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ACTION SS-00

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO LOG-00 OASY-00 ADS-00 /000W
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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4629
INFO CIA WASHDC
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EXDIS

DECAPTIONED

FOR ARA, HA, AND INR

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, PREL, PREF, US, PE
SUBJECT: ALLEGED WITNESS TO BARRIOS ALTOS
MASSACRE WANTS TO SPEAK OUT -- IF HE
CAN LEAVE PERU

REF: A) 92 LIMA 15440;
B) 92 LIMA 15602;
C) 92 LIMA 15812;
D) 92 LIMA 15733;

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1. [REDACTED] ENTIRE TEXT.
2. ACTION REQUEST -- SEE PARA 11.
3. SUMMARY: AN ARMY OFFICER WHO ALLEGEDLY BELONGED TO AN ARMY INTELLIGENCE/NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SIN) GROUP THAT CARRIED OUT THE NOV. 1991 BARRIOS ALTOS MASSACRE IS WILLING TO SPEAK OUT. AN INTERMEDIARY TOLD US THAT THE OFFICER, WHO CLAIMS HE DID NONE OF THE ACTUAL SHOOTING, WANTS U.S. HELP IN RESETTLING IN A THIRD COUNTRY, POSSIBLY AFTER TRAVELLING TO THE U.S. TO SPEAK BEFORE HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J. OLSON
DATE/CASE ID: 1 AUG 2001 200003853

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THE OFFICER CLAIMS HE CAN LINK MONTESINOS TO THE BARRIOS ALTOS KILLINGS. A USG ROLE IN ASSISTING THE OFFICER SPEAK OUT WOULD BECOME A MAJOR SORE POINT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS. IT WOULD, HOWEVER, CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO OUR HUMAN RIGHTS GOALS. POLCOUNS WILL HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET DISCREETLY WITH THE OFFICER IN COMING DAYS. THIS WILL AFFORD OPPORTUNITY TO ASSESS CREDIBILITY FIRSTHAND, BUT WILL ALSO PLACE US IN POSITION OF ANSWERING SPECIFIC QUESTIONS CONCERNING PROTECTION OR SUPPORT. REQUEST WASHINGTON ADVISE US ON WHAT WE CAN TELL THE OFFICER. END SUMMARY.

4. POLCOUNS MET JAN. 2 WITH A PERSON CLAIMING TO REPRESENT AN ARMY OFFICER WHO SAYS HE BELONGS TO A SPECIAL ARMY INTELLIGENCE/NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SIN) GROUP THAT CARRIED

[REDACTED]

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 OUT SUMMARY EXECUTIONS OF SUSPECTED TERRORISTS, INCLUDING THE BARRIOS ALTOS MASSACRE. (POLCOUNS HAS KNOWN THE PERSON REPRESENTING THE OFFICER FOR SEVERAL YEARS.) THE OFFICER REPORTEDLY IS WILLING TO SPEAK OUT PUBLICLY. REPORTEDLY HE CAN IDENTIFY OFFICERS WHO BELONGED TO THE SPECIAL GROUP; TESTIFY ABOUT THE GROUP'S CARRYING OUT OF THE BARRIOS ALTOS AND OTHER KILLINGS; AND LINK SIN ADVISER (AND FUJIMORI CLOSEST ADVISER) VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS AND SIN DIRECTOR GEN. SALAZAR TO THE BARRIOS ALTOS AND OTHER KILLINGS.

5. ACCORDING TO THE PERSON REPRESENTING THE OFFICER, THE LATTER'S REASONS FOR TESTIFYING ARE: FEAR HE AND OTHERS MAY END UP BEING BLAMED FOR THE KILLINGS WHILE THOSE REALLY RESPONSIBLE GO FREE; A DESIRE TO EXPOSE THE GROUP'S ACTIVITIES SO AS TO STOP THEM; AND A PERSONAL GRUDGE AGAINST THE ARMY LEADERSHIP. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE OFFICER HIMSELF DID ANY OF THE KILLINGS.

6. ACCORDING TO THE INTERMEDIARY, THE OFFICER BELIEVES THAT IF HE SPOKE OUT IN PERU HE WOULD BE IMPRISONED OR EVEN KILLED. THEREFORE, HE

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WANTS TO TRAVEL WITH HIS FAMILY TO A THIRD
 COUNTRY BEFORE SPEAKING OUT. HE MIGHT BE
 INTERESTED IN TRAVELLING FIRST TO THE U.S., SO
 AS TO MEET WITH HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS. THE PERSON
 ALSO ASKED WHETHER WE COULD INTERCEDE WITH A

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[REDACTED]

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 LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY TO RESETTLE THE OFFICER
 AND HIS FAMILY. ONE POSSIBILITY WAS FOR THE
 OFFICER TO REQUEST ASYLUM IN A LATIN EMBASSY;
 THERE WAS A POTENTIAL PROBLEM, IN THAT THE
 PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT MIGHT NOT GRANT THE SAFE
 CONDUCT PASS, AND THAT THE LATIN EMBASSY MIGHT
 GIVE IN AND TURN OVER THE OFFICER TO THE GOP.
 FINALLY, THE OFFICER REPORTEDLY IS WILLING TO
 MEET PRIVATELY WITH POLCOUNS DURING THE WEEK OF
 JAN. 4 TO DISCUSS THE BARRIOS ALTOS CASE.

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O 041720Z JAN 93
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EXDIS

FOR ARA, HA, AND INR

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, PREL, PREF, US, PE
 SUBJECT: ALLEGED WITNESS TO BARRIOS ALTOS
 7. POLCOUNS TOLD THE PERSON REPRESENTING THE

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OFFICER THAT THE U.S. WAS VERY INTERESTED IN OBTAINING MORE INFORMATION ON THE BARRIOS ALTOS CASE, AND TO CONTRIBUTING TO IMPROVE THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION. WE WOULD HAVE TO ASK WASHINGTON, HOWEVER, FOR ITS ASSESSMENT ON HOW FAR WE COULD GO IN ASSISTING THE ARMY OFFICER, ASSUMING HIS ASSERTIONS WERE CREDIBLE.

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8. COMMENT: THE PERSON REPRESENTING THE ARMY OFFICER IS WELL KNOWN TO US. HE OPPOSES THE GOP, BUT IS NOT LINKED TO COUP PLOTTERS TO OUR KNOWLEDGE. UNTIL WE MEET WITH THE ARMY OFFICER, WE CANNOT ASSESS HIS CREDIBILITY. THE ARMY OFFICER'S REPORTED KNOWLEDGE OF THE BARRIOS ALTOS CASE, HOWEVER, PARALLELS THAT OF AN ANONYMOUS ARMY OFFICER QUOTED IN A DEC. 1992 ARTICLE IN "SI" MAGAZINE (REF C), AND WHAT ANOTHER ARMY OFFICER (NOT IN THE GROUP) TOLD US IN DECEMBER (REF D). (THE GOP IS SUING "SI" MAGAZINE, CLAIMING IT INVENTED THE ALLEGED ARMY SOURCE; ONE EFFECT OF THE OFFICER'S SPEAKING OUT WOULD BE TO BOOST THE "SI" DEFENSE.) IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT THE OFFICER HAS ANY PHYSICAL EVIDENCE TO BACK UP HIS CLAIMS.

9. THE OFFICER'S OPTIONS IN LEAVING PERU ARE LIMITED. COMPLICATING MATTERS GREATLY IS THE NEED TO PROTECT THE OFFICER'S IDENTITY AND HIS DESIRE TO TRAVEL. ACCORDINGLY, THE OFFICER AND THE PERSON REPRESENTING HIM HAVE SPOKEN ONLY TO A FEW PERUVIANS, AND TO NO OTHER FOREIGNERS.

10. ASYLUM IN A LATIN EMBASSY IS A POSSIBILITY, BUT IN A CASE LIKE THIS THE GOP COULD WELL REFUSE TO ISSUE THE SAFE CONDUCT PASS TO THE AIRPORT; THE RECEIVING EMBASSY CONCEIVABLY COULD THEN BACK DOWN AND EXPEL HIM. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY IS TO GO TO THE UNHCR; THE PROBLEM

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 IS THE POSSIBILITY OF A LEAK WHILE THE REQUEST

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IS STUDIED. THE OTHER POSSIBILITY APPEARS TO BE THAT OF GOING TO THE U.S. FOR A SHORT PERIOD, TO SPEAK WITH HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS, PRIOR TO RESETTLING IN A THIRD COUNTRY. THE RESETTLEMENT MIGHT REQUIRE USG DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT; THERE HAS BEEN NO REQUEST FOR USG FINANCIAL SUPPORT. WHILE THE LAST APPROACH MAKES SENSE, TO THE EXTENT THAT OUR ROLE BECAME KNOWN, IT WOULD BECOME AN IRRITANT IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP, SINCE THE OFFICER PRESUMABLY WOULD BE MAKING CHARGES AGAINST FUJIMORI'S CLOSEST ADVISER, MONTESINOS.

11. ACTION REQUEST: THAT DEPARTMENT PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON WHAT ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE THE USG MAY PROVIDE TO THE ARMY OFFICER.

BRAYSHAW##

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