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Case Number: 200004404

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ACTION H-06

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O 152350Z JAN 92  
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4907  
DIRONDCP WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
DEAHQS WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM

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SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: OREP, PREL, PHUM, SNAR, EAID, PE  
SUBJECT: STAFFDEL SMITH/ERVIN: MEETING WITH  
VICE MINISTER OF INTERIOR

1. [REDACTED] - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: INTERIOR VICE MINISTER MEJIA TOLD  
VISITING CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS THAT SETTING UP  
THE REGISTRY OF DETAINEES IS IN TRAIN, THANKS TO  
[REDACTED]

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MATERIAL ASSISTANCE FROM USG. HE SAID THAT BOTH  
POLICE AND JUDICIAL INVESTIGATIONS ARE UNDERWAY  
FOR THE BARRIOS ALTOS MASSACRE; HE SAID THAT AN  
EARLY PRESS REPORT THAT A USG-PROVIDED VEHICLE  
WAS USED IN THE INCIDENT PROVED TO NOT BE TRUE.  
HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO IMPROVE POLICE  
HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE OVER THE LONG TERM

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L. MILLS  
DATE/CASE ID: 17 APR 2001 200004404

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THOUGH IMPROVED TRAINING. HE SAW NO CONSTITUTIONAL IMPEDIMENTS TO SUBJUGATING POLICE TO MILITARY AUTHORITY IN EMERGENCY ZONES. END SUMMARY

3. CONGRESSIONAL STAFF MEMBERS ROGER ERVIN AND GARE SMITH MET ON JANUARY 15 WITH VICE MINISTER OF INTERIOR DAVID MEJIA. STAFFDEL WAS JOINED BY COLETTA YOUNGERS OF THE WASHINGTON OFFICE ON LATIN AMERICA, A WOLA-FUNDED INTERPRETER, AND DCM. DISCUSSION FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS IN PERU AND GOVERNMENT ACTIONS TO IMPROVE RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

4. MEJIA SAID THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO WORK ON IMPROVING HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE BY MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY FORCES THROUGH BETTER COMMAND AND ORGANIZATION, PARTICULARLY WITHIN THE POLICE. HE SAID THAT TRAINING FOR THE POLICE WILL ALSO BE SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVED, WITH HEAVY EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS. INSTEAD OF SIX MONTHS BASIC TRAINING, ENLISTED POLICE WILL RECEIVE TWO YEARS TRAINING, WHILE OFFICERS' TRAINING WILL BE INCREASED FROM FOUR TO SIX YEARS. HE

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 ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ABUSES HAVE OCCURRED BUT SAID THIS WAS DUE TO INSUFFICIENT ATTENTION BY SENIOR OFFICIALS TO THE IMPACT OF SERVICE IN EMERGENCY ZONES ON MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY FORCES. THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF THIS SERVICE HAD LED TO GENERALIZED CRIMINALITY AMONG THE POLICE AND THIS HAD TO BE CORRECTED. HE DENIED THAT SUBJUGATING POLICE TO MILITARY AUTHORITY IN EMERGENCY ZONES WAS A VIOLATION OF THE CONSTITUTION. IT WAS ALREADY PROVIDED FOR IN THE CONSTITUTION AND RECENT GOVERNMENT DECREES WERE INTENDED TO CLEAR UP AREAS OF CONFUSION IN THE LAW.

NATIONAL REGISTRY OF DETAINEES  
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5. AT THE END OF THE MEETING MEJIA PROVIDED AN EXTENSIVE EXPLANATION OF THE PROJECTED PARTICIPATION OF THE POLICE IN THE NATIONAL REGISTRY OF DETAINEES. HE SAID THAT THANKS TO THE MATERIAL ASSISTANCE OF THE U.S. AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM A UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE, THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR WOULD BE ABLE TO FULLY SUPPORT THE REGISTRY. HE SAID THAT POLICE POSTS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY WOULD FUNNEL DATA ON DETENTIONS IN THEIR ZONES UP THROUGH THE BUREAUCRACY. U.S. ASSISTANCE IN COMPUTERS AND RADIOS WOULD SPEED THIS PROCESS AND MAKE RETRIEVAL OF INFORMATION EASIER. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE REGISTRY WILL BE UNDER THE

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 TUPELARY CONTROL OF THE PUBLIC MINISTRY.

BARRIOS ALTOS  
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6. STAFFDEL NOTED THAT THERE WERE SPECIAL CONCERNS ABOUT THE RECENT INCIDENT AT BARRIOS ALTOS IN WHICH A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WERE MASSACRED. THEY ASKED WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING TO INVESTIGATE THIS INCIDENT, NOTING THAT

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SOUTHCOS ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
 TAGS: OREP, PREL, PHUM, SNAR, EAID, PE  
 SUBJECT: STAFFDEL SMITH/ERVIN: MEETING WITH

PERUVIANS THEY HAD SPOKEN TO ASSERTED THAT NO EFFECTIVE INVESTIGATION WAS IN PROCESS. STAFFDEL SAID THERE IS A STRONG SUSPICION THAT RIGHT WING PARA-MILITARY GROUPS WERE RESPONSIBLE GIVEN THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INCIDENT. THEY ALSO ASKED IF IT WAS TRUE THAT A USG-PROVIDED

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 VEHICLE HAS BEEN USED IN THE INCIDENT.

7. MEJIA SAID THAT THE INCIDENT REMAINS UNDER ACTIVE INVESTIGATION, BOTH BY THE POLICE AND BY THE JUDICIARY, BUT RESULTS HAVE SO FAR NOT BEEN PRODUCED. HE SAID THAT THERE ARE SOME INDICATIONS THAT IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A SETTLING OF ACCOUNTS AMONG TERRORIST GROUPS. HE ASSERTED THAT A NUMBER OF THE VICTIMS WERE KNOWN THROUGH POLICE RECORDS TO BE SENDERO LUMINOSO ACTIVISTS. STAFFDEL ASKED WHAT EVIDENCE EXISTED

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TO SUSTAIN THIS THEORY; AFTER SOME BACK AND FORTH, MEJ IA ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IT WAS ONLY A HYPOTHESIS, BUT INSISTED THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE EITHER FOR THE HYPOTHESIS THAT THE INCIDENT WAS A RIGHT WING PARA-MILITARY ACTION.

8. THE REPORT THAT A USG-PROVIDED VEHICLE WAS USED BY THE PERPETRATORS OF BARRIOS ALTOS, MEJIA SAID, WAS AN EARLY PRESS REPORT THAT PROVED TO BE NOT TRUE. THERE WAS A VEHICLE PROVIDED BY INM TO OFECOD, AN INTERIOR MINISTRY ANTI-DRUG AGENCY, WHICH WAS STOLEN ABOUT THE TIME OF THE BARRIOS ALTOS MASSACRE, BUT IT WAS NOT USED IN THE INCIDENT.

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