

PBI

(E11)

CONFIDENTIAL

AN: D890445-0142

CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LIMA 07716 01 OF 02 242243Z
ACTION ARA-00

EXCISE

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-07 SS-00 CIAE-00 NSCE-00 NSAE
PM-10 PA-01 INM-07 INRE-00 SP-02 PRS-01 DS-01
SCT-02 P-02 /033 W
-----136604 250601Z /25

R 242237Z MAY 89
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8695
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
USAFSO HOWARD AFB PM
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
DIA WASHDC

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
() RELEASE () DECLASSIFY
(X) EXCISE (X) DECLASSIFY
() DENY IN PART
() DELETE Non-Responsive Info
FOIA Exemptions b1
PA Exemptions _____

IS/FPC/CDR WFB Date: 9/3/95
MR Cases Only:
EO Citations _____
_____ TS authority to
() CLASSIFY as () S or
() DOWNGRADE TS to () S or

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 01 OF 02 LIMA 07716

DIA FOR OA-5/OS-1D/DB-6D2/JSI-4B/DB-3C1

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD JOHN DOULE

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, PGOV, PE
SUBJECT: FIRST ARREST OF RODRIGO FRANCO COMMAND
SUSPECTS

REF: LIMA 7391

1. (C) SUMMARY: WITH LITTLE OVER TWO MONTHS
REMAINING UNTIL ITS ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY, THE
SELF-STYLED "COMANDO RODRIGO FRANCO" (CRF)
HAS SUFFERED ITS FIRST ARRESTS. THE CAPTURE OF
THE ALLEGED CRF ADHERENTS COMES JUST DAYS AFTER
A GROUP REPRESENTING VARIOUS POLITICAL AND
SOCIAL SECTORS DELIVERED A PETITION TO THE
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LIMA 07716 01 OF 02 242243Z

CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES PRESIDENT REQUESTING AN

DEPT OF STATE APPEALS REVIEW PANEL (ARP)
FOIA/PA
() Release
() Excise
() Deny
Exemptions _____
Date 9/13/95
ARP Action Cert. WFB
Mandatory
() Extension of
() Declassify in Part
() Class. Rev/Renew

UNCLASSIFIED

91 DT 11 CD 099ZET 1121

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL
INQUIRY INTO THE COMMAND'S ACTIVITIES. DESPITE EARLIER DENIALS, MINISTER OF INTERIOR MANTILLA AND PRESIDENT GARCIA HAVE CONCEDED THAT THE CRF EXISTS, AND MAY SEE SOME POLITICAL ADVANTAGES IN PRESSING AHEAD WITH AN INVESTIGATION. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR ANNOUNCED ON MAY 21 THE FIRST ARREST OF ALLEGED MEMBERS OF THE CRF. ACTING ON A TIPOFF BY A LOCAL RESIDENT, POLICE CAPTURED THREE SUSPECTS DISTRIBUTING LEAFLETS IN YURIMAGUAS, IN THE JUNGLE DEPARTMENT OF LORETO. LEFTIST DAILY "LA REPUBLICA" REPORTS THAT ONE OF THE DETAINEES, BENEDICTO PENA SALDANA, IS THE APRA MAYOR OF THE REMOTE CITY OF LAGUNAS, ALSO IN LORETO, AND THAT ANOTHER IS SECRETARY GENERAL OF APRA YOUTH THERE, BUT OUR CONTACTS WITH POLICE SOURCES HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM THESE ALLEGATIONS. DESPITE THE POTENTIAL FOR SENSATIONALIZING THE REVELATION OF APRA/CRF TIES, PRESS COVERAGE OF THE ARRESTS SO FAR HAS NOT DIFFERED SIGNIFICANTLY FROM THAT OF THE RECENT CAPTURES OF SENDERO LUMINOSO OR TUPAC AMARU REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT SUSPECTS.

3. (C) THE DETAINMENT OF THE THREE SUSPECTS FOLLOWS CLOSELY ON THE HEELS OF THE GARCIA ADMINISTRATION'S RECENT ADMISSION OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE CRF. LAST WEEK MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR AGUSTIN MANTILLA BECAME THE FIRST HIGH LEVEL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY TO CONCEDE THAT THE CRF EXISTS. NONETHELESS, MANTILLA CATEGORICALLY
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LIMA 07716 01 OF 02 242243Z

DENIED THE OPERATION OF STATE-SPONSORED TERRORISM IN PERU. [THE INTERIOR MINISTER IS ONE OF THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL FIGURES IN THE NEW CABINET, AND RUMORS ALLEGE HE PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN DIRECTING THE CRF.]

4. (C) PUBLIC CALLS FOR AN INQUIRY INTO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CRF HAVE BEEN INCREASING. ON MAY 18, UNITED LEFT DEPUTY MANUEL PIQUERAS PRESENTED CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES PRESIDENT HECTOR

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

VARGAS HAYA WITH A PETITION REQUESTING THE FORMATION OF AN INVESTIGATORY COMMISSION. IN DELIVERING THE PETITION, PIQUERAS WAS ACCOMPANIED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, ORGANIZED LABOR, AND THE EQUIVALENT OF THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION IN LIMA. THE QUESTION OF WHETHER A COMMISSION WILL BE FORMED HAS BEEN SUBSEQUENTLY HOTLY DEBATED IN THE LOWER HOUSE. THE DISCUSSIONS WERE PUT ON HOLD WHEN CHAMBER PRESIDENT VARGAS HAYA CLOSED THE DAY'S SESSION AT AN EARLY HOUR. THE DEBATE REMAINS ON HOLD. (IF THE MATTER IS NOT TAKEN UP AGAIN BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE GOES INTO RECESS AT THE END OF MAY, IT WILL BE DELAYED AT LEAST UNTIL THE NEXT CONGRESS IS CONVENED ON JULY 28.)

5. (C) FOR HIS PART, PRESIDENT GARCIA PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED HIS SUPPORT FOR A THOROUGH PROBE TO DETERMINE THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ESCALATING SPIRAL OF VIOLENCE AND THREATS. IN GARCIA'S WORDS, THE INTIMIDATION OF POLITICIANS AND JOURNALISTS -- BY MEANS OF DEATH THREATS COMING

CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LIMA 07716 02 OF 02 242244Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-07 SS-00 CIAE-00 NSCE-00 NSAE-
PM-10 INM-07 INRE-00 SP-02 PRS-01 DS-01 SCT-02
P-02 /032 W

-----136605 250601Z /25

R 242237Z MAY 89
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8696
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
USAFSO HOWARD AFB PM
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LIMA 07716

DIA FOR OA-5/OS-1D/DB-6D2/JSI-4B/DB-3C1

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD JOHN YOULE

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, PGOV, PE
SUBJECT: FIRST ARREST OF RODRIGO FRANCO COMMAND

FROM EXTREMISTS AFFILIATED WITH GROUPS ACROSS THE
POLITICAL SPECTRUM -- HAS BECOME A KIND OF "NATIONAL
SPORT". SEEKING TO DISCOUNT THE CHARGES OF POSSIBLE
LINKS BETWEEN APRA AND THE CRF, GARCIA WENT ON TO
OPINE THAT RIGHTISTS ELEMENTS ARE BEHIND THE
ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMAND, AND THAT HIS "GOVERNMENT
ISN'T RIGHTIST". GARCIA CITED AS AN EXAMPLE THE
ASSASSINATION ON MAY 17 OF SOVIET-EDUCATED UNIVER-
SITY PROFESSOR ABELARDO LUDENA LUQUE (REF A).
AFTER REFERRING TO LUDENA'S APPARENT LEFTIST

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LIMA 07716 02 OF 02 242244Z

LEANINGS, THE PRESIDENT ALLUDED TO THE LIKELY
INVOLVEMENT OF THE RIGHT BECAUSE, HE EMPHASIZED,

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

HIS ADMINISTRATION "IS NOT ANTICOMMUNIST."

6. (C) COMMENT: IF INDEED THE THREE ARRESTEES ARE MEMBERS OF THE CRF, THE COMMAND'S PRESENCE IN LORETO DEPARTMENT HAS PROBABLY BEEN PROMPTED BY THE RECENT RASH OF SENDERO LUMINOSO (SL) ACTIVITY THERE. THE CRF IS KNOWN TO SOW ITS OWN BRAND OF TERROR, FOLLOWING BEHIND THE SL IN AN ATTEMPT TO CONVINCING INHABITANTS THAT THEY SHOULD BE MORE FEARFUL OF THE CRF THAN OF THE SL.

7. (C) EVEN IF A FORMAL INQUIRY COMMISSION INTO THE OPERATION OF THE CRF IS CONSTITUTED, IT IS LIKELY TO RUN INTO INNUMERABLE STUMBLINGBLOCKS, NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH IS THE INERTIA THAT FREQUENTLY BESETS GOVERNMENT COMMITTEES. STILL, WE ARE ENCOURAGED THAT THE BROAD BASED SUPPORT FOR SUCH AN INVESTIGATION SHOWS SOME INSTITUTIONAL CONCERN FOR ATTACKING PERU'S TERRORISM PROBLEMS. THE PUBLIC OUTRAGE OVER THE GROWING VIOLENCE THAT RECENTLY CLAIMED THE LIVES OF TWO PARLIAMENTARIANS AND OF ABELARDO LUDENA PROBABLY WAS A FACTOR IN GARCIA'S AND MANTILLA'S DECISIONS TO TAKE A PUBLIC STAND ON THE ISSUE. GIVEN THE ALLEGATIONS OF APRA LINKS TO THE COMMAND, GARCIA AND MANTILLA MAY WELL PRESS AHEAD WITH A PROBE TO PRECLUDE A WITCHHUNT BY OTHERS. THEY MAY HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THE APPEARANCE OF A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION -- AS WELL AS PROGRESS ON MAKING ARRESTS -- WILL HEAD OFF RECRIMINATIONS AFTER THE GARCIA ADMINISTRATION LEAVES OFFICE IN JULY 1990.

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03

LIMA 07716 02 OF 02 242244Z

WATSON

UNCLASSIFIED