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621560

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520



TOP SECRET

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT:

RE: [Illegible]

FROM: [Illegible]

DATE: [Illegible]

Peru's long-lived Marxist terrorist movement, Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path), may be adopting new, more violent tactics with the murder raid on the governing Action Popular (AP) party headquarters in Lima July 13. Several persons attacked the crowded building, only a block from our embassy, with automatic guns and dynamite, killing two and wounding at least 10 and escaping in the confusion. At the same time, a number of bombs and homemade mortars were set off around Lima, including one apparently aimed at our embassy which fell short of its target. The raid on the AP headquarters may well have been timed to coincide with the weekly plenary meeting of the AP leadership, fortunately cancelled at the last minute.

The raid, however, subsequently condemned the BL attack but underscored the government's continued commitment to constitutional order and the rule of law. No doubt recalling the part the military's anti-guerrilla campaign played in his overthrow in 1968, he attacked the armed forces' continued support for constitutional government. Peru's non-violent far left parties also condemned the BL activities.

The raid on the AP office could signal an escalation in the level of violence in Lima beyond its past headline-grabbing but generally non-lethal tactics. Indeed, recent intelligence reports have indicated that BL was planning new, dramatic moves in Lima, perhaps including assassinations of AP leaders. The events also indicate that the BL's organizational structure in Lima remains intact despite recent arrests of some of its leaders.

We continue to believe that the BL poses no threat per se to the stability of the Belaunde government. However, a new and continuing pattern of violence by the BL could increase military pressure for a greater role in government. It could also further erode public confidence in the Belaunde government, already tested by economic problems and natural disasters. Given the apparent targeting of our interests, we are now in the process of improving security by implementing an overall physical security enhancement program.

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United States Department of State

Washington, D. C. 20520



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INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

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SECRET

RR 14 1981

TO: The Secretary

FROM: ARA Langhorne A. Motley

69 02/11

SUBJECT: Peru: Tipping the Ante on Terrorism?

Peru's home-grown Maoist terrorist movement, Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path), may be adopting new, more violent tactics with the mid-1980 raid on the governing Accion Popular (AP) party headquarters in Lima July 11. Several persons attacked the crowded building, only a block from our embassy, with submachine guns and dynamite, killing two and wounding at least 30 and escaping in the confusion. At the same time, a number of bombs and homemade mortars were set off around Lima, including one apparently aimed at our embassy which fell short of its target. The raid on the AP headquarters may well have been timed to coincide with the weekly plenary meeting of the AP leadership, fortunately cancelled at the last minute.

President Belaunde subsequently condemned the SL attack but underscored his government's continued commitment to constitutional order and the rule of law. No doubt recalling the part the military's anti-guerrilla campaign played in his overthrow in 1968, he stressed the armed forces' continued support for constitutional government. Peru's non-violent far left parties also condemned the SL actions.

The raid on the AP office could signal an escalation in the level of SL violence in Lima beyond its past headline-grabbing but generally non-lethal tactics. Indeed, recent intelligence reports have indicated that SL was planning new, dramatic moves in Lima, perhaps including assassinations of GOP leaders. The events also indicate that the SL's organizational structure in Lima remains intact despite recent arrests of some of its leaders.

We continue to believe that the SL poses no threat per se to the stability of the Belaunde government. However, a new and continuing pattern of violence by the SL could increase military pressures for a greater role in government. It could also further erode public confidence in the Belaunde government, already beset by economic problems and natural disasters. Given the apparent targeting of our embassy, we are now in the process of improving security by implementing an overall physical security enhancement program.

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