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Department of State PHUM

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA-00

LIMA 07198 00 OF 02 020056Z

IN RESPONSE TO THE MAY 13 AMBUSH OF AN ARMY CONVOY NEARBY (REFTELS). WHEN THE PATROLS RETURNED TO CAYARA, THE BODIES OF THE DEAD GUERRILLAS HAD BEEN REMOVED, THEY CLAIMED, BY OTHER SL MEMBERS OR LOCAL SYMPATHIZERS.

ACTION OFFICE PE-02
INFO FILE-01 00-01 ARA-06 PPC-02 ECP-01 OAS-01 PPA-01 DAMO-02
BL-02 CO-02 EC-02 OSC-01 DDSC-01 UYPA-01 RSC-01
/027 A3 RD

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00 H-01
MSC-01 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 HA-09 L-03 TRSE-00
PM-10 PA-01 ED-04 OMB-01 INM-07 INRE-00 ANAE-00
USIE-00 SP-02 SMP-01 C-01 PRS-01 DS-00 DSE-00
SCT-02 P-02 T-01 /058 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9037
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
USAFSO HOWARD AFB PM
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM
DEA HQS WASHDC
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 07198

ASUNCION FOR DENNETT

DIA FOR OA-5/OS-10/DB-6D2/JSI-4B/DB-3C1

DEA FOR OF, PS, OC, OI

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD JOHN YOULE

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PHUM, PTER, PE
SUBJECT: CAYARA: NO BODIES LEFT

REF: (A) LIMA 6773
 (B) LIMA 6901

1. (C) SUMMARY:

THE ALLEGED ARMY SUMMARY EXECUTIONS AT CAYARA REMAIN SURROUNDED BY CONTROVERSY. THE MILITARY INSISTS NO MASSACRE OCCURRED: RATHER 16 GUERRILLAS DIED IN A FIREFALL. AYACUCHO SPECIAL PROSECUTOR CARLOS ESCOBAR CLAIMS SOLDIERS KILLED AT LEAST 30 VILLAGERS, AND THEN REMOVED THE BODIES. ESCOBAR MAY BE RIGHT.

ESCOBAR HAS COMPLAINED IN PUBLIC ABOUT ALLEGED MILITARY INTERFERENCE AND FAILURE TO SUPPORT HIS WORK. THE MILITARY CONTINUES TO KEEP THE PRESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS OUT OF CAYARA. THE CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATIVE COMMISSION WILL VISIT CAYARA LATER THIS WEEK. MEANWHILE, A PROBABLE SL-INSPIRED DEMONSTRATION OVER CAYARA AT SAN MARCOS UNIVERSITY ON MAY 31 LEFT ONE STUDENT DEAD, APPARENTLY FROM POLICE GUNFIRE. END SUMMARY.

2. (C) THE MILITARY IS KEEPING A LOW PUBLIC PROFILE ON CAYARA, BUT CONTINUES TO DENY SOLDIERS CARRIED OUT SUMMARY EXECUTIONS THERE. IN PRIVATE THE MILITARY CONTINUES TO TELL US THAT ARMY PATROLS KILLED ABOUT 16 GUERRILLAS DURING FIREFIGHTS ON MAY 14 IN OR NEAR CAYARA,

3. (U) AYACUCHO SPECIAL PROSECUTOR CARLOS ESCOBAR TELLS IT DIFFERENTLY. BASED ON TESTIMONY FROM ALLEGED EYEWITNESSES AND SCATTERED FRAGMENTS OF CORPSES AND CLOTHING AT SEVERAL LOCATIONS NEAR CAYARA, HE CLAIMS SOLDIERS EXECUTED AT LEAST 30 VILLAGERS. HE ACKNOWLEDGED, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAD YET TO FIND ANY COMPLETE BODIES (CONTRARY TO OUR PREVIOUS UNDERSTANDING IN REF B). ESCOBAR REPORTEDLY ACCEPTS AS TRUE ALLEGATIONS BY CAYARA RESIDENTS THAT SOLDIERS FIRST BURIED THE DEAD, AND THEN REMOVED THE BODIES BEFORE JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES COULD ARRIVE. HE REPORTEDLY HAS PROTESTED BOTH ARMY INTERFERENCE WITH HIS INVESTIGATION AND THE AYACUCHO POLITICAL-MILITARY COMMANDER'S FAILURE TO PROVIDE PROMISED LOGISTICAL SUPPORT.

4. (U) THE MILITARY CONTINUES TO KEEP THE PRESS, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC), AND PERUVIAN HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS OUT OF CAYARA. THE SPECIAL CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATIVE COMMISSION FOR CAYARA IS SLATED TO TRAVEL THERE LATER THIS WEEK. APRISTA MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION HAVE TRIED TO MAKE THE POINT IN THE PRESS THAT THE ABSENCE OF VICTIMS' BODIES UNDERCUTS ALLEGATIONS OF A MASSACRE. PRIME MINISTER VILLANUEVA ALSO POINTED OUT THAT SEVERAL VILLAGERS INITIALLY FEARED DEAD HAD TURNED UP ALIVE.

5. (U) A MAY 31 DEMONSTRATION OVER CAYARA AT LIMA'S SAN MARCOS UNIVERSITY LEFT ONE STUDENT DEAD. IT APPEARS THAT SL STUDENTS

WERE BEHIND THE DEMONSTRATION. WHEN THE DEMONSTRATION LEFT THE CAMPUS AND BEGAN TO BLOCK TRAFFIC, THE POLICE MOVED TO BREAK IT UP. THE POLICE CLAIM THAT AFTER RECEIVING GUNFIRE FROM THE DEMONSTRATORS, THEY RESPONDED IN KIND, KILLING ONE STUDENT. PRESS ACCOUNTS MAKE NO MENTION OF STUDENT GUNFIRE.

6. (C) COMMENT:

THE ABSENCE OF THE VICTIMS' BODIES MAY BECOME A MAJOR ROADBLOCK TO AN IMPARTIAL INVESTIGATION OF CAYARA. WE ARE DUBIOUS ABOUT THE MILITARY VERSION OF EVENTS (PARA 2), WHICH WOULD HAVE SOLDIERS KILLING 16 ARMED GUERRILLAS ON THEIR OWN TURF WITH NO ARMY CASUALTIES.

7. (C) THE MAY 31 DEMONSTRATION FOLLOWS INCREASING SL ACTIVITY AT SAN MARCOS AND IN THE STREETS OF LIMA. THE POLICE HAVE COME UNDER FIRE FOR ALLOWING RECENT, ILLEGAL SL MARCHES IN LIMA, AND IT IS LIKELY THAT THIS TIME THE POLICE WERE DETERMINED TO KEEP THE DEMONSTRATORS ON CAMPUS. SL, IN THE MEANTIME,

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EXCISE

Date: 9/25/96

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