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ACTION SCT-02

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00 EB
NSCE-00 ARA-00 NSAE-00 COME-00 SSO-00 HA-09 L-03
NRCE-00 TRSE-00 PM-10 PA-01 FAAE-00 CCO-00 INM-07
INRE-00 CA-02 USSS-00 USIE-00 JUSE-00 FBIE-00 OC-02
DOEE-00 M-01 NRC-02 FAIM-01 SSE-01 DS-01 DSE-00
P-02 T-01 /055 W

-----243256 301710Z /47

O 301648Z JUL 88
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0488
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM
DIA WASHDC
DEAHQS WASHDC

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPC/CDR *WAS*

Date: *9/3/96*

RELEASE DECLASSIFY
 EXCISE DECLASSIFY
 DENY IN PART
 DELETE Non-Responsive Info
FOIA Exemptions _____
PA Exemptions _____

MR Cases Only:
EO Citations _____

TS authority to:
 CLASSIFY as S or
 DOWNGRADE TS to S or

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DIA FOR IR BRANCH
DIA FOR DA-5/DS-1D/DB-6D2/JSI-4B/DB-3C1
DEA FOR OF, PS, OC, OI
UNCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD JOHN YOULE

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ED 12356: DECL: DADR
TAGS: PTER, PHUM, PGOV, PE
SUBJECT: LAWYER FOR SL LEADER MOROTE ASSASSINATED

1. (U) SUMMARY: MANUEL FEBRES FLORES, LAWYER FOR SL LEADER OSMAN MOROTE, WAS THE VICTIM OF AN EXECUTION-STYLE MURDER THE MORNING OF JULY 28. A GROUP CALLING ITSELF THE "DEMOCRATIC COMMANDO RODRIGO FRANCO" CLAIMED CREDIT. FRANCO WAS A YOUNG APRA LEADER KILLED LAST YEAR, PRESUMABLY BY SENDERO LUMINOSO. THE GOVERNMENT

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HAS PLEDGED A FULL INVESTIGATION. THE ASSOCIATION OF

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DEMOCRATIC LAWYERS, TO WHICH FEBRES BELONGED, IS BLAMING THE "APRA GOVERNMENT," WHILE PRO-SL EL DIARIO FAULTS "APRA PARAMILITARY." END SUMMARY.

2. FEBRES REPORTEDLY WAS PICKED UP BY FOUR GUNMEN WHILE WALKING NEAR HIS HOME IN THE LIMA SUBURB OF MIRAFLORES AROUND 8:30 AM JULY 28. THEY TOOK HIM 10 KILOMETERS SOUTH AND MURDERED HIM AT THE ENTRY TO A TUNNEL, WHERE THE HIGHWAY LOOPS BACK FROM THE BEACH INTO CHORILLOS. HIS BODY WAS FOUND ABOUT 9:00 AM BUT IDENTIFICATION DID NOT OCCUR UNTIL MUCH LATER THAT DAY. ONLY LA REPUBLICA CARRIED THE STORY JULY 29. ALL THE LIMA PRESS CARRIES THE STORY JULY 30, MOST OF THEM AS FRONT-PAGE HEADLINES.

3. THE "DEMOCRATIC COMMANDO RODRIGO FRANCO" SENT NOTES AND MADE TELEPHONE CALLS TO SEVERAL PAPERS CLAIMING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MURDER. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME SUCH A GROUP HAS SURFACED. RODRIGO FRANCO, 29, WAS HEAD OF THE GOVERNMENT FOOD IMPORT AND MARKETING AGENCY AND WAS THE BRIGHTEST AND MOST ATTRACTIVE OF APRA LEADERS IN THE GENERATION BEHIND ALAN GARCIA. HIS MURDER WAS ESPECIALLY BRUTAL. PRESUMED SL TERRORISTS FLUSHED HIM OUT OF HIS RURAL HOME OUTSIDE LIMA WITH DYNAMITE AND SHOT HIM DOWN.

4. INTERIOR VICE MINISTER AUGUSTIN MANTILLA SAID THE MURDER OF FEBRES IS "REGRETTABLE" AND PLEDGED A FULL GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATION, JUST AS IT WOULD INVESTIGATE ANY OTHER TERRORIST ACT. MANTILLA'S CONDEMNATION WAS ECHOED BY OTHERS, AMONG THEM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT, JUAN MENDEZ OSBORN, AND THE ATTORNEY

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GENERAL, HUGO DENEGRI.

5. THE ASSOCIATION OF DEMOCRATIC ATTORNEYS, TO WHICH FEBRES BELONGED AND WHICH CUSTOMARILY DEFENDS SL MEMBERS, ATTRIBUTED THE MURDER TO THE "APRA GOVERNMENT" IN A PRESS CONFERENCE LED BY ALFREDO CRESPO, ITS CURRENT PRESIDENT. CRESPO SAID HE AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION HAVE RECEIVED COUNTLESS DEATH THREATS IN RECENT WEEKS. THE PRO-SL EL DIARIO ATTRIBUTES THE MURDER TO "APRA PARAMILITARY" GROUPS IN A FRONT-PAGE

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STATEMENT JULY 30. UNITED LEFT DEPUTY YEHUDE SIMONS, WHO ACHIEVED NOTORIETY BY HIS AID TO THE TWO DISSIDENT POLICEMEN WHO LED THE POLICE STRIKE OF MAY, 1987, TOLD THE PRESS THAT HE HAD RECEIVED 17 TELEPHONE THREATS DURING THE NIGHT OF JULY 27-28, TELLING HIM TO READ THE PAPERS THE NEXT DAY.

6. ~~(C)~~ COMMENT: POLICE WERE SPECULATING TO THE PRESS DURING THE DAY JULY 29 THAT SL RIVAL MRTA OR EVEN SL ITSELF (ELEMENTS OPPOSED TO MOROTE) MIGHT BE RESPONSIBLE. CONSERVATIVE EXPRESO EDITORIAL PAGE CHIEF JAIME DE ALTHAUS RUNS A SIGNED EDITORIAL JULY 30 ALONG THE SAME LINES, POINTING OUT THAT SL IS THE ONLY BENEFICIARY. ALTHOUGH IT IS THEORETICALLY POSSIBLE THAT SL OR MRTA IS RESPONSIBLE, THE GREATER LIKLIHOOD IN OUR VIEW IS THAT, IN FACT, AN APRA OR GOP PARAMILITARY GROUP IS INVOLVED. WE KNOW THAT SUCH GROUPS EXIST AND THAT THEY HAVE ACTED BEFORE. FEBRES'S MURDER IS THE MOST SENSATIONAL SUCH ACTION TO DATE, HOWEVER, AND AS SUCH MARKS A NEW STAGE IN PERU'S TERRORIST CONFLICT.

WATSON

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