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BUREAU OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH

ASSESSMENTS AND RESEARCH

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED by Pugh DATE OCT 3 1983

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FOI EO or PA exemptions (b)(1) TS authority to:

( ) CLASSIFY to ( ) S or ( ) C, OADR

( ) DOWNGRADE TS to ( ) S or ( ) C, OADR

(U) PERU'S APRIL 1985 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS: THE FIRST DEMOCRATIC SUCCESSION IN 40 YEARS

Summary

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WARNING NOTICE
INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

Report 1054-AR
April 10, 1985

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(C) In addition to economic problems, Garcia will inherit the ongoing war against the insurgent/terrorist organization Sendero Luminoso. He will have to decide how to continue the counterinsurgency campaign and how to deal with the legacy of human rights abuses by the military. As an APRA President, how he decides to deal with the military may be one of his more crucial decisions.

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Possibility of a Coup or Other Disruption

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(C) Apparently it is very important to the SL to disrupt the current elections. Sendero leaders appear to believe that if the elections, and thereby the continuity of the civilian authority, are disrupted, the military will be forced to step in and take repressive measures to restore order. Sendero leaders believe that such a repressive government would create more popular support for SL insurgency.

B1

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The New Government

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(C) The Terrorist Threat. Soon after assuming power, Garcia will have to decide how best to combat terrorism--while he exerts civilian control of the military.

(S) Of the two active insurgent/terrorist organizations, the SL is a much greater menace than the MRTA. Since 1980, the SL has carried out attacks in many areas of Peru, including Lima, but it has been most successful in remote rural areas. Although it has

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been active in other provinces, the SL has been successful in establishing a power base only in the south-central province of Ayacucho, where the group was formed in the 1960s.

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(C) Given its limited ideological, geographic, and ethnographic appeal, the SL is not likely to be capable of overthrowing the government in the foreseeable future. Nevertheless, given the SL's core of fanaticism, the group will be difficult to control in the short term. The SL may carry out fewer successful actions, but it still will be capable of the type of spectacular actions that can diminish the government's credibility.

B1

(C) Given APRA's historically antagonistic relationship with the military, Garcia might well be inclined to avoid confrontation on the human rights issue for fear of exacerbating an already uneasy relationship. He appears, however, more likely than Belaunde to try to implement programs that will integrate the residents of the emergency zones into the Peruvian economic and political structure. This would considerably weaken the SL's base of support.

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