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Department of State

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TELEGRA

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ACTION 001-02  
INFO FILE-01 00-01 00A-00 PPC-01 010-01 010-01 010-01 010-01 010-01  
LPO-01 00A-02 01-01 01-01 01-01 01-01 01-01 01-01 01-01 01-01 01-01  
INFO LDC-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 100-01 11-00 11A-00  
10-00 WICE-00 ARA-00 WIAE-00 COME-00 110-00 1-01  
APAD-01 1051-00 PM-01 PA-01 000-00 1001-00 10-01  
FAA-00 USSS-00 WII-00 JUSA-00 FBI-00 DC-01 FAIR-01  
01-01 000-00 1000-00 /029 W  
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LOPEZ: DEATH WAS FOLLOWED BY A FEW DAYS  
A SHORT PERIOD OF AGONY AS THE "DEATH LIST" OF PARTY  
AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. THERE IS CONFUSION ABOUT  
WHETHER LOPEZ WAS ON THE LIST -- THERE MAY BE MORE THAN  
ONE LIST -- BUT ONE SOURCE SAYS HE WAS NUMBER ONE ON A  
LIST. WHATEVER THE FACTS, THERE IS A STRONG PERCEPTION  
WITHIN APRA THAT SL HAS GAINED MOMENTUM AND WILL  
START BRACKING OFF OTHER APOYISTA WITH IMPUNITY. THE  
FACT THAT LOPEZ WAS CLOSELY LINKED TO ROMANEO VILLANUEVA,  
AN APOYISTA LEFTIST, IS SEEN AS A MESSAGE THAT LEFTIST  
TENDENCIES ARE NO PROTECTION ALSO. DEATH LIST BROADCAST  
ON RADIO INCLUDED CONGRESSMAN CARLOS ROSA, ANOTHER  
PROMINENT APOYISTA LEFTIST.

0 0373022 FEB 87  
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7129  
INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
USAFSD HOWARD AFB PH  
USCINCPAC QUARRY HTS PH  
DEAMBOS WASHDC  
DIA WASHDC

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TERREP

PANAMA FOR ADS  
DEA FOR OF, PI, OC, OI  
DIA FOR AT-3/CS-10/DB-602/JSI-40/DB -301  
USCINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12333: DECL: OADR  
TAGC, PTER, PLOC, PE, ATCC, ALDW  
SUBJECT: LOPEZ ASSASSINATION AFTERMATH: LAMENTATIONS  
AND RECRIMINATIONS

REF: LIMA 1204

1. (U) SUMMARY: THE RECENT ASSASSINATION OF APRA OFFICIAL  
CESAR LOPEZ HAS TRIGGERED WIDESPREAD CONDEMNATION FROM  
ALL QUARTERS EXCEPT THE RADICAL LEFT. THE SEEMING  
IMPUNITY WITH WHICH TERRORISTS KILLED LOPEZ, COMBINED  
WITH PREVIOUS REPORTS OF AN SL DEATH LIST OF GOV/APRA  
OFFICIALS, HAS CAUSED DEEP CONCERN BY OTHER OFFICIALS  
FOR THEIR SAFETY. THE INTERIOR MINISTRY HAS BEEN  
CRITICIZED FOR NOT FORESEEING OR PREVENTING LOPEZ  
DEATH. JUST BACK FROM INDIA AND EUROPE, GARCIA CALLED  
FOR GREATER CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN THE COUNTER-  
TERRORISM EFFORT AND MOVED TO ALLUDE SECURITY CONCERNS  
WITHIN APRA -- A HIGHER TOP PROFILE, HOWEVER, WOULD  
UNDERCUT ITS OBJECTIVE OF DOWNPLAYING IMPACT OF  
TERRORISTS. ONLY SEVEN MONTHS AFTER ITS LOSS IN THE  
PRISON RIOTS, SL HAS REGAINED ITS DESERVED REPUTATION  
AS EFFECTIVE AND IMPLACABLE. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) SENATOR LUMINOSO'S FEBRUARY 22 ASSASSINATION OF  
APRA OFFICIAL CESAR LOPEZ SILVA HEREIN PRODUCES RECRIMINATIONS  
AND SOUL SEARCHING WITHIN THE GOV AND APRA AND RELATED  
REJECTION OF TERRORISM FROM APOYISTA. THE  
POLITICAL SPECTRUM -- EXCEPT FROM ALL THREE MAJOR  
-- OPPOSITION PARTIES -- THE UG, SP, AND PFC -- JOINED GOV/  
APRA LEADERS IN CONDEMNING THE KILLING.  
A INTERACTIVE "EXPRESSION" JOINED  
A THE CHARGE AGAINST SL  
THE MURDER UNPAID REMAINED CHALLENGING THE GOV'S  
RAIDS AGAINST UNIVERSITIES USED BY TERRORISTS AND THE  
OF URBAN SELF-DEFENSE FORCES.

3. (U) THE MULTIPLE CONDOLENCES AND DENUNCIATIONS OF  
TERRORISM ONLY PARTIALLY WASHED THE KILLING'S EFFECTS

4. (U) RECRIMINATIONS AGAINST THE INTERIOR MINISTRY BEGAN  
ALMOST IMMEDIATELY. THEN-ACTING PRESIDENT LUIS ALBERTO  
SANCHEZ CRITICIZED APPARENT FAILURE OF POLICE INTELLIGENCE  
TO FORESEE AND PREVENT THE ATTACK. LOPEZ' FAMILY  
REPORTEDLY WAS INCENDED THAT LOPEZ HAD RECEIVED NO  
POLICE PROTECTION DESPITE EARLIER THREATS (THERE ALSO WAS  
THE PRECEDENT OF THE SL ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION IN JUNE  
1986 AGAINST ALBERTO RITASANO, WHICH LEFT FOUR DEAD). THE  
FAMILY'S CRITICISM WAS FOCUSED ON INTERIOR MINISTER  
SALINAS AND VICE MINISTER MANTILLA.

5. (U) UPON HIS RETURN TO PERU LATE JANUARY 21, PRESIDENT  
GARCIA DEVOTED A MAJOR PORTION OF HIS ARRIVAL PRESS CON-  
FERENCE TO CALL FOR "NATIONAL UNITY" AGAINST TERRORISM  
AND TO ASK FOR THE "ACTIVE COOPERATION" OF THE POPULACE,  
SAYING THAT "EACH PERUVIAN SHOULD BE A POLICEMAN." THE  
GOP REVEALED THAT GARCIA MET FEBRUARY 1 WITH SALINAS,  
MANTILLA, AND APRA LEADERS TO DISCUSS COUNTER-TERRORISM  
POLICY. IN AN APPARENT GESTURE OF CONFIDENCE IN HIS  
CLOSE ADVISOR AND FORMER SECRETARY, GARCIA WAS SEEN

WALKING AFTERWARDS TO THE LIMA CATHEDRAL WITH VICE  
MINISTER MANTILLA. GARCIA CONFRONTS A DILEMMA: HIS  
DESIRE TO BOOST PARTY CREDIBILITY AND TO GAIN BROADER  
CITIZEN SUPPORT FOR THE POLICE CONFLICTS WITH HIS EFFORTS  
OVER THE PAST YEAR TO DOWNPLAY IMPACT OF TERRORISM.

6. (U) COMMENT [ ]

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REVIEWED BY *[Signature]* Date  
FOR/ED or PA exemptions (b)(1)  
TS authority is: OADR  
( ) CLASSIFY in OADR  
( ) DOWNGRADE TS to ( ) S or ( ) C, OADR  
( ) Non-responsive info.  
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( ) EXEMPT  
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