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LIMA 1752Ø

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR TAGS: PHUM, PTER, PE

SUBJECT: BARRIOS ALTOS MASSACRE

REF: STATE 404511

- ENTIRE TEXT.

ON DECEMBER 13 FOLLOWING GRADUATION CEREMONIES AT THE MILITARY ACADEMY I TOOK PRESIDENT FUJIMORI ASIDE BRIEFLY TO CONVEY OUR STRONG CONCERN AT THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE BARRIOS ALTOS CASE. I TOLD HIM THAT THIS CASE HAD ATTRACTED THE ATTENTION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS. ORGANIZATIONS AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. IT WAS ESSENTIAL

THAT IT BE GIVEN A FULL INVESTIGATION. THE VERY INSTITUTION-THE ARMY-WHICH HE HAD BEEN PRAISING AT THE GRADUATION CEREMONIES WAS BEING DISCREDITED BY ALLEGATIONS OF PARAMILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN THE BARRIOS ALTOS KILLING. FUJIMORI SEEMED UNFAMILIAR WITH THE DETAILS OF THE CASE BUT SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO IT.

3. DURING THE SAME CEREMONY I MADE SIMILAR POINTS TO PRIME MINISTER DE LOS HEROS AND TO SENIOR GENERALS OF THE PERUVIAN ARMY. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ISSUE AND WOULD TAKE IT UP.

IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION

TOLD ME THE INVESTIGATION OF THE BARRIOS ALTOS KILLING WAS STILL ACTIVE. HE ASSUMED A GROUP OF MILITARY AND CIVILIANS SEEKING REVENGE FOR PREVIOUS SENDERO KILLINGS WAS RESPONSIBLE. THE VICTIMS WERE SENDERISTAS. ONLY SOMEONE WITH INSIDE KNOWLEDGE COULD HAVE FOUND THEIR LOCATION. JHON CARO SAID HE DID NOT EVEN RULE OUT PARTICIATION BY MEMBERS OF DIRCOTE. HE WAS CONFIDENT, HOWEVER, THAT THE OPERATION OID NOT HAVE OFFICIAL BLESSING BY ANY OF THE ARMED SERVICES.

I WILL FOLLOW UP WITH HERNANDO DE SOTO AND FOREIGN MINISTER BLACKER MILLER. WE HAVE CAUGHT THE GOP'S ATTENTION, AND WILL CONTINUE TO WORK TO GET RESULTS. QUAINTON##

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