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RELEASED IN FULL

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ACTION ARA-00

INFO	OCT-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	INR-10	SS-00	OIC-02	CIAE-00
	H-01	IO-15	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	SSO-00	SY-06	HA-08
	L-03	LAB-04	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-01	MCT-03	OMB-01
	SVC-00	INRE-00	A-02	SYE-00	USIE-00	SP-02	SNP-01
	PRS-01	SLPD-01	/072 W				

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O 282236Z AUG 84  
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7923  
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
DIA WASHINGTON DC  
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS

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DIA FOR IR BRANCH  
PANAMA FOR ADS

E.O. 12356: DECL.: 08/28/90  
TAGS: SHUM, PTER, PGOV, PE  
SUBJECT: MASS GRAVE DISCOVERED IN EMERGENCY ZONE

REF: LIMA 9488

1. [REDACTED] ENTIRE TEXT.
2. LIMA NEWSPAPERS AUGUST 24 PUBLISHED REPORTS CONCERNING THE FINDING, 36 KILOMETERS FROM EMERGENCY ZONE (EZ) CITY OF HUANTA, OF NUMEROUS CORPSES IN SEVERAL "CLANDESTINE" GRAVES. WHILE INITIAL FIGURES VARIED ("REPUBLICA" HEADLINED DISCOVERY OF 89 BODIES), MOST RELIABLE FIGURE

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APPEARS TO BE 50--49 MALES, ONE WOMAN. ALL WERE FOUND IN THREE GRAVES, AT (#)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: DONALD A. JOHNSTON  
DATE/CASE ID: 31 JUL 2001 200102006

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RESPONDED SAME DAY

BY ISSUING COMMUNIQUE THAT STATED: "IT IS PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE THAT THE TERRORIST DELINQUENTS FOLLOW THE PRACTICE OF MAKING OFF WITH THEIR DEAD--THE PRODUCT OF CONFRONTATION WITH THE SECURITY FORCES--IN ORDER TO AVOID THEIR IDENTIFICATION AND ASSOCIATION WITH ACCOMPLICES INFILTRATED INTO COMMUNITIES. THE SPOT IN WHICH THE GRAVES WERE FOUND IS LOCATED NEAR LURICOCHA, HUAMANGUILLA AND HUANTA, IN WHOSE ENVIRONS DIFFERENT ENCOUNTERS BETWEEN TERRORISTS (AND SECURITY FORCES) HAVE TAKEN PLACE. THIS LEADS TO THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE SENDERISTAS (WERE THOSE WHO) BURIED THEIR DEAD THERE. THE SECURITY FORCES, WITH REGARD TO THE BURIAL BOTH OF CIVILIANS AND MILITARY (DECEASED), PROCEED IN ACCORDANCE WITH EXISTING LEGAL REQUIREMENTS AND (DO SO) PUBLICLY." FOR HIS PART, PRESIDENT BELAUNDE DISCOUNTED POSSIBILITY THAT SECURITY FORCES MIGHT BE INVOLVED IN KILLINGS, LABELING SUCH ACCUSATIONS "POLITICALLY MOTIVATED SPECULATION."

4. THE PRESIDENT'S AND MILITARY HIGH COMMAND'S STATEMENTS NOTWITHSTANDING, MANY LOCAL OBSERVERS ARE ATTRIBUTING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE KILLINGS TO THE SECURITY FORCES, ASSOCIATING (STILL UNIDENTIFIED) CORPSES WITH PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED REPORTS OF "DISAPPEARED" (DESAPARECIDOS) PERSONS. CONTRARY TO PREVIOUS INSTANCES IN WHICH SIMILAR CHARGES SURFACED, ACCUSATIONS OF SECURITY FORCE INVOLVEMENT EMANATE NOT ONLY FROM OPPOSITION PRESS (E.G., MARXIST "EL DIARIO" AND "REPUBLICA"); BUT ALSO FROM PUBLICATIONS CLEARLY CONFIDENTIAL

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IDENTIFIABLE AS PRO-REGIME (E.G., WEEKLY "CARETAS" AND DAILY "EXPRESO"). ONLY MAJOR POINT OF DIFFERENCE AMONG THIS GROUP OF PUBLICATIONS RELATES TO PROBABLE DATE OF KILLINGS. "REPUBLICA," "EL DIARIO," AND "EXPRESO" SPEAK IN TERMS OF A SINGLE EVENT, WHEREAS (AUGUST 27 ISSUE OF) "CARETAS" REFERS TO MULTIPLE BURIALS, SPACED OVER PERIOD OF SEVERAL DAYS.

5. ALL ACCOUNTS AGREE THAT VICTIMS WERE YOUNG (BETWEEN 17-40 YEARS OLD), DISFIGURED TO PREVENT IDENTIFICATION, AND KILLED METHODICALLY. SOME WERE STRANGLERED, OTHERS STABBED, OTHERS SHOT THROUGH THE HEAD OR CHEST. MOST WERE BLINDFOLDED AND HAD THEIR ARMS BOUND. ALL WERE NUDE, WITH EVIDENCE OF CLOTHING THEY WORE HAVING BEEN BURNED

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NEAR COMMON GRAVES. "CARETAS" REPORTED FINDING AT SITE OF AN "ID" (LIBRETA MILITAR) BELONGING TO DESAPARECIDO REPORTEDLY PICKED UP AND INTERNED IN MARINE ENCAMPMENT IN HUANTA ON AUGUST 15.

6. WHILE PUBLIC REACTION APPEARS TO BE ONE OF UNIFORM HORROR, SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES APPEAR. "CARETAS'" AUGUST 27 EDITORIAL ASKS WHY PERU OF 1984 MUST CHOOSE "THE ARGENTINE SOLUTION OF 1975?" "EXPRESO" COLUMNISTS MANUEL D'ORNELLAS AND LUIS LOLI ROCA, BOTH WRITING AUGUST 25, POSTULATE THAT EVEN WAR HAS ITS HUMANITARIAN RULES--AND "TO CAPTURE, TORTURE, MUTILATE, AND COVER UP IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN (THE RULE OF) LAW AND THE CAVE." FOR WEEKLY "OIGA," HOWEVER, THESE "APPARENTLY EXTRA-JUDICIAL EXECUTIONS" ARE PART AND PARCEL OF WHAT WAR IS ALL ABOUT ("WILL THERE EVER BE SUCH A THING AS A CLEAN WAR?").

7. COMMENT: PUCAYACU KILLINGS ADD MORE FUEL TO HUMAN RIGHTS DEBATE KINDLED BY OROPEZA/AYALA DISAPPEARANCES AND REPORTS OF "TOUGHER" MEASURES ADOPTED BY SECURITY FORCES IN EMERGENCY ZONE (REFTEL). IT IS TOO EARLY TO LAY OUT WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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CERTAINTY WHERE DISCUSSION WILL LEAD. WE NOTE, FOR EXAMPLE (AS DID "EXPRESO" ON AUGUST 25), THAT PUCAYACU VICTIMS DIED ONLY VERY RECENTLY--THAT IS, SUBSEQUENT TO CONTROVERSY OVER RIGHTS ABUSES THAT OROPEZA/AYALA DISAPPEAR-

NOTE BY OC/T: (#) OMISSION. CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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ANCES OPENED. PERU'S ATTORNEY GENERAL (OFFICIAL OMBUDSMAN TRAVELED IMMEDIATELY TO HUANTA AND MADE AN INITIAL INVESTIGATION. HE REPORTEDLY THEN SPENT TWO HOURS WITH PRESIDENT BELAUNDE. WHILE PRESS AND MEDIA HAVE ADOPTED POSITIONS, OTHER INSTITUTIONS THAT FORM PART OF DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM HAVE YET TO ENTER FRAY. INTERIOR MINISTER PERCOVITCH IS DUE FOR ANOTHER APPEARANCE IN CONGRESS, AND THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES' HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE IS EXPECTED TO MEET. JORDAN  
CONFIDENTIAL

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