

Department of State

INCOMING TELEGRAM

(X3)

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ACTION ARA-00

9034

HUANTA WHERE SIX BODIES HAD BEEN DISCOVERED. NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENTS IN AYACUCHO CARRIED OUT THREATENED 24-HOUR STRIKE ON 12TH TO PROTEST AYALA'S DISAPPEARANCE.

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INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-01 INR-01 SS-01 CITE-00 H-01
NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSV-00 HA-00 L-03 LAB-04 RSE-00
PH-10 PA-01 MCI-03 OMH-01 INRE-00 USIE-00 SP-02
SNP-01 PRS-01 SLPD-01 /R*7 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7647
INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA
DIA WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN

CONFIDENTIAL LIMA 9488

DIA FOR IR BRANCH

PANAMA FOR ADS

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: SHUM, PTER, PGOV, PE
SUBJ: (C) INCIDENTS IN EMERGENCY ZONE LEAD TO HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS

Peru SHUM

REF: LIMA 8617

- 1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.
- 2. THE "DISAPPEARANCE" OF 40 PROMINENT INDIVIDUALS, COMING (JULY 27 AND AUGUST 2) IN WAKE OF GOP'S JULY 20 ANNOUNCEMENT GRANTING ARMED FORCES LARGER ROLE IN COUNTERTERRORIST FIGHT (REF A), RAISES POSSIBILITY THAT PERUVIAN MILITARY HAS DECIDED TO EMPLOY HARSHER TACTICS IN CAMPAIGN AGAINST SENDERO LUMINOSO (SL). NOTHING YET ON PUBLIC RECORD SUBSTANTIATES SUCH A CONCLUSION. NEITHER DOES MILITARY'S COMPORTMENT IN FIRST HALF OF 1984 SUGGEST A TENDENCY TO ENGAGE IN WIDESPREAD OR SYSTEMATIC HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES. GOP'S OFFICIAL POLICY CLEARLY OPPOSES SUCH ILLEGAL ACTS. NEVERTHELESS, THE COINCIDENCE OF DATES IS TROUBLESOME, AND WE CANNOT DISCOUNT POSSIBILITY THAT THESE INCIDENTS ARE LINKED.

3. POLICE DETAINED LOCALLY PROMINENT CAMPESINO ORGANIZATION LEADER JESUS OROPEZA CHONTA JULY 27 IN PUQUIO, CAPITAL OF LUCANAS PROVINCE (DEPARTMENT OF AYACUCHO). DETENTION BECAME NATIONAL "CAUSE CELEBRE" WHEN SENATOR ENRIQUE BERNALES (UNITED LEFT--IU) INTERVIEWED JULY 31, CLAIMING THAT OROPEZA WAS ONE OF NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS WHO HAD BEEN ARRESTED RECENTLY BECAUSE THEY WERE IU ACTIVISTS. UNLIKE OTHER CASES, HOWEVER, THAT OR OROPEZA ASSUMED GRAVER PROPORTIONS WHEN POLICE IN PUQUIO ACCEPTED THEY HAD TURNED OROPEZA OVER TO AN UNIDENTIFIED MILITARY UNIT AROUND MIDNIGHT ON 27TH, AFTER WHICH NO FURTHER TRACE OF HIM APPEARED. BERNALES AND LIMA MAYOR ALFONSO BARRANTES HEADED AN IU DELEGATION THAT VISITED PUQUIO AUGUST 10 TO INVESTIGATE DISAPPEARANCE. FOLLOWING THEIR DEPARTURE, LOCAL AUTHORITIES ANNOUNCED THAT OROPEZA'S CORPSE HAD BEEN FOUND.

4. JAIHE AYALA SULCA, CORRESPONDENT IN HUANTA (NORTHERN AYACUCHO) FOR LIMA DAILY "REPUBLICA," WAS DETAINED AUGUST 2 IN BARRACKS OF MARINE CONTINGENT RESPONSIBLE FOR SECURITY IN THAT CITY. AYALA HAD GONE TO BARRACKS TO PROTEST EARLIER INCURSION BY POLICE AT HIS MOTHER'S HOME. ALTHOUGH AUGUST 7 EDITION OF REPUBLICA ASSERTED THAT MARINE AUTHORITIES IN HUANTA HAD "CONFIRMED" AYALA'S DETENTION, SUBSEQUENT MILITARY STATEMENTS (INCLUDING ONE ISSUED AUGUST 12 BY ARMED FORCES JOINT COMMAND IN LIMA) DENIED THIS WAS THE CASE. AUGUST 12 COMMUNIQUE CLAIMED AYALA LEFT BARRACKS SAME DAY HE VISITED IT, SUPPOSEDLY TO VISIT RURAL COMMUNITY NEAR

5. POLITICAL REACTION TO TWO CASES INCREASED MARKEDLY WITH AUGUST 10 DISCOVERY OF OROPEZA'S CORPSE. TOP POLITICAL LEADERS RENEWED CONDEMNATIONS OF LAWLESSNESS, COMING FROM WHATEVER QUARTER, AND FORMER PRIME MINISTER MANUEL ULLOA JOIN'D APRA AND IU COLLEAGUES IN CALL FOR OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION. ULLOA-OWNED LIMA DAILY "EXPRESO" EDITORIALIZED AUGUST 12 THAT SLAYING REQUIRED "IMMEDIATE" GOP REACTION, DEMANDING THAT INTERIOR MINISTER LUIS PERCOVICH PROVIDE FULL EXPLANATION.

6. COMMENT: NEITHER AYALA DISAPPEARANCE NOR DISAPPEARANCE/DEATH OF OROPEZA IS, IN ITSELF, EVIDENCE OF A DELIBERATE DECISION BY SECURITY FORCES TO "GET TOUGH" WITH SUSPECTED SUBVERSIVES. MARINES IN HUANTA LONG SINCE ACQUIRED REPUTATION FOR PARTICULAR TOUGHNESS, A COMPORTMENT THAT MODERATED CONSIDERABLY AFTER GENERAL ADRIAN HUAMAN ASSUMED COMMAND OF EMERGENCY ZONE IN JANUARY 1984. PUQUIO POLICE APPEAR TO HAVE ACTED AS AGENTS FOR LOCAL INTERESTS OPPOSED TO OROPEZA WHO SEIZED OPPORTUNITY TO SETTLE SCORES. OROPEZA AND AYALA CASES COME, HOWEVER, IN CONTEXT OF REPORTS NOW BEGINNING TO COME OUT OF EMERGENCY ZONE DEPICTING SECURITY FORCES AS HAVING RECENTLY EMBARKED ON PATTERN OF TOUGH MEASURES. TRAVELERS IN ZONE, INCLUDING ONE U.S. CORRESPONDENT, SPEAK OF SHOOTINGS OF "SUSPECTS" BY SOLDIERS AND POLICE. GIVEN THESE ANCILLARY CIRCUMSTANCES, SOME OBSERVERS ARE SPECULATING--IN A MANNER WE CANNOT ENTIRELY DISCOUNT--THAT DESCRIBED EVENTS ARE NOT ISOLATED AND UNRELATED PHENOMENA AND COULD BE THE PRODUCT OF A MILITARY PLAN TO DEAL WITH TERRORISM BY ADOPTING HARSHER METHODS. IF THIS IS TRUE, IT WOULD BE SOURCE OF SERIOUS CONCERN TO US. PERUVIAN POLITICAL LEADERS ACROSS SPECTRUM TAKE POSITION THAT A DEMOCRACY CANNOT RECOURSE TO EXTRA CONSTITUTIONAL TACTICS TO COMBAT TERRORISM WITHOUT JEOPARDIZING BASIC VALUES DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM IS DESIGNED TO DEFEND. AMBASSADOR HAS ALREADY RAISED OUR CONCERN WITH PRIME MINISTER MARIATEGUI (CEPTEL) AND HOPES TO DISCUSS SUBJECT WITH ARMY COMMANDING GENRAL JULIA LATER THIS WEEK. JORDAN

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