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	OASY-00	DINT-05	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DS-00	EB-01	OIGO-01
	E-01	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	INM-02
	INR-00	INSE-00	IO-19	JUSE-00	LAB-04	L-03	ADS-00
	M-01	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	NSF-01	OES-09	OIC-02
	OIS-01	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	RPCS-01
	SIL-00	SNP-00	SP-00	SR-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-17
	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-01	EPAE-00	RPE-01

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R 122133Z MAR 93  
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6634  
INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO  
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 07 LIMA 02895

SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PGOV, PTER, PHUM, SNAR, SENV, PE  
SUBJECT: TARAPOTO: CENTRAL HUALLAGA RAMBLE  
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REF: LIMA 621

TARAPOTO: JUNGLE TOWN WITH AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE  
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1. (C) SUMMARY: POLOFF RECENTLY VISITED  
TARAPOTO, IN NORTHERN PERU'S GUERRILLA AND  
NARCO-PLAGUED COCA GROWING CENTRAL HUALLAGA  
VALLEY, IN SAN MARTIN DEPARTMENT (STATE). A  
STEAMY CITY OF SOME 80,000 RESIDENTS, TARAPOTO  
IS A LARGE "FARM TOWN" THAT BOOMED IN THE 80'S

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: DONNA M DIPAOLLO  
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 25X1  
DATE/CASE ID: 01 MAY 2009 200706090

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THANKS TO NARCO MONEY AND TO SERVICING THE COCA GROWERS. BUT TARAPOTENSES ARE NERVOUS ABOUT A DEPRESSED COCA MARKET AND REMAIN WARY OF A VOLATILE SECURITY SITUATION DESPITE RECENT IMPROVEMENTS. THE TUPAC AMARU REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT (MRTA), WHICH HAS TRADITIONALLY STAKED OUT NORTHERN SAN MARTIN DEPARTMENT AS ITS STRONGHOLD, IS BY MOST ACCOUNTS DOWN, BUT THE JANUARY SACKING OF MOYOBAMBA, THE LARGEST CITY IN THE REGION, IS TAKEN AS A WARNING NOT TO COUNT MRTA OUT. IRONICALLY, MRTA'S DEMISE MIGHT EVEN ALLOW SENDERO LUMINOSO (SL), PERU'S LARGER AND MORE VIOLENT GUERRILLA ORGANIZATION, TO EXPAND TO THE NORTH. LOCAL OBSERVERS PRAISE HUALLAGA FRONT COMMANDER FOR RESTORING CONFIDENCE AND HOPE TO THE EMBATTLED AREA. HOWEVER, WITH PROFITABILITY OF LEGITIMATE CROPS LOW AND DECLINING RELATIVE TO COCA, TARAPOTO AND THE CENTRAL HUALLAGA ARE VULNERABLE TO

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VIOLENCE. ONE OF THE FEW WOMEN'S RIGHTS GROUPS IN PERU'S SELVA (JUNGLE REGION) DESCRIBED HOW DEPRESSED ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND A HIGHLY TRADITIONAL LATIN RURAL CULTURE CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS A SERIOUS SOCIAL CRISIS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN PARTICULAR AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN GENERAL. END SUMMARY.

MRTA: THE GUERRILLAS ARE NOT DONE YET  
-----

2. (U) THE TUPAC AMARU REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT'S GUERRILLAS, OR COMPAS, ARE BY ALL ACCOUNTS BEING POUNDED HARD BY THE MILITARY. JOURNALISTS, BUSINESSMEN AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS IN TARAPOTO AGREED THAT THE ARMED FORCES ARE DOING THE BEST THEY HAVE SINCE THE WAR CAME TO THE HUALLAGA SOME 10 YEARS AGO. MOST CREDITED THE SUCCESS TO POLITICAL-MILITARY FRONT COMMANDER GEN. BELLIDO, WHOSE COMMAND WAS EXTENDED IN JANUARY (UNUSUALLY) FOR A SECOND YEAR IN APPARENT RECOGNITION OF HIS EFFECTIVENESS AGAINST SUBVERSIVES AND NARCOTRAFFICKING. BELLIDO HAS STATED PUBLICLY THAT MRTA WILL BE DEFEATED IN HIS FRONT BY 1994 (SEE REFTTEL FOR

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BELLIDO'S UPDATE ON THE MILITARY SITUATION.)

3. (U) THE SAN MARTIN MRTA HAS ALSO SUFFERED FROM INTERNAL STRUGGLES ON A NATIONAL LEVEL, REFLECTED LOCALLY BETWEEN THE HARDLINE POSITION OF (JAILED) MRTA NATIONAL HEAD VICTOR POLAY

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CAMPOS AND NESTOR SERPA CARTOLINI ON THE ONE HAND AND NATIVE SAN MARTIN LOCAL LEADER SISTERO GARCIA ON THE OTHER. IN 1991/92, MRTA ABANDONED THE ROBIN HOOD IMAGE IT ONCE FOSTERED IN SAN MARTIN AND BEGAN SACKING TOWNS, DESTROYED PAINFULLY ACQUIRED VILLAGE INFRASTRUCTURE AND ROBBED BANK HOLDINGS OF COMMON CITIZENS.

4. (U) NO LONGER CONTENT WITH "JUSTICING" CORRUPT POLICE AND AMBUSHING ARMY PATROLS, WHAT A LOCAL JOURNALIST TERMED MRTA'S "SENDERIZATION" - ADOPTING A LESS DISCRIMINATE TACTIC THAT TARGETED COMMON PEOPLE - MARKED THE END OF WIDE SPREAD POPULAR SUPPORT FOR MRTA. THE MRTA ARMED COLUMNS NOW LIMP ALONG WITHOUT THE FURTIVE AND ONCE COMMON CONNIVANCE OF THE LOCAL CAMPESINOS.

5. (C) CHILDHOOD FRIENDS OF SISTERO BLAMED THE STEADY RECRUITMENT OF COMMON CRIMINALS INTO THE

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R 122133Z MAR 93  
 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6635  
 INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO  
 AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
 INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM

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SOUTHCOS ALSO FOR POLAD

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 TAGS: PGOV, PTER, PHUM, SNAR, SENV, PE

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 MRTA FOR THE MOVEMENT'S EVENTUAL COLLAPSE. TO  
 COVER THE LOSS OF IDEOLOGICALLY COMMITTED AND  
 TRAINED CADRE THROUGH ATTRITION, MRTA COMMANDERS  
 TURNED TO YOUNG TOUGHS AND CRIMINALS WHO HAD A  
 NATURAL PREDISPOSITION TOWARDS EXTORTING "CUPOS"  
 (WAR TAXES) FROM EVEN MERCHANTS OF MODEST MEANS  
 IN THE VILLAGES OR FOR CONTROLLING AND MANAGING  
 THE LUCRATIVE PROTECTION RACKET OF THE DRUG  
 TRADE. AS THE CRIMINAL ELEMENT PERVADED MRTA  
 UNITS, THEY BECAME MORE MAFIA THAN GUERRILLAS -  
 THE PEOPLE TURNED ON THEM AND THEIR POLITICAL  
 GOALS BECAME AN EXCUSE FOR CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES.

6. (U) MANY TARAPOTENSES, SUCH AS THE MAYOR  
 THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE AGRICUTURAL  
 SECTOR GROWERS, TRIED HARD -- PERHAPS TOO HARD

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-- TO CONVINCE POLOFF THAT THE TUPAC AMARU REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT (MRTA) IS NO LONGER A PROBLEM OR IS AT LEAST MORIBUND. BUT MOST INTERLOCUTORS OFFERED ONLY HALF HEARTED REASSURANCES THAT MRTA COULD NOT REPEAT THE SACKING OF MOYOBAMBA IN TARAPOTO. THE POLITICAL MILITARY COMMANDER WOULD NEVER LET THEM TAKE OVER HIS BASE'S HOST CITY, THEY SAID, BUT IT ALWAYS CAME OUT IN THE FORM OF A QUESTION. A LATENT MRTA THREAT TO AT LEAST CONDUCT SPORADIC ATTACKS CERTAINLY EXISTS, AND APPEARED MOST PROBABLE JUDGING BY THE PLENTIFUL MRTA WALL GRAFITTI IN WHAT LOCALS SAID WAS THE MRTA DOMINATED SOUTHERN EDGE OF TOWN WHERE POLOFF'S HOTEL WAS LOCATED.

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7. (C) A REAL FEAR, EXPRESSED BY ALL THE INTERLOCUTORS, WAS THAT SENDERO LUMINOSO, A MUCH MORE FORMIDABLE AND BLOODIER GUERRILLA GROUP, WOULD MOVE NORTH TO FILL THE VACUUM LEFT BY A POSSIBLE MRTA DEFEAT OR COLLAPSE. SENDERO COLUMNS PERIODICALLY SWEEPED NORTH OF WHAT JOURNALISTS AND THE ICRC TERMED "THE DIVIDE," RUNNING EAST-WEST THROUGH THE MIDDLE OF SAN MARTIN DEPARTMENT BETWEEN JUANJUI AND CAMPANILLA, BUT THESE SL COLUMNS WERE ONLY PATROLS. [REDACTED] WARNED THAT THE MRTA'S STYLE OF WARFARE WAS "CHILD'S PLAY" WHEN COMPARED TO SENDERO'S MORE IDEOLOGICALLY BASED "TOTAL WAR" CONCEPT. THIS IN TURN, SAID [REDACTED] [REDACTED] PROBABLY EXPLAINED THE ARMY'S FAR BLOODIER TACTIC OF REPRISALS IN SOUTHERN SAN MARTIN.

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MOYOBAMBA: THE SHOT HEARD ROUND THE VALLEY  
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8. (C) THE MRTA'S JANUARY 1993 SACKING OF MOYOBAMBA DOMINATED MOST CONVERSATIONS IN TARAPOTO. THE MRTA HAD BEEN PRONOUNCED DEAD BEFORE, IN 1992 AFTER THE POLICE CAPTURES OF SENIOR NATIONAL LEADERS VICTOR POLAY AND PETER CARDENAS, AND HAD ANSWERED THIS BY SACKING JAEN, AN IMPORTANT REGIONAL TOWN IN NORTHERN CAJAMARCA

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DEPARTMENT. SIMILARLY, THE STREAM OF PRESS  
STORIES CARRYING BELLIDO'S AND OTHERS

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PROGNOSTICATIONS OF MRTA'S IMMINENT DEMISE HAD  
PROBABLY SPURRED MRTA TO SACK MOYOBAMBA. ONE  
VIOLENCE-WATCHER SUGGESTED THAT MRTA WAS IN  
ESSENCE CHALLENGING BELLIDO WITH THIS ATTACK.  
WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT MRTA IS MILITARILY TOO  
WEAK TO HOLD ON TO A CITY, THE SCALE AND  
COMPLEXITY OF MRTA'S SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS  
CAUSED THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE  
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS CONSIDERABLE DISCOMFORT.  
THEY HAD, UNTIL THE ATTACK ON MOYOBAMBA, BEEN  
CONVINCED BY BELLIDO'S OPTIMISM AND EFFICIENCY  
THAT MRTA WAS ON ITS LAST LEGS. WHAT LITTLE  
COMFORT DID COME OUT OF MOYOBAMBA WAS THAT THE  
GUERRILLAS WERE NOT ABLE TO CRACK THE MAIN VAULT  
AT THE COMMERCE BANK, WHERE MOST OF THE MONEY  
WAS STORED.

9. (C) JOURNALISTS REPORTED THAT SOME 500 MRTA  
CADRE TOOK PART IN THE SACKING, CALLED TOGETHER  
FROM VIRTUALLY EVERY MRTA UNIT IN THE REGION AND  
REPRESENTING NEARLY ALL OF MRTA'S TOTAL FORCE IN

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OASY-00	DINT-05	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DS-00	EB-01	OIGO-01
E-01	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	INM-02
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R 122133Z MAR 93  
 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6636  
 INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO  
 AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
 INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM

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SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
 TAGS: PGOV, PTER, PHUM, SNAR, SENV, PE

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 THE JUNGLE AREA. THE FORCE REPORTEDLY ASSEMBLED  
 AT A MAIN MRTA BASE NEAR YUARACYACU AND DEPLOYED  
 MOSTLY BY BOAT DOWNRIVER TO MOYOBAMBA, SOME 30  
 KILOMETERS AWAY. A LOCAL MRTA COMMANDER  
 SURNAMED MENDOZA DEL AGUILA (AKA EL GRILLO) LED  
 THE ATTACK, ACCORDING TO PERSONS WHO CLAIMED TO  
 KNOW HIS FAMILY. [REDACTED] REPORTS THAT OF THE  
 KNOWN CASUALTIES, THERE WERE TWO DEAD AND FIVE  
 WOUNDED POLICE, TWO DEAD AND TWO WOUNDED  
 SOLDIERS, THREE DEAD AND 13 WOUNDED CIVILIANS,  
 AND EIGHT DEAD GUERRILLAS. THE NUMBER OF  
 WOUNDED GUERRILLAS IS NOT KNOWN AND IT IS ALMOST  
 CERTAIN THAT THE MRTA CARRIED AWAY OTHER DEAD  
 COMRADES.

B1

[REDACTED]

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10. (C) [REDACTED] HAS NOTHING BUT PRAISE FOR HUALLAGA FRONT POLITICAL MILITARY COMMANDER GEN. BELLIDO, WHO "SETS THE EXAMPLE ALL POLITICAL MILITARY COMMANDERS SHOULD FOLLOW."

[REDACTED]

LOCAL JOURNALISTS AGREED [REDACTED] THAT BELLIDO HAS SCORED MAJOR POINTS WITH THE POPULATION FOR HIS CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 LIMA 02895 03 OF 07 122138Z OPENNESS AND CIVIC ACTION APPROACH AND HIS APPARENT PERSONAL HONESTY IN A REGION RIFE WITH NARCO-CORRUPTION.

11. (C) [REDACTED] ARGUES THAT WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT, [REDACTED] HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS HAVE NOT DECLINED NOTICEABLY, AT LEAST BELLIDO HAS ADOPTED AN OPENNESS AND WILLINGNESS THAT ALLOWS MOST PROBLEMS TO BE CORRECTED WHEN THEY ARE BROUGHT TO HIS ATTENTION. [REDACTED] INDICATED THAT 98 PERCENT OF ALL DETAINEES IN MILITARY DETENTION CENTERS ARE TORTURED, THE VAST MAJORITY SEVERELY -- BY BEATINGS, DUNKINGS, HANGING BY THEIR ARMS, ELECTRICAL SHOCK, ETC. HOWEVER, WHEN A PARTICULARLY BAD "INTERROGATION" OFFICER IS IDENTIFIED, BELLIDO USUALLY HAS HIM TRANSFERRED. SOME OF THESE OFFICERS HAVE EVEN BEEN PROMOTED UP AND OUT OF THEIR POSITION, [REDACTED] ACKNOWLEDGED WITH A SHRUG, BUT AT LEAST THE OFFICER IS NO LONGER TORTURING PEOPLE.

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12. (C) UNFORTUNATELY, BELLIDO'S POSITIVE INFLUENCE APPARENTLY EXTENDS ONLY TO NORTHERN SAN MARTIN, THE AREA UNDER HIS "PERSONAL" COMMAND, ACCORDING TO [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] THE "INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT AND VIOLENT" SAN MARTIN AREA [REDACTED] THE DIFFERENT GUERRILLA DYNAMICS THAT EXIST WITH THE



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MRTA IN NORTHERN SAN MARTIN AND SENDERO IN SOUTHERN SAN MARTIN. [REDACTED]

REPORTS THAT THE COLONEL IN CHARGE OVER THE FRONT'S SOUTHERN SAN MARTIN AREA, APPEARS TO OPERATE INDEPENDENTLY OF BELLIDO AND IS NOT SENSITIVE TO HUMAN RIGHTS [REDACTED]

WHEREAS BELLIDO CONTINUES TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON DETAINEES IN NORTHERN SAN MARTIN TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS FISCALIA IN LIMA, INFORMATION FROM THE TINGO MARIA AND TOCACHE MILITARY BASES IS SPORADIC. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] SUGGESTED THAT SENDERO'S PREVALENCE IN THE SOUTHERN AREA MIGHT EXPLAIN THE MORE TENSE, LESS ACCOMMODATING ATTITUDE OF THE LOCAL COMMANDERS, BUT QUICKLY ADDED THAT THIS WAS NO EXCUSE.

13. (C) RESPONDING TO A QUESTION ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING FOR THE TROOPS, [REDACTED] SAID HE HAD BEEN SURPRISED TO FIND THAT THE VAST

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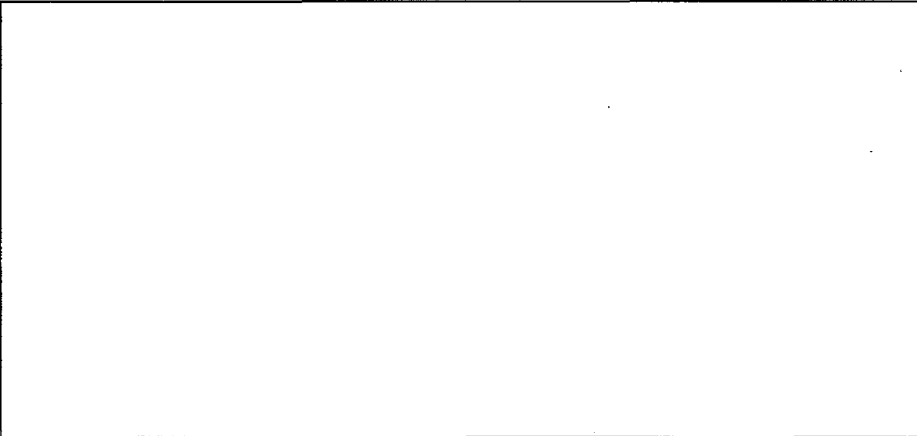
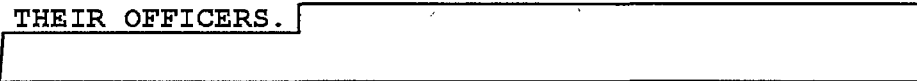
SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

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 MAJORITY OF HUMAN RIGHTS OFFENSES, NOT JUST IN  
 THE JAILS OR IN THE BASES BUT ALSO DURING  
 PATROLS, WERE BEING COMMITTED BY OFFICERS AND  
 NOT THE TROOPS. HE STATED THAT IN SEVERAL  
 INSTANCES THE TROOPS HAD IN FACT RESTRAINED  
 THEIR OFFICERS.



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BRAVE STRUGGLE OF A WOMAN'S RIGHTS GROUP

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15. (U) [REDACTED]

THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN (PRODEMU), PROVIDED POLOFF WITH A BRIEF SNAPSHOT OF THE PRIMITIVE WORLD OF MALE DOMINATED SAN MARTIN PROVINCE, THE "COUNTY" SURROUNDING TARAPOTO. THE NINE YEAR OLD ORGANIZATION, WITH AN IMPRESSIVE COMPLEX ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TARAPOTO, WAS THE FIRST AND ONLY NGO DEDICATED ENTIRELY TO WOMEN'S ISSUES AND PROBLEMS IN THE CENTRAL HUALLAGA UNTIL A SPIN-OFF GROUP WAS STARTED IN 1992 IN RIOJA. WITH PRIVATE FUNDING FROM HOLLAND AND LIMITED SUPPORT FROM THE UNITED NATIONS, [REDACTED] CLEAN AND MODERN (FOR TARAPOTO) FACILITIES BOAST A SHELTER FOR BATTERED WOMEN, A LEGAL HELP CLINIC AND A MEDICAL CONSULTATION SERVICE. AN OUTREACH SERVICE SENDS TRAINED WOMEN INTO NEARBY HAMLETS TO CONDUCT WOMEN'S RIGHTS WORKSHOPS AND PROVIDE PRELIMINARY MEDICAL AND FAMILY PLANNING COUNSELLING. PRODEMU CLAIMS THAT IN 1992 IT VISITED 39 COMMUNITIES IN NORTHERN SAN MARTIN DEPARTMENT, COUNSELING 5,600 RURAL WOMEN.

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16. (C) [REDACTED] STATED THAT THE PERUVIAN LEGAL CODE IS IN MANY RESPECTS SUPERIOR TO THAT FOUND IN OTHER COUNTRIES. BUT WITHOUT ANY EFFECTIVE LEGAL ENFORCEMENT OF THESE LAWS, WOMEN IN SAN MARTIN, AS IN THE REST OF PERU, ARE IN FACT SUBJECTED TO SEVERE DISCRIMINATION. PRODEMU ARGUED THAT IT CAN WORK TO CHANGE ENTRENCHED

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CHAUVINISTIC SOCIAL VALUES, DESPITE THE TACIT  
OFFICIAL ACCEPTANCE OF BLATANT DISCRIMINATION  
AND DE FACTO REFUSAL OF AUTHORITIES TO EVEN  
DISCOURAGE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN MADE THEIR  
STRUGGLE FOR EQUAL RIGHTS "ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE."

17. (C) [ ] USED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN TO  
ILLUSTRATE THE PROBLEMS FACED BY THE WOMEN IN  
SAN MARTIN. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN SAN  
MARTIN IS THE NORM, NOT THE EXCEPTION. A RECENT  
PRODEMU SURVEY OF WOMEN IN SAN MARTIN PROVINCE  
(THE COUNTY SURROUNDING TARAPOTO) FOUND THAT 94  
PERCENT OF ADULT WOMEN REPORTED HAVING BEEN  
BATTERED. ACCORDING TO [ ] A HUSBAND CAN BE  
BROUGHT TO TRIAL FOR WIFE BEATING IF, IN THE  
MEDICAL OPINION OF A DOCTOR, SHE REQUIRES 15  
DAYS OF BED REST. THIS IS UP FROM 10 DAYS  
THANKS TO A NEW LAW PASSED BY THE GOP AFTER THE  
APRIL 5 COUP. IN SAN MARTIN PROVINCE, ONLY FIVE  
CASES OF BATTERY WERE REPORTED TO THE POLICE IN  
1992. TO EXPLAIN THE LOCAL MENTALITY IN THESE

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 CASES, [ ] DESCRIBED ONE OF THE INCIDENTS. A  
 SEVERELY BEATEN YOUNG WOMAN STAGGERED TO THE  
 PRODEMU OFFICES AND REQUESTED THAT [ ]  
 ACCOMPANY HER TO THE POLICE STATION TO HELP HER  
 FILE CHARGES AGAINST HER HUSBAND. THE BOOKING  
 OFFICER SCOLDED THE YOUNG WOMAN FOR BRINGING A  
 "MEDDLING" FEMINIST ALONG, ORDERED [ ] OUT OF  
 THE STATION AS SHE IS NOT A LAWYER, AND REFUSED  
 TO FILE THE CHARGES. THE STATION COMMANDER,  
 MOVED BY THE WOMAN'S OBVIOUS BEATING, ORDERED  
 HER HUSBAND DETAINED FOR 24 HOURS. UPON  
 RELEASE, THE HUSBAND IMMEDIATELY WENT TO HIS  
 IN-LAWS TO COMPLAIN ABOUT HIS INCARCERATION.  
 THE MORTIFIED YOUNG WOMAN'S PARENTS BEAT THE  
 WOMAN THEMSELVES FOR DISGRACING HER FAMILY BY  
 DISHONORING HER HUSBAND.

B1, B6

18. (C) A REGIONAL HOSPITAL TOLD PRODEMU THEIR  
 RECORDS CARRIED AN AVERAGE OF 35 RAPE VICTIMS  
 PER MONTH. THE SOCIAL STIGMA AND OSTRACIZATION  
 IS SO STRONG THAT PRODEMU IS AWARE OF ONLY FOUR  
 RAPES BEING REPORTED TO THE POLICE IN URBAN

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TARAPOTO IN ALL OF 1992. THREE OF THE CASES INVOLVED GIRLS AGED 9, 11 AND 16. PRODEMU ESTIMATED THAT IF A RAPE VICTIM DECIDES TO PRESS CHARGES, THE ARCHAIC JUSTICE SYSTEM FORCES HER TO RECOUNT THE ASSAULT TWELVE TIMES TO DIFFERENT JUDGES, PROSECUTORS AND ATTORNEYS. IN THE CASE OF THE 16 YEAR OLD, THE CHARGE OF RAPE WAS CHANGED TO SEDUCTION, CARRYING A MAXIMUM SENTENCE OF TWO YEARS. OVERCROWDED JAIL

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CONDITIONS MEAN ONLY CRIMINALS SENTENCED TO MORE THAN TWO YEARS SERVE TIME AND THE PERPETRATOR, THOUGH FOUND GUILTY, ESSENTIALLY WENT FREE. THE JUDGE ORDERED THE OFFENDER TO REPORT TO THE POLICE STATION EVERY EIGHT DAYS. IN THE CASE OF ONE OF THE OTHER MINORS, THE JUDGE ALLOWED A DEFENSE MOTION FOR A SECOND MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF THE GIRL, SIX WEEKS AFTER THE ASSAULT. AS NO EVIDENCE OF RAPE WAS FOUND, THE DEFENDANT WALKED.

A POPULAR MAYOR DOES WHAT HE MUST  
-----

19. (C) TARAPOTO MAYOR DANIEL CORAL IS A POPULAR MAN WITH UNBOUNDED (IF SLIGHTLY WISHFUL) OPTIMISM. REELECTED IN JANUARY MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS WITH 17,000 VOTES FOR HIS ACCION POPULAR SLATE VERSUS 5,000 FOR HIS NEAREST RIVAL, HE CLAIMS THAT 92 PERCENT OF MUNICIPAL COSTS ARE RAISED LOCALLY. [REDACTED]

B1

CORAL PROUDLY TOLD POLOFF HE HAD PAVED FIVE KILOMETERS OF ROADS AND LAID EIGHT KILOMETERS OF DRAINAGE IN 1992 BY HOLDING 20 TO 30 BARBEQUES, AND SAID AT LEAST ONE COOKOUT IS SCHEDULED EVERY WEEKEND OF THE YEAR. CORAL DISMISSED SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY OUT OF HAND AND PROMISED THAT WITH U.S. AID HE COULD PUT ALL OF TARAPOTO'S YOUTH INTO PUBLIC WORKS SO THAT THEY WOULD BE TOO TIRED TO GET INTO NARCOTIC OR POLITICAL MISCHIEF AT THE END OF THE DAY. WITH 30,000 PEOPLE

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LIVING IN 32 SHANTY TOWNS AROUND TARAPOTO, HE  
ADMITTED THAT LACK OF RESOURCES

B1

[REDACTED] MADE YOUTHS  
TURN TO COCA GROWING, NARCOTRAFFICKING,  
SUBVERSION OR ALL THE ABOVE IN ORDER TO MAKE A  
LIVING.

KING AGRICULTURE IS DYING  
-----

20. (C) [REDACTED] SAN

B1

MARTIN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT PRESIDENT GONZALO  
VILLAVICENCIO. KNOWN AS "EL CHARO" (THE  
MEXICAN) FOR HIS HANDLEBAR MUSTACHE,  
VILLAVICENCIO SAID THAT OF 29 MILLION DOLLARS  
BUDGETED FOR THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT BY LIMA,  
ONLY 2.9 WERE EVENTUALLY DISBURSED.  
VILLAVICENCIO ESTIMATED THAT 70% OF SAN MARTIN'S  
470,000 POPULATION WERE RURAL AND ENGAGED  
PRIMARILY IN AGRICULTURE.

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ACTION SCT-03

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AGRE-00	AID-01	ARA-01	A-01	CA-02
	CCO-00	CEQ-01	CG-00	CIAE-00	COME-00	CTME-00	C-01
	DEAE-00	OASY-00	DINT-05	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DS-00	EB-01
	OIGO-01	E-01	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01
	INM-02	INR-00	INSE-00	IO-19	JUSE-00	LAB-04	L-03
	ADS-00	M-01	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	NSF-01	OES-09
	OIC-02	OIS-01	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01

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RPCS-01 SIL-00 SNP-00 SP-00 SR-00 SSO-00 SS-00  
STR-17 TRSE-00 T-00 USIE-00 USSS-00 ASDS-01 EPAA-00  
RPE-01 /114W

-----A6999A 130149Z /38

R 122133Z MAR 93  
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6639  
INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO  
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 06 OF 07 LIMA 02895

SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PGOV, PTER, PHUM, SNAR, SENV, PE

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21. (U) THIS MAKES AGRICULTURE THE KEY SECTOR  
IN SAN MARTIN'S ECONOMY AND SOCIETY -- WHICH WAS  
UNFORTUNATE BECAUSE AGRICULTURE IN SAN MARTIN IS  
IN SERIOUS TROUBLE. VILLAVICENCIO INVITED  
POLOFF TO A MEETING (GRIPE SESSION) WITH LEADERS  
OF THE RICE, CORN, AND CATTLE GROWERS  
ASSOCIATIONS (AMONG OTHERS). ABLE TO GROW  
NEARLY ANY FRUIT, VEGETABLE OR GRAIN CROP, PLUS  
BLESSED WITH PLENTIFUL CATTLE LAND, THE CENTRAL  
HUALLAGA HAS ONE VERY POOR LAND LINK OVER THE  
ANDES TO THE MARKETS ON THE COASTS AND NONE  
THROUGH THE JUNGLE TO POTENTIAL MARKETS IN  
BRAZIL. CURRENTLY, LAND TRAVEL TO LIMA IS VIA  
CHICLAYO, A DISTANCE OF 1,500 KILOMETERS AND  
FIVE DAYS AWAY, DEPENDING ON ROAD CONDITIONS AND  
THE WEATHER. LARGE RICE CROPS IN THE PAST FEW  
YEARS ROTTED IN THE HOT SELVA SUN BECAUSE THEY  
COULD NOT COMPETE WITH ASIAN RICE PRICES - IT  
WAS CHEAPER TO SHIP RICE HALF WAY ROUND THE  
WORLD THAN FLY AN HOUR OVER THE ANDES TO LIMA.  
GASANSA, THE CATTLE RANCHERS ASSOCIATION, SAID  
THAT LACK OF PROFITABLE MARKETS HAD MEANT THE  
CATTLE HERDS WERE DOWN TO 4,000 HEAD IN 1992  
FROM 120,000 HEAD IN 1985. THE 1991 COLLAPSE OF

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STATE LENDING BANKS THAT HAD PROVIDED CHEAP CREDIT TO FARMERS WAS AN ADDITIONAL BLOW TO THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR. ALL THE ASSOCIATIONS EXCEPT ONE DEMANDED THAT LIMA CONTINUE PROTECTING THEIR MARKETS WITH PROTECTIVE TARRIFS. MAISELVA, THE CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION CLAIMED TARRIFS WERE NEEDED TO KEEP PRICES ABOVE

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USD 250 FOR SELVA-GROWN CORN TO COMPETE. IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO COMPETE THEIR 3-4 TON PER HECTARE PRODUCTIVITY AT USD 250 AGAINST THE 12 TON PER HECTARE PRODUCTIVITY AT USD 100 COSTS OF AMERICAN FARMERS. IF THE GOP "BOWED DOWN" TO IMF REQUIREMENTS AND RESCINDED THE TARRIFS, NONE OF THE LEGITIMATE GROWERS AND RANCHERS WOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE ENDS MEET.

22. (U) THE UPSHOT OF ALL THIS BAD NEWS WAS THAT AT PRESENT THE ONLY VIABLE CROP WAS COCA (AND AQUACULTURE, PER THE SHRIMP FARMERS WHO APOLOGETICALLY MUMBLED THAT THEY WERE DOING QUITE NICELY.) ANECDOTES WERE THROWN AROUND OF FARMERS FORCED TO PLANT COCA TO MAKE MONEY TO FEED HIS FAMILY. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE SCOPE OF COCA, NO TWO ESTIMATES COINCIDED. THE GROWERS DID, HOWEVER, AGREE THAT COCA WAS NOT NEARLY AS PROFITABLE AS IT ONCE HAD BEEN. MANY COCA GROWERS NEAR TARAPOTO HAVE SWITCHED TO MORE PROFITABLE PARTIAL PROCESSING OF COCA RATHER THAN SELLING DRIED COCA LEAF BECAUSE THIS WAS BARELY PROFITABLE. CALLING CURRENT U.S. AID FOR ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT "A DROP IN THE BUCKET" THAT BELIED ANY SERIOUS EFFORT IN THIS REGARD, THE SELVA MAESTRA AGRARIAN FEDERATION (FASMA) - A MILITANT LEFTIST UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION - WAS ADAMANT. MOST, BUT BY NO MEANS ALL, FARMERS DESPARATELY WANTED TO GROW NON-COCA CROPS BUT COULD NOT DUE TO ECONOMIC REALITIES. GIVE US REAL AID, THEY STATED - CHEAP LONG TERM CREDIT,

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VIABLE COST EFFECTIVE TRANSPORTATION ROUTES AND A MARKET INFORMATION NETWORK - AND COCA WILL INSTANTLY BECOME MORE MANAGEABLE FOR U.S. LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS.

THE ENVIRONMENT IS BEING MUGGED  
-----

23. (U) VILLAVICENCIO, FASMA, THE JOURNALISTS, THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND OTHERS AGREED ON ONE OTHER POINT - THE SAN MARTIN JUNGLE IS BEING MUGGED, AND THE CULPRITS ARE THE COCA GROWERS. ONE OF THE FEEDER RIVERS SUPPLYING TARAPOTO WITH WATER RAN COMPLETELY DRY FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER LAST YEAR. GEN. BELLIDO REPORTEDLY WAS CONVINCED OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE WATER SITUATION THAT HE IS SAID TO BE PLANNING TO USE THE MILITARY TO CLEAR COCA GROWERS FROM THE HEAD WATERSHED AREAS OF THE LOCAL RIVERS. THE REMOTE HIGH JUNGLE WATERSHED AREAS ARE INCREASINGLY STRIPPED BURNED AND PLANTED WITH COCA BY NEW

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ACTION SCT-03

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	ARA-01	A-01	CA-02	CCO-00
	CEQ-01	CG-00	CIAE-00	COME-00	CTME-00	C-01	DEAE-00
	OASY-00	DINT-05	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DS-00	EB-01	OIGO-01
	E-01	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	INM-02
	INR-00	INSE-00	IO-19	JUSE-00	LAB-04	L-03	ADS-00
	M-01	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	NSF-01	OES-09	OIC-02
	OIS-01	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	RPCS-01
	SIL-00	SNP-00	SP-00	SR-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-17
	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-01	EPAE-00	RPE-01

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R 122133Z MAR 93  
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AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 07 OF 07 LIMA 02895

SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

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GROWERS LOOKING FOR SAFE PLANTATION AREAS OR  
FORCED INTO THESE AREAS BY THE SATURATION OF  
OTHER SUITABLE COCA GROWING LAND. OVER A  
MILLION ACRES OF JUNGLE HAVE BEEN DEVASTATED,  
ACCORDING TO VILLAVICENCIO. AT THE BEGINNING OF  
THE GROWING SEASON, SLASH AND BURN FARM SMOKE  
REPORTEDLY BECOMES SO HEAVY THAT AIR TRAFFIC AND  
COMMERCIAL AIR SERVICE IN THE SELVA REGION ARE  
AFFECTED ON MOST DAYS OR CLOSED DOWN ALL  
TOGETHER ON OCCASION.

24. (C) USAID WAS SCORED BY A GERMAN BIOLOGIST  
LIVING IN TARAPOTO FOR UNSOUND ECOLOGICAL  
DEVELOPMENT. HE CLAIMED THAT THE PONAZA VALLEY,  
WHERE USAID CURRENTLY HAS AN ALTERNATIVE  
DEVELOPMENT PILOT PROJECT IS PERU'S ONLY "DRY  
SELVA MICRO-ENVIRONMENT" AND IS THE HOME OF A  
TURTLE SPECIES FOUND NO WHERE ELSE IN PERU. THE  
SCIENTIST WAS TROUBLED THAT INSUFFICIENT  
SAFEGUARDS WERE IN PLACE TO PROTECT THE PONASA  
VALLEY'S ECOLOGY. HE IS CURRENTLY STUDYING A  
UNIQUE FROG THAT HAD ONLY BEEN FOUND IN THE  
MOUNTAIN AREAS NEAR TARAPOTO. COMMENT: USAID  
HAS SPOKEN WITH THE BIOLOGIST AND IS AWARE OF  
HIS CONCERNS. USAID IS NOT WORKING IN AREAS OF  
THE PONAZA WHERE ENDANGERED SPECIES LIVE AND

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MAINTAINS STRICT ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION MEASURES. USAID WILL CONDUCT AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESMENT LATER THIS YEAR AS PART OF PRE-IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES FOR THE SELVA ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION PROJECT. END COMMENT.

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25. (C) COMMENT: TARAPOTO IS BETTER OFF THAN MOST JUNGLE TOWNS DESPITE ITS SHARE OF ECONOMIC AND SECURITY PROBLEMS. HOST TO THE REGIONAL POLITICAL-MILITARY COMMAND, IT IS RELATIVELY BETTER PROTECTED FROM TERRORISTS AND THE EXCESSES OF THE NARCO TRADE. IN MRTA RATHER SENDERO'S OPERATIONAL AREA, IT HAS ALSO BEEN SPARED THE SAVAGERY OF SENDERO'S MORE VIOLENT NATURE. BUT THE REGIONAL ECONOMY IS DEPENDENT ON THE COCA TRADE AND VIABLE ALTERNATIVES, MUCH DESIRED EVEN BY THE COCA GROWERS, ARE NOT YET A REALITY. THE MUCH PRAISED REGIONAL MILITARY COMMANDER GEN. BELLIDO TOLD US BLUNTLY THAT, IN HIS VIEW, POLITICAL VIOLENCE WILL CONTINUE TO PLAGUE SAN MARTIN AS LONG AS THERE IS A NARCOTICS TRADE. WE AGREE.

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