

[REDACTED]

n/a

Case Number: S200200010

RELEASED IN PART  
B1, 1.5(B), 1.5(D)

PTQ7580

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ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-10	ACDE-00	INLB-01	AID-00	AMAD-01	A-00
	CA-02	CCO-00	CG-00	SMEC-00	COME-00	CTME-00	INL-01
	OASY-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EAP-01
	EB-00	EUR-01	FAAE-00	FBO-01	H-01	IMMC-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	INSE-00	IO-00	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00	MMP-00
	M-00	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-03	OIC-02	OIS-01
	OMB-01	OPIC-01	OPR-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00
	CIO-00	SCT-00	SP-00	SSO-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	USSS-00
	ASDS-01	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-10	PRME-01	DRL-09	G-00

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O 301718Z APR 97  
 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7252  
 INFO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 3481  
 AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY  
 AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
 AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
 CIA WASHINGTON DC  
 AMEMBASSY QUITO  
 DIA WASHDC  
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 AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
 AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
 USMISSION GENEVA  
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
 AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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 USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM  
 FBI WASHINGTON DC

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SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD  
ROME PASS EMBASSY VATICAN

n/a  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

n/a

Case Number: S200200010

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/29/2007

TAGS: PHUM PTER PREL PGOV PE

SUBJECT: ACCUSATIONS OF "EXECUTIONS" OF MRTA TERRORISTS RAISES INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS, BUT SCANT LOCAL OUTCRIES

1. CLASSIFIED [REDACTED] BY DENNIS JETT, AMBASSADOR, EMBASSY LIMA, REASON 1.5 (D)

2. [REDACTED] SUMMARY: THE GOP STRONGLY DENIES AND WE CANNOT CONFIRM REPORTS ALLEGING THAT THE RESCUE TEAM MAY HAVE "EXECUTED" SOME OF THE MRTA TERRORISTS AFTER THEY TRIED TO SURRENDER. THE GOP'S OPAQUE HANDLING OF THE BODIES OF THE DEAD MRTA HOSTAGE TAKERS, HOWEVER, HAS ONLY FUELED THE SUSPICIONS THAT IN A FEW CASES THE RESCUE TEAM USED EXCESSIVE FORCE. PAST HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES, INCLUDING EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS BY SECURITY FORCES, HAVE LESSENED THE WILLINGNESS TO GIVE THE GOP THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT. TO DATE, THE PREPONDERANCE OF REPORTING OF ALLEGED EXECUTIONS COMES FROM FOREIGN PRESS OR UNNAMED SOURCES. END SUMMARY.

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VARYING ALLEGATIONS OF EXECUTIONS OF MRTA TERRORISTS

[REDACTED]

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3. (U) ALLEGATIONS THAT MEMBERS OF THE PERUVIAN RESCUE TEAM EXECUTED MRTA TERRORISTS DURING THE APRIL 22 RESCUE OPERATION HAVE GENERATED OFFICIAL DENIALS AND LITTLE PERUVIAN PUBLIC ATTENTION. MOST OF THE LOCAL REPORTS OF EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS HAVE BEEN PICKED UP FROM FOREIGN NEWS SOURCES. THE FOLLOWING IS A COMPILATION OF THE CONFLICTING ALLEGATIONS WE HAVE SEEN IN PERUVIAN REPORTING:

--- LIMA OPPOSITION DAILY "LA REPUBLICA" RAN AN APRIL 24 STORY BASED ON UNNAMED MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SOURCES WHO PURPORTEDLY LISTENED IN ON THE RESCUE OPERATION. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, BOTH FEMALE TERRORISTS SHOUTED "WE SURRENDER," BUT IT WAS ALREADY "TOO LATE," AND THEY WERE TARGETED AND KILLED.

--- "LA REPUBLICA" ALSO RAN AN APRIL 27 STORY BASED ON AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED BY THE BUENOS AIRES NEWSPAPER "CLARIN" ALLEGING THAT THE PERUVIAN TACTICAL TEAM EXECUTED TWO MRTA TERRORISTS. CITING PERUVIAN NAVAL INTELLIGENCE SOURCES, THE STORY CLAIMS THAT

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MEMBERS OF THE RESCUE TEAM TIED UP MRTA TERRORIST CRUZ SANCHEZ (A.K.A. "TITO") AND REMOVED HIM VIA A TUNNEL TO A NEARBY HOUSE. THE STORY ASSERTS THAT "TITO" WAS LATER RETURNED TO THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE AND SHOT DEAD THERE. THE ARTICLE ALSO ASSERTS THAT ONE OF THE YOUNG MRTA TERRORISTS ON THE SECOND FLOOR SURRENDERED, BUT WAS LATER KILLED BY THE RESCUE TEAM.

--- OTHER LIMA NEWSPAPERS REPLAYED JAPANESE PRESS REPORTING THAT "TITO" AND ONE FEMALE MRTA TERRORIST SURRENDERED TO THE RESCUE TEAM ON THE FIRST FLOOR, BUT WERE LATER KILLED. THE JAPANESE PRESS REPORTS CITED UNNAMED JAPANESE FORMER HOSTAGES WHO SAID

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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THEY SAW "TITO" WITH HIS HANDS TIED BEHIND HIS BACK.

4. [REDACTED] BEYOND THE PRESS SPECULATIONS AND UNNAMED SOURCING, WE ARE HEARING SOME WHISPERED CONCERNS FROM THE PERUVIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMUNITY.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] TOLD A NEPHEW THAT ONE OF THE MRTA TERRORISTS DROPPED HIS WEAPON, SURRENDERED, AND WAS ESCORTED WITH THE HOSTAGES OUTSIDE THE JAPANESE RESIDENCE. ACCORDING TO THIS THIRD-HAND VERSION, MEMBERS OF THE RESCUE TEAM TOOK CUSTODY OF THE TERRORIST.

[REDACTED]

5. [REDACTED] STORY, IF ACCURATELY CONVEYED BY HIS NEPHEW, HAS HOLES IN IT -- FOR EXAMPLE, HIS UNCLE WAS IN THE ROOM WHERE THE ONE HOSTAGE FATALITY OCCURRED, AND WE WONDER HOW IN THAT CONFUSION, A TERRORIST WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SURRENDER.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] HE BELIEVES THAT SOME PERUVIAN JOURNALISTS HAVE HEARD [REDACTED] VERSION, BUT IT HAS NOT BEEN REPORTED PUBLICLY.

6. [REDACTED] MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE COORDINADORA FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, PERU'S UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS NGO'S, HAVE WONDERED ALOUD HOW ALL 14 MRTA TERRORISTS CAME TO BE KILLED. PRIVATELY, AT LEAST THREE COMMITTEE MEMBERS HAVE HEARD

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 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7253  
 INFO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 3482  
 AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY  
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 AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD  
 ROME PASS EMBASSY VATICAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/29/2007

n/a  
[REDACTED]

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INDEPENDENTLY THAT [REDACTED] AND OTHERS MIGHT HAVE MORE TO SAY ABOUT THESE ACCUSATIONS. THEY HAVE NOT YET, HOWEVER, PRODUCED ANY EVIDENCE OF GOP WRONGDOING IN THE RESCUE OPERATION.

B1

7. (U) ANOTHER CONFUSED ACCOUNT OF PURPORTED EXECUTIONS OF MRTA TERRORISTS CAME FROM FREED AGRICULTURE MINISTER RODOLFO MUNANTE. IN AN APRIL 24 TELEVISION INTERVIEW, HE SAID HE SAW ONE MRTA TERRORIST THROW UP HIS HANDS IN A GESTURE OF SURRENDER. THE NEXT DAY, HOWEVER, MUNANTE CALLED A PRESS CONFERENCE TO RETRACT HIS TAPED STATEMENT. CRITICIZING THE PRESS FOR PUTTING "WORDS IN MY MOUTH WHICH I NEVER SAID," MUNANTE DENIED HE SAW ANY MRTA TERRORIST SURRENDER AND SAID THAT THE TERRORIST HE HAD PREVIOUSLY REFERRED TO HAD TOSSED A GRENADE BEFORE HE WAS KILLED.

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OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL DENIALS FOLLOW ALLEGATIONS  
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8. (U) PRESIDENT ALBERTO FUJIMORI CATEGORICALLY DENIED THAT THERE WERE ANY EXECUTIONS OF MRTA TERRORISTS. FUJIMORI SAID FIVE HOSTAGE TAKERS DIED FROM THE BOMB BLAST UNDER THE DINING ROOM WHERE MRTA TERRORISTS WERE PLAYING SOCCER. HE SAID FIVE MORE (INCLUDING MRTA LEADER NESTOR CERPA CARTOLINI) WERE SHOT DEAD TRYING TO RUN UP THE STAIRWELL, AND THE REMAINING FOUR WERE KILLED IN SHOOTOUTS ON THE SECOND FLOOR. LIBERATED CONGRESSMAN LUIS CHANG CHING, A LOYAL FUJIMORI SUPPORTER, TOLD POL COUNS THAT HE DID NOT WITNESS OR HEAR ANY ATTEMPTS TO SURRENDER OR EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS.

9. (U) FREED BOLIVIAN AMBASSADOR JORGE GUMUCIO TOLD REPORTERS, "I DID NOT HEAR SHOUTS OF SURRENDER, BUT RATHER WAR CRIES FROM BOTH SIDES, ESPECIALLY FROM THE (GOP) SOLDIERS." LIBERATED PRIEST FATHER JUAN JULIO WICHT SAID HE DOUBTED THAT ANYONE COULD HAVE WITNESSED ANY EXECUTIONS GIVEN THE FACT THAT THE SMOKE INSIDE THE HOSTAGE SITE WAS SO THICK. WICHT STRESSED THAT HE COULD ONLY SEE A FEW FEET AROUND HIM UNTIL HE MADE IT OUTSIDE. IN HIS APRIL 26 LIMA PRESS CONFERENCE, JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER IKEDA DECLINED TO COMMENT ON ALLEGATIONS OF EXECUTIONS, NOTING

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THAT HE HAD SEEN PRESS REPORTS BUT DID NOT HAVE ANY INFORMATION. ICRC CHIEF DELEGATE TO PERU MICHEL MINNIG NOTED THAT HE COULD NOT SHED ANY LIGHT ON THIS SUBJECT EITHER; THE ICRC WAS NOT PERMITTED TO RETURN TO THE HOSTAGE SITE ONCE THE RESCUE OPERATION WAS LAUNCHED.

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GOP HANDLING OF MRTA DEATHS LESS THAN TRANSPARENT  
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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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10. (U) THE LACK OF TRANSPARENCY IN THE GOP'S HANDLING OF THE BODIES OF THE MRTA TERRORISTS HAS ONLY FUELED SPECULATION ABOUT POSSIBLE EXECUTIONS. DURING THE COURSE OF THE RESCUE OPERATION AND AFTERWARD, PERUVIAN FORCES, WHICH HAD RAPIDLY EVACUATED WOUNDED/DECEASED HOSTAGES AND SOLDIERS, DID NOT DO THE SAME FOR THE MRTA TERRORISTS. INSTEAD, THE GOP LEFT THE CADAVERS OF THE DECEASED MRTA HOSTAGE TAKERS IN THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE FOR OVER 24 HOURS (TIME ENOUGH TO HAVE PRESIDENT FUJIMORI PHOTOGRAPHED WITH CERPA'S CORPSE AT HIS FEET) (NOTE: DESPITE THE OPINIONS OF U.S. OP-ED WRITERS, WE DID NOT SEE EVIDENCE OF MUTILATION OF THE CORPSES WHEN FUJIMORI TOURED THE RE-TAKEN RESIDENCE. WHAT WE DID SEE WAS A VICTORY VISIT BY A TRIUMPHANT FUJIMORI -- AN IMAGE RECEIVED INTERNATIONALLY, THOUGH NOT VIEWED LOCALLY, AS A DISPLAY OF POOR TASTE AND INSENSITIVITY. END NOTE.)

11. (U) AMONG THE FAMILIES OF THE KILLED MRTA TERRORISTS, ONLY THE LIMA-BASED RELATIVES OF NESTOR CERPA AND ROLI ROJAS REPORTEDLY CLAIMED THE BODIES OF THEIR KIN FOR BURIAL. ONE OTHER FAMILY WAS DENIED ACCESS TO A DECEASED FEMALE MRTA MEMBER DUE TO A DISCREPANCY IN FAMILY NAMES. (NOTE: MOST OF THE OTHER HOSTAGE TAKERS HAILED FROM PERU'S CENTRAL JUNGLE, SO IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT THEIR FAMILIES DID NOT ASSUME THE EXPENSES OF TRAVELING TO LIMA AND ARRANGING THE BURIALS OF THEIR INFAMOUS FAMILY MEMBERS. END NOTE). PERUVIAN LAW REQUIRES THAT UNEMBALMED BODIES BE BURIED WITHIN 48 HOURS, SO THE BODIES OF THE TWO MRTA HOSTAGE

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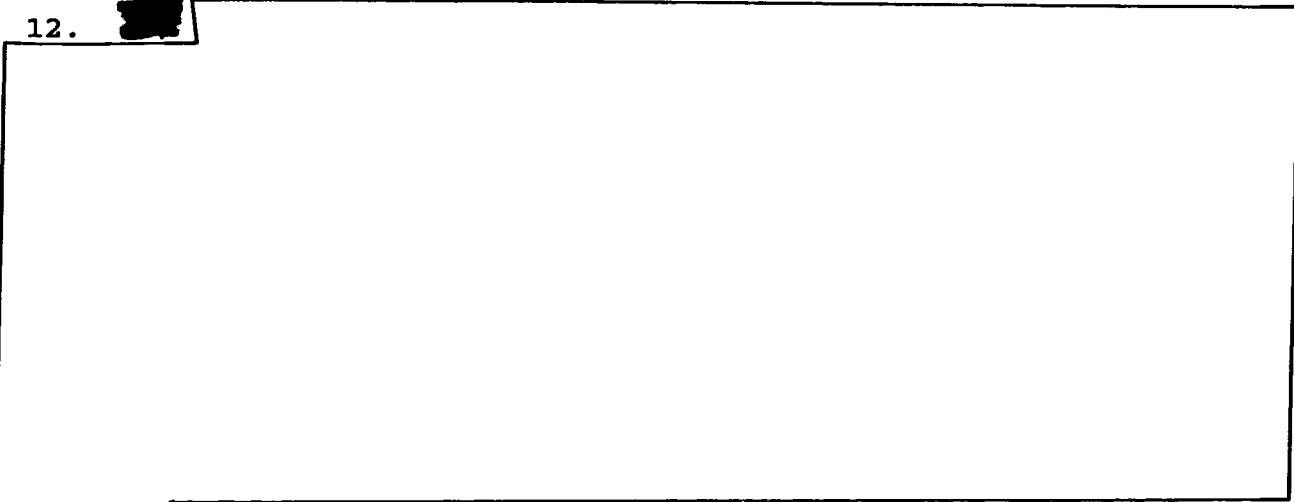
INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS, BUT SCANT LOCAL OUTCRIES

TAKERS WERE RELEASED ON THE CONDITION THAT THEY BE INTERRED RIGHT AWAY (WITHOUT ANY CAUSE-RALLYING WAKES). THE GOP SUPERVISED THE BURIALS IN LIMA CEMETERIES OF ALL OF THE DECEASED MRTA MEMBERS; A LONE AUNT ATTENDED THE BURIAL OF CERPA. FUJIMORI DEFENDED THE UNMARKED BURIALS, NOTING THAT ALL THE TERRORISTS WERE BURIED INDIVIDUALLY IN SPECIFIED PLOTS.

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"WHY CARE?"  
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12. [REDACTED]

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ON APRIL 29, FUJIMORI COMMENCED SOME CHANGES IN PRISON CONDITIONS FOR SENDERO LUMINOSO (SHINING PATH-SL) TERRORISTS AND SAID HE WOULD LOOK AGAIN AT PARDONS.

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COMMENT  
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13. [REDACTED] AGAINST A BACKDROP OF CONFLICTING ALLEGATIONS AND OFFICIAL GOP DENIALS, WE DOUBT WE WILL EVER KNOW FOR SURE IF THE RESCUE TEAM EXECUTED A SMALL NUMBER OF MRTA TERRORISTS. GIVEN THAT THE MRTA PROMISED TO KILL THE HOSTAGES IN THE EVENT OF A RESCUE AND PRACTICED DOING JUST THAT, WE WERE NOT SURPRISED THAT THE RESCUE TEAM TOOK DOWN ALL OF THE TERRORISTS WITH SUDDEN AND OVERWHELMING FORCE. CERTAINLY MOST, IF NOT ALL, OF THE MRTA TERRORISTS DID NOT GIVE UP; THEY SHOT AT HOSTAGES, KILLING ONE AND WOUNDING TWO OTHERS, AND AT THE RESCUE TEAM, KILLING TWO AND INJURING SEVERAL OTHERS.

[REDACTED]  
n/a