NIEGO

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CRITICIZED THE BEHAVIOR OF ONE GOVERNMENT-PARTY CONGRESSMAN ON THE TRIP, GILBERTO SIURA, WHO HE SAID "INTERROGATED WITNESSES AS THOUGH THEY WERE BEING ACCUSED OF TERRORISM." THROUGHOUT THE VISIT, HE NOTED, IT SEEMED LIKE THE ARMY WAS TRYING TO OBSTRUCT THE INVESTIGATION; FOR INSTANCE, HE ASSERTED, OFFICERS ENSURED THAT THE DELEGATION ALWAYS RAN SEVERAL HOURS BEHIND

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SCHEDULE.

8. COORDINADORA MEMBERS AGREED THAT THE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR NAMED TO INVESTIGATE THE KILLINGS (WHO IS TO BE THE TINGO MARIA DISTRICT ATTORNEY) COULD NOT BE TRUSTED. EVEN AFTER HE HAD SPOKEN TO WITNESSES, THE PROSECUTOR HAD DECLARED THAT NO ONE HAD REGISTERED A FORMAL COMPLAINT (DENUNCIA). THE COORDINADORA REPRESENTATIVES NOTED THAT, OVER THE COURSE OF SEVERAL YEARS, THERE HAD BEEN A NUMBER OF REPORTS OF KILLINGS, PILLAGING AND ATROCITIES COMMITTED BY THE ARMED FORCES IN THE HUALLAGA FRONT. BECAUSE OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ZONE (JUNGLE, COCA-GROWING AREA WITH A TRANSITORY POPULATION), THE COORDINADORA HAD LITTLE HOPE OF EVER KNOWING EVERYTHING THAT HAD HAPPENED THERE DURING THE WAR.

9. THE COORDINADORA MEMBERS ALSO BRIEFLY DISCUSSED THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW CRIMINAL PROCEDURES CODE, WHICH THEY REGARDED AS "TERRIBLE NEWS" (SEPTEL).

10. THE AMBASSADOR REITERATED THE EMBASSY'S CONFIDENCE IN THE COORDINADORA'S WORK, AND CONGRATULATED THE GROUP FOR ITS COURAGE. HE ADDED THAT HE AND THE EMBASSY CONTINUE TO BE WILLING TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS ON BEHALF OF SOME OF THE INNOCENT PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN UNFAIRLY DETAINED ON TERRORISM CHARGES. THE COORDINADORA PROMISED TO CONTINUE TO CONSULT THE

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EMBASSY ON ITS MOST IMPORTANT AND CLEAR-CUT CASES.

11. COMMENT: THE COORDINADORA WELCOMED THE VISITY FROM THE AMBASSADOR, WHICH FOLLOWED DENUNCIATIONS OF THE COORDINADORA'S STATEMENTS ON HUANUCO BY THE MILITARY, CONGRESS AND PRO-GOP MEDIA. THE COORDINADORA'S ANALYSIS OF THE HUANUCO KILLINGS IS SUPPORTED TO A LARGE EXTENT BY CATHOLIC CLERGY IN HUANUCO, AND EVEN BY THE HERE-TO-FORE PRO-GOP PEACE COUNCIL.

ADAMS

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