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110



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PAGE 01 LIMA 00815 01 OF 02 222143Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 SS-00
CIAE-00 H-01 MMO-01 IO-15 NSC-01 NSAE-00
L-03 TRSE-00 PM-11 PA-01 MCT-03 OMB-01
SP-02 SNP-01 PRS-01 SLPD-01 SPD-02 /065 W
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P 222138Z JAN 85
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1256
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LIMA 00815

DIA FOR IR BRANCH; PANAMA FOR ADS

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: SHUM, PTER, PE
SUBJECT: NEW ARMY HEAD SPEAKS OUT AGAINST RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

REF: (A) LIMA 683 V

1. (C) OPPOSITION LIMA DAILY "LA REPUBLICA"
CORRESPONDENT VICTOR ROBLES ACCOMPANIED NEW ARMY HEAD,
GEN. GERMAN RUIZ FIGUEROA, ON MULTI-DAY INSPECTION TOUR
OF MILITARY FACILITIES IN SOUTH-CENTRAL SIERRA
EMERGENCY ZONE (EZ). TRIP GENERATED MAJOR NEWS
STORIES IN REPUBLICA ON THREE SUCCESSIVE DAYS (JAN. 18-
20), AS WELL AS SHORT INTERVIEW WITH GENERAL THAT
APPEARED ON 20TH. SERIES IS NOTEWORTHY FOR ITS POSITIVE

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PAGE 02 LIMA 00815 01 OF 02 222143Z

TO BE IN CONTRAST TO CRITICISMS PREVIOUSLY DIRECTED BY

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REPUBLICA AT SECURITY FORCES ACCUSED OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS), FOR ITS EMPHASIS ON WARM RESPONSE GENERAL'S TRIP EVOKED AMONG EZ COMMUNITIE VISITED, AND FOR PRO-HUMAN RIGHTS COMMENTS RUIZ VOLUNTEERED IN INTERVIEW.

2. (U) RUIZ TRAVELED THROUGH FORMER SENDERO LUMINOSO (SL) HEARTLAND IN DEPARTMENT OF YACUCHO ACCOMPANIED BY OTHER TOP ARMY OFFICERS, INCLUDING SECOND MILITARY REGION COMMANDER GEN. SINESIO JARAMA. COMMUNITIES VISITED INCLUDED PAST AND PRESENT "HOT SPOTS" IN PROVINCES OF CANGALLAMANGA, HUANTA, LA MAR, AND ANDAHUAYLAS (IN DEPARTMENT OF APURIMAC.) "LA REPUBLICA" CORRESPONDENT REPORTED THAT GENERAL'S PARTY WAS GREETED IN MOST OF COMMUNITIES BY BOTH LOCAL OFFICIALS, AND BY RESIDENTS, ALL OF WHOM WELCOMED GENERAL AND SOLICITED ARMY'S CONTINUING PRESENCE FOR DURATION OF TERRORIST EMERGENCY. ROBLES NOTED THAT, REVERSING PREVIOUS TREND TOWARD ABANDONMENT OF FARMING LAND THROUGHOUT TERRORIST-AFFECTED REGION, SOME CAMPESINOS ARE RETURNING TO THEIR HOMES ON OUTSKIRTS OF MILITARY GARRISONS. CORRESPONDENT ALSO WROTE THAT MANY COMMUNITIES DREW SHARP DISTINCTION BETWEEN ARMY TROOPS (WHOSE PRESENCE WAS WELCOME) AND POLICE, WHO WERE ACCUSED OF COMMITTING ABUSES. ROBLES MENTIONED LA MAR JUNGLE CENTER OF SAN FRANCISCO AS SITE WHERE RUIZ RECEIVED NUMEROUS COMPLAINTS OF SECURITY FORCE EXCESSES, COMPLAINTS WHICH EZ POLITICAL-MILITARY COMMANDER COL. WILFREDO MORI PROMISED TO LOOK INTO AND TO TAKE STEPS TO BRING TO A HALT.

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PAGE 03

LIMA 00815 01 OF 02 222143Z

3. (U) ROBLES APPARENTLY WAS STRUCK BY LANGUAGE RUIZ USED IN PUBLIC SPEECHES HE MADE IN EZ. HE WROTE THAT, IN ONE OF COMMUNITIES VISITED, RUIZ ADDRESSED LOCAL POPULATION AND ARMY TROOPS ALTERNATELY. TO LATTER HE WARNED THAT "YOU ARE HERE TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE AND NOT TO ABUSE THEM, BECAUSE YOU ARE A PART OF THE PEOPLE AND MUST SERVE THEM." FOLLOWING THESE REMARKS, HE TURNED TO CAMPESINOS TO SAY, "YOU ALSO MUST UNDERSTAND THAT OUR SOLDIERS ARE HUMBLE PEOPLE JUST LIKE YOU. HELP THEM WITH WHAT IS NECESSARY, SOW AND FARM THE LAND SO

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THAT THEY MAY BE ABLE TO EAT. WORK AND SELL THEM WHAT YOU PRODUCE."

4. (U) IN INTERVIEW, RUIZ MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

--TROOP MORALE IS HIGH, DESPITE HARDSHIPS OF FIGHTING AN UNSEEN ENEMY IN UNCOMFORTABLE TERRAIN;

--BACKGROUND OF ECONOMIC MISERY OF ZONE MUST CHANGE; DEVELOPMENT IS ESSENTIAL IF TERRORISM IS TO BE DEFEATED;

--ARMY'S CIVIC ACTION UNDERTAKIN ZONE ARE DELIBERATE PART OF ITS ANTI-TERRORIST STRATEGY, BECAUSE "IT IS FUNDAMENTAL THAT THE ARMY SHOULD HAVE THE POPULATION'S SUPPORT. WITHOUT THIS SUPPORT IT CANNOT WIN."

--MILITARY DISCIPLINE "IS OUR MAJOR CONCERN, BECAUSE IN THE HEAT OF COMBAT EXCESSES CAN BE COMMITTED. . . . WE ARE KEEPING AN EYE ON OUR TROOPS, AND ON OUR OFFICERS, TO MAKE SURE THEY ACT PROPERLY. . . . WE MUST RESPECT THE GENEVA ACCORDS. WE ARE SOLDIERS, AND WE HAVE BEEN TRAINED TO ACT THUS, AND IT IS UNTHINKABLE THAT WE SHOULD FIGHT IN ANY FORM OTHER THAN RESPECTING THE GENEVA ACCORDS. WE MUST AVOID ABUSES AND FIND OUR WAY CLEAR TO GAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF OUR PEOPLE."

5. (C) COMMENT: RUIZ' LANGUAGE IS NOTEWORTHY IN SEVERAL RESPECTS. IT REPRESENTS, AT MOST BASIC, ARMY'S CONTINUING EMPHASIS ON IMPORTANCE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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AS KEY TO WINNING SUPPORT AMONG EMERGENCY ZONE'S
POPULATION AND, THEREBY, DEFEATING TERRORISTS DECISIVELY
BUT REFERENCE TO IMPORTANCE OF MILITARY DISCIPLINE (AND
BY INFERENCE, SUGGESTION THAT INDISCIPLINE HAS BEEN A
PROBLEM) IS SOMETHING NEW. RUIZ MAY BE SIGNALLING, AT
THE VERY OUTSET OF HIS ONE-YEAR TENURE AS ARMY HEAD, THAT
HE INTENDS TO CRACK DOWN ON TROOPS WHO MAY BE
IMPLICATED IN INSTANCES OF RIGHTS ABUSES. PERHAPS MOST
INTERESTING OF ALL, HOWEVER, ARE RUIZ' REFERENCES TO
GENEVA ACCORDS. A FEW PROMINENT VOICES HAVE BEEN RAISED
IN THE PAST ABOUT A "NO QUARTER ALLOWED" STRATEGY TO

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PAGE 02

LIMA 00815 02 OF 02 222143Z

COMBAT SENDERO. RUIZ' COMMENTS SHOW THAT CURRENT TOP
ARMY COMMAND DOES NOT SHARE THAT VIEWPOINT. ALTHOUGH

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BROAD GENERALIZATIONS ARE RISKY, GIVEN INADEQUACY OF STATISTICS AVAILABLE, IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT ARMY'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD HAS IMPROVED IN RECENT MONTHS. CASES OF ABUSE (SUCH AS DISCOVERY OF "CLANDESTINE GRAVES"--REFTEL) HAVE TENDED TO INVOLVE EZ AREAS WHERE ARMY IS NOT IN CHARGE. OGDEN

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