

PERU

García may have had paramilitary links

It is a declassified document asserted that the political party of former President Alan García, in several places following founder's presidential election, ran a paramilitary organization.

BY LUCY CORBON
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A declassified U.S. government document asserts that former Peruvian President Alan García's political party ran at least one secret paramilitary organization that "stealed" Mexico's Shining Path guerrillas during his 1985-90 term and sent 200 agents to work in North Korea.

García is in second place in Sunday's presidential election, which could send him into a runoff against the leading candidate, vice president Ollanta Humala. These calls need a wide vetting campaign from his campaign spokesman and personal secretary was suppressed.

The two-page document, which is redacted and marked as page 3, was archived in the Reagan Presidential Library in Earl Warren, Calif., as part of the National Security Council files from the Reagan administration. The document does not say who wrote or received it.

REAGAN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY

A collection of human rights violations in the fight against drug trafficking were suppressed at the time, although some human rights groups blamed Peru's security forces. A 1987 Human Rights Watch report said García's government "permitted, if not, actively encouraged, a very serious human rights violation" and described it "as being even more than routine control, willing to commit mass human rights."

U.S. human rights advocates at the time pressed



ALAN GARCIA Peruvian president that supports Alan García — who was president of Peru from 1985-90 — holds a dove while making a campaign speech.

A 1987 report described García's military as willing to commit mass human killings.

against the Reagan administration's failure to condemn Peruvian human rights abuses. According to the report, García's party — the Independent Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA) — ran several paramilitary organizations, perhaps several "with the help of former Shining Path, Spanish Militias, Argentine Militias, independent citizens police force."

"Militias reportedly believe that APRA needs the capability to eliminate terrorism because of the political system's tendency to restrain them and police reluctance to kill captured ... militants," said the report, but promised neither this death by U.S. or

Peruvian newspapers and declassified in 2002.

The list of the files of text that follow remains classified, and the document does not say whether any names were actually spelled out. It notes that one APRA paramilitary squad known as COMPAF backed an attempted bombing of an allegedly pro-Chinese bank newspaper.

The possible war record the deaths of more than 60,000 people, according to a 2002 report by Peru's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, said Shining Path was ranked under García's successor, Alberto Fujimori.

The document also says

COMPAF reportedly has agreed to send 2,000 of its members to North Korea for training by 1995 about 100 have been sent already.

Four officials with "high level" positions at the time in the Latin American office of the National Security Council and the U.S. Embassy in Lima said that the text and title of the document indicate it was prepared either by the CIA or by the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research. All called for greater scrutiny, largely out of conflict of diplomatic cooperation.

The U.S. Embassy in Lima at the time was also sending cables by Washington about the activities of paramilitary groups. Many were supplied to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and appear on the website of the Washington-based Peruvian Society for Human Rights, an independent group dedicated to documenting U.S. foreign policy death tolls.

But those cables lacked the majority of the document in the 1980s. One of the Reagan Library files reads such as "repress" and "exterminate" to describe the García state to the paramilitary squads.

"THERE IS NO DOUBT"

Alexander S. Watson, then U.S. ambassador to Peru and now at an international consulting firm in Washington, commenting on some of the assertions in the report, said, "There is no doubt that the APRA party had paramilitary organizations."

But Watson said he could get no real U.S. diplomatic complaints at the time.

Lucy Corbon is a Honolulu journalist who has produced more than 10 of the Reagan Library and filed the report to declassify the document.