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O 202251Z FEB 87
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7643
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
USAFSC HOWARD AFB PM
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS IM
DEARCS WASHDC
DIA WASHDC

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THREE

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD
PANAMA FOR ADS
E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PIER, ASIC, ALOW, PE
SUBJECT: PERU: TERRORISM UPDATE FEBRUARY 18-24, 1987
WOMAN. SEVERAL BOMBS ALSO EXPLODED IN CERRO DE PASCO
THAT NIGHT.

(AYACUCHO) - FOUR PEASANTS WERE REPORTEDLY KILLED
IN HUANTA BY TERRORISTS WEARING THE UNIFORMS OF THE
PERUVIAN MARINES. THE PEASANTS WERE KILLED FOLLOWING
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A "POPULAR TRIAL" AND TORTURE. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE
VILLAGE WERE URGED TO JOIN THE "POPULAR FIGHT" OR THE
SUBVERSIVES WOULD RETURN AND KILL THEM. THERE ARE NO
LONGER MARINES BASED IN HUANTA.

2. (C) COMMENT: THE TERRORISTS AGAIN PICKED UP THE
PACE OF THEIR ATTACKS FOLLOWING A CALM PERIOD BETWEEN
FEBRUARY 11 AND 19. THE COMBINATION OF THE RAIDS ON
THE UNIVERSITIES, THE COPPAL MEETING, APRA'S LIA DE

FRATERNIDAD, AND THE VISIT OF THE GUATAMALAN PRESIDENT
UNDOUBTEDLY PRESENTED INCENTIVES FOR TERRORIST ACTION.
THE CAUSE OF THE EXPLOSION AT LAS PLAS AIR FORCE BASE
IS STILL UNCERTAIN AND MAY NEVER BE KNOWN
PUBLICLY. THE OFFICIAL STORY APPEARS TO BE THAT
OF PLASTIC EXPLOSIVES STORED AT THE BASE EITHER BECAME

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UNSTABLE AND SELF-DETONATED OR WAS SET OFF BY SOME TYPE
 OF SHORT CIRCUIT. WHETHER CAUSED BY TERRORISTS OR NO
 THE EXPLOSION IS AN EMBARRASSMENT FOR THE PERU AIR
 FORCE. ONE OF THE TARGETS OF THE FEBRUARY 21 BOMBINGS
 WAS THE CONAGO BUILDING WHICH HOUSES OFFICES OF BOTH
 ACCION POPULAR AND THE FUEQUERDA UNIDA. IU CONGRESSMAN
 YERULF SIMONS, WHO EARLIER THIS YEAR EMBRACED THE ARMED
 STRUGGLE IN A NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW, SAID IT APPEARED
 THOSE RESPONSIBLE HAD WAITED UNTIL THE BUILDING WAS
 EMPTY TO PLACE THE BOMBS. ALTHOUGH THE ATTACK MIGHT NOT
 HAVE BEEN SPECIFICALLY AGAINST EITHER THE IU OR AP,
 OFFICES OF BOTH PARTIES SUFFERED DAMAGE. THE PUBLIC
 CRITICISM OF SENDERO DURING THE MRTA RADIO STATIONS
 TAKEOVERS IS ONE OF SEVERAL EXAMPLES OF THE MRTA TRYING
 TO DISTANCE ITSELF FROM SL. IT CALLS INTO QUESTION THE
 IDEA OF ANY SORT OF LASTING ALLIANCE BETWEEN THE TWO
 GROUPS. INVESTIGATORS ARE CONVINCED THAT THE EXPLOSIVE
 DEVICE USED AGAINST THE FISCAL DE LA NACION WAS COMMAND

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DETONATED BY WIRE ATTACHED TO THE BOMB FROM A DISTANCE
 OF APPROXIMATELY 30 METERS. FOLLOWING THE ATTEMPT ON
 HIS LIFE, ELEJALDE HAS USED THE PUBLICITY TO CALL FOR AN

ALL-OUT BATTLE AGAINST TERRORISTS AND DRUG TRAFFICKERS.

WATSON

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