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INCOMING 125

AM  
Arden Miller

PHM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
ARA/NEA REARCS

PAGE #1 OF #2 LIMA 16981 #B OF #2 #42345Z #21933 #876549  
INFO: PE (#2) DAND (#1) SPA (#1) PNC (#1) RJ (#1) RSG (#1) ARA (#1)  
PPC (#1) QAS (#1) PPA (#1) CO (#2) VE (#2) BL (#2) EC (#2)  
----- #5/#885Z A1 LM (TOTAL COPIES: #19)

LIMA 16981 #B OF #2 #42345Z #21933 #876549  
LESS-THAN THOROUGH INVESTIGATION PETERS OUT. THE PROSECUTOR ASSIGNED TO THE CASE, WITH NO ONE TO CHARGE, WILL THEN EITHER CLOSE THE CASE OR RETURN THE FILE TO THE POLICE FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS. [ ] THOUGHT THAT ANY REAL INVESTIGATION WOULD "LOGICALLY" LEAD TO THE MILITARY OR POLICE SECURITY UNITS. HOWEVER, THE "NECESSARY POLITICAL WILL," HE SHRUGGED, DID NOT EXIST FOR AN IN-DEPTH INVESTIGATION OF THE SECURITY FORCES.

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RELEASED IN PART

ACTION SCT-#3

INFO LOG-#B ACDA-13 AID-#B ARA-#B A-#B CA-#2 CCO-#B  
CG-#B CIAE-#B SJK-#1 COME-#B CTME-#B DODE-#B DOEE-#B  
DS-#B EB-#B FAE-#B FBIE-#B HA-#9 INMC-#1 INRE-#B  
INR-#1 INSE-#B JUSE-#B L-#B ADS-#B M-#1 NRCE-#B  
NSAE-#B NSCE-#B OIS-#1 PA-#1 PH-#B P-#1 SSO-#B  
SS-#B TRSE-#B USIE-#B USSS-#B /#43W  
-----#B38#B #42358Z /#3 66

CHANGING PROSECUTORS IN MID-STR [ ] 1, 1.5(D)

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O #422#1Z DEC 91  
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 38#B  
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
USAFSO HOWARD AFB PH  
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PH

[ ] LIMA 16981

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD  
HA FOR MIKE JACOBSON

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PTER, PHUM, PE  
SUBJECT: BARRIOS ALTOS MASSACRE:  
ONE MONTH LATER

REFS: A) LIMA 15498 B) LIMA 15735

1. (C) SUMMARY: THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE NOVEMBER 3 BARRIOS ALTOS MASSACRE APPEARS TO BE WINDING DOWN TO AN INCONCLUSIVE END. THE GOP HAS SHOWN LITTLE "POLITICAL WILL" TO FIND THE CULPRITS, WHOM MOST OBSERVERS NOW BELIEVE WERE ROGUE ELEMENTS IN THE SECURITY FORCES. LENDING CREDENCE TO THIS, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE TOOK THE CASE AWAY FROM A PROSECUTOR SPECIALIZING IN TERRORISM AND ASSIGNED IT TO A COMMON CRIMES PROSECUTOR. FURTHER, IT NOW SEEMS CLEAR THAT THE PERPETRATORS DID USE SILENCERS, CONTRARY TO PREVIOUS REPORTS. THE CONFUSION OVER THE USE OF SILENCERS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO OBFUSCATE THE FACTS AND DIVERT SUSPICION FROM SECURITY FORCES, WHO ARE KNOWN TO USE SILENCERS. END SUMMARY.

2. (C) A MONTH AFTER THE NOVEMBER 3 BARRIOS ALTOS MASSACRE, THE GOP HAS MADE LITTLE PROGRESS IN GETTING TO THE BOTTOM OF THE KILLINGS. ONE LEADING DAILY BASICALLY SUMMED THINGS UP: "INVESTIGATION OF THE KILLINGS AT BARRIOS ALTOS PARTY CONTINUES AT NAUGHT." THE FOLLOWING IS AN UPDATE ON THE CURRENT STATE OF PLAY.

INVESTIGATION COMING TO A STANDSTILL

3. (C) THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE NOVEMBER 3 BARRIOS ALTOS MASSACRE (REF A) IS COMING TO AN INCONCLUSIVE DEAD-END, ACCORDING TO [ ]

[ ] THE POLICE WILL LIKELY DECLARE THE CRIME'S AUTHORS TO BE "UNKNOWN" AS A

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: MELVIN E. SINN  
DATE/CASE ID: 29 MAR 2001 200004404

4. (C) [ ]

[ ] EXPLAINED DISINGENUOUSLY THAT NO ONE COULD YET PRESUME THAT TERRORISTS HAD

CARRIED OUT THE MASSACRE; THEREFORE THE CASE PROPERLY BELONGED WITH A COMMON CRIMES PROSECUTOR. [ ] DID NOT EXPLAIN WHY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TOOK SOME 28 DAYS TO FINALLY DECIDE WHICH PROSECUTOR WOULD INVESTIGATE THE CASE.

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SILENCERS WERE USED IN MASSACRE

5. (C) IN AN APPARENTLY DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO OBFUSCATE THE SITUATION, AT LEAST ONE POLICE REPORT WIDELY QUOTED BY THE MEDIA DENIED THAT THE ASSAILANTS HAD USED SILENCERS. SUBSEQUENT INFORMATION FROM A VARIETY OF CONTACTS CONFIRMED THAT SILENCERS AVAILABLE TO THE POLICE OR MILITARY, WERE USED. [ ]

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SURVEYED THE SCENE WITH POLOFFS AND CONCLUDED THAT THE MASSACRE HAD TO HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT BY ELEMENTS WITHIN THE POLICE. HE CLAIMED NO INSIDE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE INCIDENT. HOWEVER, HE ARGUED THAT THE IMMEDIATE PROXIMITY OF FOUR POLICE FACILITIES MADE IT HIGHLY IMPROBABLE THAT ANY OTHER SECURITY FORCES DID IT.

SENATE MAY NAME COMMISSION INTO THE KILLINGS

6. (SECRET/NOFORN) SEVERAL CONGRESSIONAL INTERPOLATIONS OF THE MINISTERS OF INTERIOR AND

DEFENSE BASICALLY CAME UP WITH NOTHING AS THE GOVERNMENT WITNESSES FUMBLLED WITH UNCONVINCING ANSWERS. THE SENATE IS REPORTEDLY CONSIDERING CREATING AN INVESTIGATING COMMISSION INTO THE MASSACRE. INFORMED SPECULATION SUGGESTS LEFTIST SENATOR JAVIER DIEZ CANSECO WILL EITHER HEAD THE COMMISSION OR BE A MEMBER. [ ]

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[ ] LEAKED GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS TO THE PRESS INDICATING THE THE SECURITY FORCES HAD HAD THE SITE OF THE MASSACRE UNDER SURVEILLANCE SEVERAL MONTHS BEFORE THE KILLINGS. [ ]

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[REDACTED] (THERE IS SOME QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE SECURITY FORCES WERE ACTUALLY ENGAGED IN SURVEILLANCE.)

NO HUMAN RIGHTS COMPLAINTS FROM THE KILLINGS

7. (C) A STAFFER FOR THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COORDINATOR SAID IT HAD NOT BEEN ASKED TO TAKE A FORMAL ROLE IN THIS CASE. THE STAFFER OFFERED THAT THIS COULD INDICATE THAT THE VICTIMS WERE IN FACT MEMBERS OF SENDERO LUMINOSO (SL). FAMILY OF SL MEMBERS SAID THE STAFFER WERE LESS LIKELY THAN OTHERS TO DENOUNCE THE DEATHS OF FALLEN SL MEMBERS TO HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS.

8. (C) COMMENT: THERE IS NO HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL PRESSURE TO ROOT OUT THE CULPRITS IN

THIS CASE. PRESIDENT FUJIMORI HAS NOT MADE A PUBLIC ISSUE OF IT. NOR HAS THE CONGRESS SO FAR INSISTED ON RESULTS. THE POLICE HAVE OBFUSCATED KEY ASPECTS OF THE CRIME AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE APPARENTLY NOW HAS DECIDED TO PUT IT ON THE BACK BURNER. IN-HOUSE MILITARY INVESTIGATIONS ARE ONGOING, BUT THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT THE CULPRITS, EVEN IF DISCOVERED, WOULD BE PUBLICLY PUNISHED. UNLESS THE PRESIDENT AND HIS SECURITY CHIEFS DECIDE TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS CASE, IT IS LIKELY TO FADE AWAY AS ANOTHER UNRESOLVED ABUSE. END COMMENT. QUANTON

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