

DECLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL
Department of State

INCOMING
TELEGRAM
RELEASED

(X241)

PAGE #1 LIMA 88844 272233Z
ACTION ARA-16

3133

INFO OCT-88 COPY-81 ADS-88 AID-88 INR-18 SS-18 CIAE-88
H-81 NSC-81 NSAE-88 HA-81 L-83 PH-89 PA-81
HCT-82 ICAE-88 SP-82 SPRS-82 /B73 W

-----155634 272305Z /61

P R 272203Z AUG 82
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4345
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCSOUTH QUARRY HTS PH

CONFIDENTIAL LIMA 8844

PANAMA FOR ADS.

DIA FOR IR BRANCH

EO 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PE PINS SNARR ASEC SPPN
SUBJECT: OJ SOME DETAILS ON VILCASHUAMAN ATTACK

REF: LIMA 8666

1. (LOW) GOP WAS SLOW GETTING THE FACTS OUT ON AUGUST 22
ATTACK ON CIVIL GUARD (GC) POST AT VILCASHUAMAN, AYACUCHO
(NEFTEL) WITH RESULT THAT WILDLY EXAGGERATED PRESS REPORTS
OF 36 TO 45 FATALITIES SEEM TO HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY
SOME ANALYSTS AS FACTUAL.

2. (LOW) AS REPORTED LIMA 8693, INTERIOR MINISTER
GAGLIARDI SAID SIX GC DIED AND PUT ESTIMATED TERRORIST
FATALITIES AT TEN. THERE SEEMS TO BE NO BASIS FOR PRESS
REPORTS OF INNOCENT BYSTANDER FATALITIES, UNLESS
TERRORISTS REMOVED THESE BODIES AS WELL AS THEIR OWN.

3. (C) FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF INCIDENT WAS PROVIDED TO
NAJ CHIEF BY RICARDO ROJAS (HEAD OF GC NARCOTICS DIVISION)
AND LTC JULIO CANO (COMMANDER OF GC RURAL PATROL AT
TINGO MARIA), BASED ON THEIR CONVERSATIONS WITH A GC
LIEUTENANT WOUNDED IN THE VILCASHUAMAN ENCOUNTER.

4. (C) GC POST'S COMPLEMENT WAS 22 MEN, 18 OF THEM
(INCLUDING THE LIEUTENANT) "SINCHIS" (RECIPIENTS OF
SPECIAL COUNTER-INSURGENCY TRAINING). EARLY MORNING
AUGUST 22, THE ATTACKERS ARRIVED IN TWO TRUCKS. THEY
NUMBERED BETWEEN 40 AND 80 PERSONS. THEY FIRST CALLED
BY MEGAPHONE FOR THE POST TO SURRENDER. THREE GC
RECRUITS, CONFUSED ABOUT WHAT WAS HAPPENING, VENTURED
OUTSIDE THE POST AND WERE IMMEDIATELY KILLED.

5. (C) THE TERRORISTS THEN LAUNCHED A FULL-SCALE
ATTACK, WITH A VARIETY OF FIREARMS AND DYNAMITE. IN
THE COURSE OF THE ATTACK, WHICH LASTED "SEVERAL HOURS,"
THREE MORE GC WERE KILLED. ROJAS ESTIMATED TOTAL TERRORIST
CASUALTIES--KILLED AND WOUNDED--AT ABOUT TEN.

6. (C) THE TERRORISTS BROKE OFF THEIR ATTACK WHEN BY
HAPPENSTANCE AN AIR FORCE HELICOPTER FLEW OVER THE
SCENE. THEY EVIDENTLY BELIEVED THAT IT CARRIED OR PRE-
SAGED REINFORCEMENTS, AND DEPARTED, WITH THEIR CASUALTIES,
IN THEIR TRUCKS. IN FACT, SEVERAL MORE HOURS
ELAPSED BEFORE THE GC IN AYACUCHO CITY LEARNED OF THE
ATTACK.

7. (C) ROJAS AND CANO, BOTH EX-SINCHIS, CLAIMED THAT
THE SINCHIS IN THE VILCASHUAMAN POST RETAINED THEIR
COHESIVENESS AND DISCIPLINE THROUGHOUT THE ATTACK,
AND, PERHAPS AS A CONSEQUENCE, SUFFERED NO FATALITIES.
ARGUING THAT THE TERRORISTS FAILED IN THEIR OBJECTIVE
OF OVERRUNNING AND DESTROYING THE POLICE POST, ROJAS
AND CANO CONTENDED THAT THE ACTION WAS A "LIMITED
VICTORY" FOR THE GC. NEWSPAPER PHOTOS CONFIRM REPORTS
THAT THE POST WAS "VIRTUALLY DESTROYED" IN THE
FIGHTING.
ORTJZ

Pen

840195/12318

CONFIDENTIAL
DECLASSIFIED

United States Department of State
Office of FOI, Privacy, & Classification Review
Review Authority: OLSON, OSCAR
Date: 08/24/94
Case ID: 93006592