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EXCISE

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ADS-20 AID-20 INR-25 SS-20 CIAE-22 EF-20  
ARA-20 NSAE-20 COME-20 SSO-20 L-22 AMAD-21  
PM-25 PA-22 FFAE-22 GCC-22 INRF-22 CA-22  
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C 311232Z AUG 67  
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2253  
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
USAFSC HOWARD AFB PM  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM  
DEA HQS WASHDC  
DIA WASHDC  
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR  
REVIEWED by [Signature] DATE OCT 3 1988  
 RELEASE  DECLASSIFY  
 EXCISE  DECLASSIFY in PART  
 DONT  Non-responsive info.  
 FOI EO or PA exemptions (b)(7)(C)  
TS authority to:  
 CLASSIFY as \_\_\_\_\_ OADR  
 DOWNGRADE TS to ( ) S or ( ) C, OADR

TERREP  
USCINCSO ALSO FOR PCLAD  
DIA FOR OA-E/OS-1D/DE-6D2/JSI-4B/DE-3C1  
DEA FOR OF, PS, OC, OI  
I.C. 12355: LECL: OADR  
TAGS: PTER, PHUM, ASEC, ALOW, FE  
SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT LEADER ASSASSINATED

1. (C) SUMMARY: A FRONTAL COMMANDO-  
STYLE ATTACK AUGUST 29 KILLED RODRIGO  
FRANCO MONTE, THE 32-YEAR-OLD HEAD OF  
THE NATIONAL FOOD MARKETING AGENCY (FNCA)  
AND INJURED MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY IN  
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THEIR RURAL LIMA HOME. THE ASSASSINATION  
OF FRANCO, A RESPECTED AERA TECHNOCRAT WHO  
WAS REPORTEDLY UNDER CONSIDERATION TO HEAD  
THE CENTRAL BANK, HAS AGAIN CONVULSED LIMA  
WITH ANGER, FRUSTRATION, AND GRIEF,  
BECOMING ONE OF PRESIDENT GARCIA'S  
STRONGEST STATEMENTS YET AGAINST  
TERRORISM. HIS DEATH SPARKED AN INSTANT  
BACKLASH AGAINST THE UNITED LEFT'S  
AMNESTY BILL UNDER DISCUSSION IN THE SENATE.

SENDER LUMINOSC IS SUSPECTED. END SUMMARY.  
2. (U) ALTHOUGH THERE ARE DIFFERING  
ACCOUNTS OF THE ACTUAL SEQUENCE, MOST  
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REPORTS AGREE THAT FRANCO AND HIS FAMILY WERE ASLEEP IN THEIR WEEKEND HOME ABOUT 15 MILES OUTSIDE OF LIMA WHEN EIGHT TERRORISTS ATTACKED AT APPROXIMATELY 6 A.M. A CHAUFFEUR AND A GUARD OUTSIDE THE HOUSE WERE SHOT. BOTH THE FRONT AND BACK DOORS WERE BLOWN OUT WITH DYNAMITE, AND AT LEAST ONE OTHER BLAST PUT A HOLE IN THE ROOF. THE ASSAILANTS CALLED FOR FRANCO TO COME OUT, WARNING THAT HIS FAMILY WOULD BE KILLED IF HE DID NOT COMPLY. FRANCO WAS CUT DOWN BY MACHINE GUN FIRE AS HE STEPPED OUT THE BACK DOOR. HIS WIFE AND ONE CHILD WERE ALSO SHOT, AND TWO OTHER CHILDREN WERE INJURED BY SHRAPNEL FROM THE EXPLOSIONS.

3. (U) IMMEDIATELY AFTER SHOOTING FRANCO, THE TERRORISTS WITHDREW, APPARENTLY IN AN  
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ESCAPE VEHICLE LEFT NEAR THE SCENE. MRS. FRANCO GOT HER HUSBAND AND CHILDREN INTO THEIR CAR AND SPED TOWARD THE ANGLO-AMERICAN CLINIC IN SAN ISIDRO, WHERE FRANCO WAS PRONOUNCED DEAD FROM A REPORTED 15 BULLET WOUNDS. HIS BODYGUARD ALSO DIED. MRS. FRANCO AND HER CHILDREN WERE TREATED AND ARE REPORTEDLY OUT OF DANGER.

4. (U) DUE TO HIS YOUTH, PROMINENCE, AND THE BRUTALITY OF THE ATTACK, FRANCO'S ASSASSINATION HAS YET AGAIN WRAPPED THE GOP AND AIRA IN A MANILE OF COLLECTIVE GRIEF. PRESIDENT GARCIA ATTENDED A MASS FOR FRANCO AUGUST 30 AND LATER ASKED FOR THE HELP OF ALL PERUVIANS IN "ENDING THIS HISTORICAL SCOURGE OF HATE WHICH HAS FALLEN ON OUR

COUNTRY." PERSONALLY DISTRAUGHT, GARCIA CALLED FRANCO'S DEATH "THE MOST PAINFUL THING I'VE BEEN THROUGH IN RECENT TIMES. HE WAS LIKE A YOUNGER BROTHER. IN ONE DAY I FEEL LIKE I'VE AGED TEN YEARS."

5. (U) PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS OF SORROW WERE ALSO REGISTERED BY APPA SENATORS ARMANDO VILLANUEVA AND RAMIRO FRIJOLE, CARDINAL JOAN LANIAZURI DICKHITS, FINANCE MINISTER GUSTAVO SAFERLEIN, AND FORMER PRESIDENT BELLAUNDE. THE GRIEF CUT ACROSS PARTY LINES

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WITH LEADING OPPOSITION MEMBERS, FROM THE  
LEFT AND RIGHT, ATTENDING FRANCO'S FUNERAL.

5. (U) FRANCO, A LIFE-LONG APRISTA WHOSE  
GRANDFATHER WAS SENATE PRESIDENT DURING THE  
1950'S, HAD HEADED ENCI SINCE AUGUST 1965.

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ARA-00	NSAE-00	COME-00	SSC-20	L-20	AMAI-01
IM-05	PA-22	FAAE-00	C60-20	INRE-20	CA-22
USIE-02	JUSE-00	FLIE-00	OC-02	DCEE-00	M-21
FAIM-21	DS-01	DSI-00	ZOVD-00	P-02	T-21

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O 31123Z AUG 87  
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO SECSTAFF WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2251  
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
USAFSO HOWARD AFB PM  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM  
DEABQS WASHDC  
DIA WASHDC  
C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LIMA 12212  
TERREP

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD  
DIA FOR OA-5/OS-1D/DE-5P2/JSI-4B/DB-3C1  
DEA FOR CF, PS, OC, CI  
E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PTER, PHUM, ASEC, ALOW, PE  
SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT LEADER ASSASSINATED  
PREVIOUSLY, HE HAD BEEN SECRETARY GENERAL  
OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND A TOP  
ADVISOR TO AGRICULTURE MINISTER BENIGNO  
MORALES FERNANDEZ. HIS INTEREST IN AGRICULTURE  
LED HIM TO TAKE UP RESIDENCE IN THE

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SANA AREA OF RURAL LIMA WHERE HE RAISED  
CROPS AND LIVESTOCK.

7. (C) ✓

THE FRONT-  
PAGE HEADLINE OF THE APRA DAILY BOY  
ASKED: "AMNESTY, WHY?" GARCIA ALSO CAME  
OUT WITH SOME OF HIS HARSH ANTI-TERRORIST  
STATEMENTS YET, SAYING HE IS NOW MORE  
CONVINCED THAN EVER THAT NO CONCESSIONS

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FOR ANY REASON CAN BE MADE TO TERRORISM.  
"SOMEONE PASSING OUT LEAFLETS, SOMEONE  
THROWING A BOMB, SOMEONE WHO SELECTIVELY  
ASSASSINATES, IT'S ALL THE SAME." GARCIA  
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SAID. A POLL IN THE RESPECTED EL COMERCIO REPORTED THAT 45 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION IS OPPOSED TO AMNISTY, COMPARED WITH 24 PERCENT IN FAVOR (THE REMAINDER WERE INDIFFERENT OR HAD NO OPINION). A POSTPONEMENT OF CONSIDERATION OF THE AMNISTY BILL IS BEING DISCUSSED, WITH FRANCO'S ASSASSINATION CLEARLY PUTTING ITS SPONSORS ON THE DEFENSIVE. AND AS HAS HAPPENED FOLLOWING OTHER PAINFUL ASSASSINATIONS (MOST NOTABLY THE JANUARY 1987 MURDER OF APRA LEADER CESAR LOPEZ SILVA AND THE OCTOBER 1986 MURDER OF ADMIRAL GERONIMO CAFFERATA), THE DEATH PENALTY FOR TERRORISTS IS AGAIN BEING DISCUSSED.

B. (C) ALTHOUGH NO GROUP HAS TAKEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ATTACK, FRANCO'S DEATH HAS THE MARK OF SENDERO LUMINOSO

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WHICH FREQUENTLY EMPLOYS SELECTIVE ASSASSINATION. THE LEVEL OF FIRE POWER AND THE GENERAL BRUTALITY -- BASICALLY DYNAMITING THEIR WAY INTO THE VICTIM'S HOME -- ALSO INDICATES SENDERO. THE ATTACK WAS WELL PLANNED AND RAPIDLY EXECUTED. EVIDENCE THAT BOTH FRANCO AND HIS HOME HAD PROBABLY BEEN UNDER OBSERVATION FOR SOME TIME. NEAR CERTAINTY THAT SL IS RESPONSIBLE. HOWEVER, DID NOT PRESENT SOME

IN RESPONSE TO THE BANK EXPROPRIATION.

B. (C) COMMENT: FRANCO IS THE HIGHEST BANKING AIBISTA TO DIE AT TERRORIST

HANDS SINCE CARLOS LOPEZ SILVA IN JANUARY. THE ASSASSINATION HAS ALL THE MARKINGS OF AN SL ATTACK: CAREFUL PLANNING, OVERWHELMING FIREPOWER (INCLUDING SEVERAL SHOTS TO THE HEAD), AND COLL-FLOODEDNESS. THERE IS NO APPARENT EXPLANATION WHY SL CHOSE FRANCO, OTHER THAN HE SEEMED TO BE AN EASY TARGET. COMING AFTER A HIATUS IN HIGH-PROFILE LIMA ASSASSINATIONS, AND AFTER COP CLAIMS OF SUBVERSIVE LOSSES, THE ASSASSINATION IS A SOMEBODY REMINDER OF THE TERRORIST THREAT. AS A TERRORIST ACT, IT USED EXCESSIVE VIOLENCE EFFECTIVELY: NO PERUVIAN

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OFFICIAL CAN FAIL TO UNDERSTAND HOW HOPELESS  
FRANCO'S SITUATION WAS ONCE SL CIRCLED HIS  
HOUSE.

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