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ACTION ARA-00

INFO	LOG-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-10	SS-00	CIAE-00
	H-01	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	SSO-00	HA-09	L-03	PM-10
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O 252142Z JUN 86
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2726
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USAFSO HOWARD AFB PM
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM
DEAHQS WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 5854
DIA WASHDC

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DIA FOR IR BRANCH

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PHUM, PTER, PGOV, PINS, PREL, PE
SUBJECT: GARCIA DECLARES 95 POLICE ARRESTED FOR
SUMMARY EXECUTIONS AT LURIGANCHO PRISON

1. (U) PRESIDENT GARCIA ADDRESSED THE NATION JUNE 24
TO REPORT THAT THE INITIAL RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATION
OF LAST WEEK'S PRISON RIOTS REVEALED THAT POLICE
(GUARDIA REPUBLICANA) HAD SUMMARILY EXECUTED AN
ESTIMATED 30 TO 40 PRISONERS WHO HAD SURRENDERED
AT LURIGANCHO PRISON. HE DECLARED THAT 15 POLICE
OFFICERS AND 80 POLICEMEN INVOLVED IN THE KILLINGS
WERE IN CUSTODY AND WOULD BE TRIED. "WITHOUT
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AUTHORITY," HE SAID, "THERE IS NO DEMOCRACY."
GARCIA EMPHASIZED THAT AS PRESIDENT HE COULD NOT

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SAM A. MOSKOWITZ
DATE/CASE ID: 9 AUG 1999 199902275

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PERMIT "EXCESSES," "CRIMINAL VENGEANCE" OR "THE LAW OF THE JUNGLE." HE DECLARED "WHAT OCCURRED AFTER THE SURRENDER IN LURIGANCHO IS NOTHING MORE THAN A CRIME, WHICH I WILL NOT COVER UP."

GARCIA SOUGHT TO CONTRAST EVENTS AT LURIGANCHO WITH THE RETAKING OF EL FRONTON PRISON, WHERE HE POINTED TO THE FACT THAT 35 PRISONERS WHO SURRENDERED HAD HAD THEIR LIVES RESPECTED. AT SAME TIME, HE REITERATED THAT GIVEN THE NATURE OF THE TERRORIST PRISONERS AND THE CAREFUL PREPARATION FOR THE RIOTS, "SEVERITY" IN SUPPORT OF THE LAW WAS NEEDED, AND THAT HE WOULD NOT HESITATE TO USE IT AGAIN UNDER THE SAME CIRCUMSTANCES. GARCIA ALSO UNDERScoreD THAT THE ARMED FORCES JOINT COMMAND HAD CARRIED OUT ITS ACTIONS UNDER ORDERS FROM THE GOVERNMENT, THAT THE ARMED FORCES HAD OBEYED LOYALLY, AND THAT THE GOP SUPPORTED THEIR ACTIONS.

2. (U) IN ADDITION, THE PERUVIAN EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE IS ASSUMING A HIGHER PROFILE ON THE PRISON EVENTS. IN A JUNE 24 LETTER TO THE ARMED FORCES JOINT COMMAND, ASSISTANT LIMA BISHOP AUGUSTO BEUZEVILLE REQUESTED PERMISSION FOR A CATHOLIC CHURCH COMMISSION TO ENTER THE THREE PRISONS (STILL UNDER MILITARY CONTROL) IN ORDER TO GIVE SPIRITUAL AND MATERIAL ASSISTANCE TO SURVIVORS AND THE WOUNDED. ANOTHER ARCHBISHOP COMPLAINED PUBLICLY THAT PRISON CHAPLAINS HAD BEEN DENIED ACCESS TO PRISONS. THE EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE ALSO ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE JUNE 24 IN WHICH IT REITERATED ITS CONDEMNATION OF VIOLENCE, CALLED FOR AN "OBJECTIVE INVESTIGATION" OF THE UPRISING, AND CALLED UPON SECURITY FORCES TO RESPOND

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TO TERRORISM WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE LAW AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

3. (C) COMMENT: GARCIA'S SPEECH RECALLS, ON THE SURFACE, HIS RAPID REACTION IN SEPTEMBER 1985 TO THE ACCOMARCA AND PUCAYACU MASSACRES, IN WHICH THREE GENERALS WERE REMOVED FROM THEIR POSITIONS. THIS TIME WE BELIEVE THINGS WILL NOT BE SO EASY, AND IT MAY BE DIFFICULT FOR GARCIA TO CONTROL THE PROCESS HE HAS SET IN MOTION. PERSONS ALLEGEDLY GUILTY OF KILLING PRISONERS CONVENIENTLY ARE MEMBERS OF THE POLICE (UNDER CONTROL OF INTERIOR MINISTRY), NOT THE ARMED

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FORCES. IT IS NOT CLEAR, HOWEVER, HOW ACCUSED POLICEMEN COULD HAVE CARRIED OUT KILLINGS IN WHAT WAS AN ARMY-DIRECTED OPERATION WITHOUT SHARING BLAME WITH THE ARMY. ALSO, THERE ARE ALLEGATIONS THAT THE NAVY MAY HAVE CARRIED OUT SIMILAR DEEDS, THAT ALL OF THE DEAD HAVE BEEN BURIED, SOME REPORTEDLY IN MASS GRAVES, WILL PROBABLY IMPEDE AN INVESTIGATION AND ANY TRIAL OF THE POLICE. NOTWITHSTANDING STRONG POPULAR SUPPORT FOR USE OF FORCE EVIDENT IN OPINION POLLS, GARCIA NOW WILL HAVE HIS HANDS FULL TRYING TO ~~AVOID~~ IMAGE THAT HE IS ENGAGING IN TRANSPARENT SCAPEGOATING OF POLICE TO AVOID CONFRONTATION WITH MILITARY AND TO ATTEMPT TO SALVAGE HIS OWN POSITION. JORDAN

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