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USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD
 CARACAS FOR DAS GELBARD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: PHUM, PTER, PGOV, PE
 SUBJECT: RAID ON THE UNIVERSITIES: MORE REACTION
 REF: LIMA 1962

1. (C) SUMMARY: STUDENTS CONTINUE TO PROTEST THE FEBRUARY 13 POLICE RAIDS; ANOTHER DEMONSTRATION IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 24. A SENIOR PUBLIC PROSECUTOR/PUBLIC DEFENDER HAS ORDERED POLICE TO RELEASE STUDENT DETAINEES WHO ARE NOT FUGITIVES OR NEEDED FOR QUESTIONING. HE ALSO ASSERTED POLICE HAD USED UNNECESSARY VIOLENCE IN THE RAID, MIS-TREATED DETAINEES, AND POSSIBLY PLANTED EVIDENCE. THE GOP HAS NOT RESPONDED TO THESE CHARGES. THE IU CONTINUES TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST THE RAIDS, REFLECTING THAT GROUP'S CLOSE TIES, PERSONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL, TO THE UNIVERSI-
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TIES. CONGRESS IS UNLIKELY TO TAKE UP THE IU'S COM-

PLAINTS, AS IT CURRENTLY IS IN AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION.
END SUMMARY.

2. (U) UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND THE LEFT CONTINUE TO REACT TO THE FEBRUARY 13 POLICE RAIDS OF THREE PERUVIAN UNIVERSITIES AND THE LARGE-SCALE DETENTION OF STUDENTS. STUDENTS CARRIED OUT ANOTHER ILLEGAL DEMONSTRATION FEBRUARY 19 IN DOWNTOWN LIMA, BROKEN UP WITH TEAR GAS BY THE POLICE. ANOTHER DEMONSTRATION IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 24.

3. (U) RESPONDING TO A HABEAS CORPUS REQUEST FILED BY RECTORS OF THE THREE AFFECTED UNIVERSITIES, A SENIOR PUBLIC PROSECUTOR/PUBLIC DEFENDER (FISCAL SUPREMO DE LO PENAL) CALLED UPON POLICE TO RELEASE IMMEDIATELY ALL DETAINED STUDENTS WHO ARE NOT FUGITIVES OR WANTED FOR QUESTIONING. ACCORDING TO SOME PRESS REPORTS, ABOUT 50 STUDENTS FALL INTO THESE CATEGORIES; OUT OF THE ORIGINAL 793 DETAINEES, ABOUT 149 REMAIN IN CUSTODY AS OF FEBRUARY 22.

4. (U) THE SENIOR PROSECUTOR ALSO REPORTEDLY HAS CONCLUDED THAT THE POLICE ENGAGED IN UNNECESSARY DESTRUCTION OF UNIVERSITY AND STUDENT PROPERTY; HAD FORCED SOME 200 STUDENTS TO SIGN BLANK STATEMENTS THAT INCRIMINATED THEM; POSSIBLY HAD PLANTED EVIDENCE; AND HAD SEVERELY MISTREATED AT LEAST TWO STUDENTS (ONE ALLEGEDLY BEATEN WITH A CROWBAR AND THE OTHER SHOT IN THE LEG). THE GOP HAS NOT RESPONDED.

5. (U) WE BELIEVE A MAJORITY OF LIMA RESIDENTS STILL
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SUPPORTS THE RAID AGAINST THE UNIVERSITIES. THE TWO MORE CONSERVATIVE POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE ADOPTED OPPOSITE SIDES ON THIS ISSUE; THE POPULAR CHRISTIAN PARTY (PPC) SUPPORTS THE ACTION WHOLEHEARTEDLY, WHILE BELAUNDE'S POPULAR ACTION (AP) HAS CLAIMED POLICE USED UNNECESSARY FORCE.

6. (U) THE UNITED LEFT CONTINUES TO RAIL AGAINST THE POLICE SWEEP. MORE RADICAL ELEMENTS CLAIM THE RAID IS EVIDENCE OF A PROCESS TOWARDS "FASCISM AND MILI-

TARIZATION." MORE MODERATE IU MEMBERS -- WHO TEND TO HAVE STRONG UNIVERSITY TIES -- ALSO HAVE HARSH WORDS. IU SENATORS ENRIQUE BERNALES (PSR) AND ROLANDO AMES (INDEPENDENT) ANNOUNCED THEIR RESIGNATION FEBRUARY 21 FROM THE SENATE'S UNIVERSITIES COMMISSION TO PROTEST APRA MANEUVERING TO PREVENT THE COMMISSION FROM LOOKING AT THE POLICE RAID. OTHER IU CONGRESSMEN HAVE CALLED FOR CONGRESS TO INTERPELLATE INTERIOR MINISTER SALINAS.

7. (C) COMMENT: THE STRONG TIES OF THE LEGAL LEFT TO CERTAIN PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES, INCLUDING THOSE RAIDED BY THE POLICE, ACCOUNT FOR THE CONTINUED STRONG REACTION FROM LEFTIST AND STUDENT QUARTERS. DURING PERIODS OF DICTATORSHIP, THE UNIVERSITIES FREQUENTLY WERE THE ONLY POLITICAL SPACE AVAILABLE TO CERTAIN SECTORS OF THE LEFT, AND A LARGE NUMBER OF THE LEFT'S LEADERS WERE EITHER STUDENT LEADERS (SUCH AS JAVIER DIEZ CANSECO) OR UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS (SUCH AS BERNALES AND AMES). SOME IU MEMBERS WITH WHOM WE HAVE TALKED PERCEIVE THE RAIDS AS YET ANOTHER EFFORT BY THE GOP--WHETHER DELIBERATE OR NOT--TO FURTHER INCREASE THE GOP/APRA'S REACH TO THE DETRIMENT OF

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THE OPPOSITION. APART FROM DEMONSTRATIONS, THERE IS LITTLE THE IU CAN DO. CONGRESS CURRENTLY IS IN AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION AND CAN DEAL ONLY WITH THE SUBJECTS FOR WHICH IT WAS CONVENED. THE MRTA, HOWEVER, HAS REACTED, LEAVING A BOMB FEBRUARY 20 IN THE APRA-DOMINATED VILLAREAL UNIVERSITY (SEPTEL).

WATSON