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292136Z APR 94

FROM

FM USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM//SCJ2//

CONTROLS

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SECTION 01 OF 02

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN PERU (U)

A. AMEMB LIMA, REPORTS OF MASSACRES BY PERUVIAN ARMY IN HUANUCO DEPARTMENT, 152321Z APR 94.

B. AMEMB LIMA, JOURNALISTS' INVESTIGATIONS REVEAL MORE INFORMATION ON HUANUCO KILLINGS, 192256Z APR 94.

C. AMEMB LIMA, EYEWITNESS REPORTS FROM THE KILLING SITE, 201936Z APR 94.

D. AMEMB LIMA, ATTORNEY GENERAL ASSERTS THAT MASSACRE REPORTS FROM HUANUCO ARE FABRICATED TO DAMAGE PERU'S IMAGE, 202214Z APR 94.

E.

(b)(2)

F.

(b)(2)

G. AMEMB LIMA, WITNESSES TO ALLEGED ARMY KILLINGS COME FORWARD; ARMY GENERAL ACCUSES ICRC OF AIDING TERRORISTS, 252152Z APR 94.

H. AMEMB LIMA, PERUVIAN CONGRESS CONDEMNS HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS; SPECIAL PROSECUTOR NAMED FOR HUANUCO INCIDENTS, 282249Z APR 94.

1. (U) PURPOSE: TO PROVIDE A USSOUTHCOM ASSESSMENT OF A RECENT PERUVIAN COUNTERINSURGENCY OPERATION AND ITS IMPACT ON HUMAN RIGHTS RELATED ISSUES.

2. (U) DISCUSSION.

A. ~~(S/NF/WN)~~ ON 28 MARCH 1994, PERUVIAN FORCES INITIATED A COUNTER-INSURGENCY OPERATION IN CENTRAL PERU, CODE NAMED "OPERATION ARIES", AN OPERATION WHICH MAY HAVE RESULTED IN NUMEROUS CIVILIAN CASUALTIES.

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b)

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THE PURPOSE OF THE OPERATION WAS TO WIPE OUT SENDERO LUMINOSO COLUMNS WHICH HAVE OPERATED IN THIS AREA FOR YEARS. IT IS AN AREA CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF THE LAST SENDERO STRONGHOLDS IN THE COUNTRY AND COLUMNS OF SENDERO FIGHTERS WERE REPORTED TO BE MOVING ABOUT IN THIS REGION IN MID MARCH.

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[REDACTED]
(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(d)

- (b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(d)

- [REDACTED]
(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(d)

- (b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(d)

- (b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(d)

- (b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(d)

- (b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(d)

- (b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(d)

- [REDACTED]
(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(d)

THE WAY THE OPERATION (OR OPERATIONS) WAS CONDUCTED IS BEING DESCRIBED BY SOME PURPORTED WITNESSES AS THAT OF A "SEARCH AND DESTROY" TYPE SWEEP.

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[REDACTED]
(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(c)

ACCORDING TO WITNESSES, HELICOPTERS STRAFED A NUMBER OF VILLAGES IN THESE AREAS, PARTICULARLY NORTH OF TINGO MARIA, AFTER WHICH GROUND TROOPS THEN ENTERED THEM, KILLED AND RAPED INHABITANTS, AND BURNED STRUCTURES TO THE GROUND.

[REDACTED]
(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b)

B. ~~(S/NF/AVN)~~ MOST OF THESE REPORTS HAVE BEEN, HOWEVER, SECOND HAND ACCOUNTS.

[REDACTED]
(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(c)

SO FAR, OUTSIDE OBSERVERS, UNDER MILITARY ESCORT, HAVE BEEN ONLY ALLOWED TO HELICOPTER INTO A LIMITED NUMBER OF SITES. ONE THESE LOCATIONS, [REDACTED] (b)(1), Sec. 1.4(c) IS WHERE A JOURNALIST HAD PREVIOUSLY DISCOVERED BODIES DURING AN UNAUTHORIZED VISIT TO THE AREA. THE ICRC HAS SO FAR REJECTED OFFERS OF ARMY ESCORTED VISITS CLAIMING THEY WOULD NOT BE INDEPENDENT, THEIR EFFORTS WOULD BE RESTRICTED, AND THAT WITNESSES WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO SPEAK FREELY IN FRONT OF ARMY PERSONNEL. BECAUSE OF THIS, IT REMAINS UNCLEAR EXACTLY HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED. TO DATE, THERE ARE

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ONLY 13 CONFIRMED DEATHS. SIX OF THESE WERE FOUND APPROXIMATELY 25 KILOMETERS SOUTH OF TINGO MARIA NEAR THE TOWN OF CAYUMBA CHICO. SEVEN OTHERS WERE FOUND APPROXIMATELY 20 KILOMETERS NORTH OF TINGO MARIA. AS NO OUTSIDE OBSERVERS ARE BEING GIVEN PERMISSION TO ENTER THE AREA, THE NUMBERS OF THOSE FOUND KILLED COULD GO HIGHER IF OUTSIDE ACCESS WERE TO BE GRANTED. THERE HAS ALSO BEEN ONE UNCONFIRMED OPEN PRESS REPORT THAT SAID THIS OPERATION MAY BEGIN AGAIN IN THE NEAR FUTURE [REDACTED]

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C. ~~(S/NF/WW)~~ SO FAR, THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE HAS FOLLOWED THE PATTERN DEVELOPED DURING THE LA CANTUTA HUMAN RIGHTS CASE OF 1993 AND EARLY 1994. WHILE ADMITTING TO CONDUCTING AN OPERATION IN THE AREA, THE GOVERNMENT DENIES ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE REPORTED ATROCITIES. IF CIVILIANS WERE MURDERED, ACCORDING TO THE MILITARY, THEY MUST HAVE BEEN THE VICTIMS OF SENDERO LUMINOSO. THEY HAVE ALSO THROWN UP BARRIERS TO OUTSIDE SCRUTINY SUCH AS NOT ALLOWING IN OUTSIDE OBSERVERS. ALSO, IN A THROWBACK TO THE LA CANTUTA PERIOD, BOTH THE ARMY AND PRESIDENT FUJIMORI HAVE VEHEMENTLY DENOUNCED THOSE ACCUSING THE MILITARY OF WRONGDOING. THIS HAS INCLUDED SOME VERY HEATED VERBAL ATTACKS AGAINST THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND PERUVIAN PRESS. ON 28 APRIL, THE RULING MAJORITY IN CONGRESS PASSED A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE HUMAN RIGHTS UMBRELLA GROUP COORDINADORA FOR "IRRESPONSIBLY" PROPAGATING ALLEGATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BY THE MILITARY. THIS TYPE OF CONDEMNATION IS UNPRECEDENTED. FINALLY, NO SERIOUS, AGGRES- SIVE INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN INITIATED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND NONE IS EXPECTED SOON. THE TWO GOVERNMENT BODIES WHICH MAY BE TASKED TO INVESTIGATE HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE AND THE CONGRESSIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE, ARE BOTH CONTROLLED BY MEMBERS OF PRESIDENT FUJIMORI'S POLITICAL PARTY. OF NOTE, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PERUVIAN CONGRESS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE HAVE BOTH RECENTLY VISITED TINGO MARIA ON "FACT FINDING" MISSIONS. ATTORNEY GENERAL BLANCA NELIDA COLAN ANNOUNCED ON 27 APRIL THAT SHE WAS DESIGNATING THE TINGO MARIA DISTRICT ATTORNEY AS A SPECIAL PROSE- CUTOR TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE ARMY, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

D. ~~(S/NF/WW)~~ (b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b)

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 002 *****/

[REDACTED] GENERALLY SPEAKING, HUMAN RIGHTS

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HAVE IMPROVED SUBSTANTIALLY OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS WITH SOME EXCEPTIONS. MOST IMPORTANTLY, DISAPPEARANCES AND EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS ATTRIBUTED TO SECURITY FORCES HAVE BEEN DRAMATICALLY REDUCED. ACCORDING TO HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS OVER 350 SUCH DISAPPEARANCES OCCURRED IN 1991. THIS WAS REDUCED TO JUST OVER 64 IN 1993. IN THE 1980S AND EARLY 90S WIDESPREAD SUMMARY EXECUTIONS OCCURRED, AND SECURITY FORCES HAD A COMMON PRACTICE OF ENTERING VILLAGES IN SEARCH AND DESTROY OPERATIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE HAVING BEEN ALLEGED THIS APRIL. DEATH SQUADS ALSO OPERATED WITH IMPUNITY IN THE COUNTRYSIDE AS WELL AS IN THE CAPITAL OF LIMA. BEGINNING IN 1991, HOWEVER, A TREND DEVELOPED TOWARD FEWER NUMBERS OF SUCH KILLINGS, AND SEARCH AND DESTROY METHODS WERE EVENTUALLY DISCARDED. IN ADDITION TO THESE CHANGES IN COUNTERINSURGENCY POLICY, A NUMBER OF OTHER PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED. OVER THE PAST YEAR, FOR EXAMPLE, THE PERUVIAN ARMY HAS BEGUN ASSIGNING LIEUTENANTS AT BATTALION LEVEL AS HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICERS. THIS IS NOW ONGOING IN FIELD UNITS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. THE RED CROSS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS HAVE ALSO GIVEN THE ARMY AND POLICE NUMEROUS CLASSES ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW. PREVIOUS RELUCTANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT TO GRANT OUTSIDE MONITORING OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS IN PRISONS AND MILITARY BASES APPEARS TO BE IMPROVING AND NUMEROUS VISITS TO PRISONS, JAILS, POLICE STATIONS, AND MILITARY FACILITIES BY HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS HAVE BEEN ALLOWED. FINALLY, PERU HAS ESTABLISHED A NATIONAL REGISTRY OF DETAINEES WHICH WILL ALLOW SOME ACCOUNTABILITY OF PEOPLE INCARCERATED.

E. ~~(S/NF/WN)~~ WHILE THESE DEVELOPMENTS ARE NOTEWORTHY, ALL THE NEWS IS NOT GOOD.

[REDACTED]

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(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(c)

THESE TYPES OF ABUSES AND DISAPPEARANCES APPEAR TO BE OCCURRING MOST OFTEN IN THE HUALLAGA AND PUCALLPA FRONTS, THE FRONT LINES IN THE INSURGENCY WAR. POSSIBLY THE BIGGEST PROBLEM, THOUGH, CONCERNS THE LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY FOR PAST MILITARY HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES. ONLY EIGHT HUMAN RIGHTS CASES COMMITTED BY PERUVIAN MILITARY MEMBERS HAVE BEEN RESOLVED IN THE LAST EIGHT YEARS AND FOUR OF THOSE WERE DISMISSED DUE TO LACK OF EVIDENCE. THIS LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY CAME TO THE FOREFRONT DURING THE LONG LA CANTUTA AFFAIR WHEN EFFORTS WERE MADE TO PROSECUTE MILITARY MEMBERS ACCUSED OF KILLING NINE STUDENTS

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AND ONE PROFESSOR FROM THE LA CANTUTA UNIVERSITY OUTSIDE OF LIMA. FOR OVER A YEAR THE MILITARY AND GOVERN- MENT ATTEMPTED TO STONEWALL AND IMPEDE THE INVESTIGATION OF THE KILLINGS. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (b)(1), Sec. 1.4(c) [REDACTED] EVENTUALLY NINE ARMY PERSONNEL WERE TRIED AND CONVICTED IN A MILITARY COURT AND SENTENCED FROM 1-20 YEARS ON CHARGES SUCH AS "ABUSE OF AUTHORITY". THEY HAVE NOT, HOWEVER, BEEN INCARCER- ATED IN ANY REAL PRISON.

3. ~~(S/NF/WW)~~ ASSESSMENT: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(c)

4. (U) SCJ2 POC: (b)(6) [REDACTED] DSN STU-III 313-285-6230, COMM 507-85-6230. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS ARE WELCOMED.

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DECL: OADR
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