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SL had received press coverage of assistance provided to victims of CHOTICA. He was at a loss, however, to explain why SAWAKI had been targeted. An academic who follows SL told us the Nissan manager reportedly had been threatened by SL. Again, he was unable to explain SL's selection of Japanese targets. WATSON

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E.O. 12333: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, EFIN, PE, JA
SUBJECT: PRO-SL PRESS LOOKS AT ATTACK ON BANK OF
TOKYO MANAGER

REF: LIMA 3260

1. (U) PERU'S "EL DIARIO," A RADICAL MARXIST DAILY WHICH OPENLY SYMPATHIZES WITH SENDERO LUMINOSO (SL), PUBLISHED A TWO-PAGE ARTICLE ON THE MARCH 23 SL ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AGAINST BANK OF TOKYO MANAGER TADAO SAWAKI (REFTEL). "EL DIARIO" FALLS SHORT OF BEING AN OFFICIAL SL ORGAN, AND IT IS SENSATIONALIST. NEVERTHELESS, IT FREQUENTLY OFFERS GOOD COVERAGE OF SL ATTACKS AND SOMETIMES OFFERS INSIGHTS INTO ITS GOALS. THE ARTICLE ON THE SAWAKI ATTACK SUGGESTED THAT SAWAKI HAD BEEN TARGETED BECAUSE HE REPRESENTED "IMPERIALIST INTERESTS" IN PERU, AND BECAUSE "IT IS KNOWN IN THE HIGH NATIONAL FINANCIAL CIRCLES THAT THE APOSTA CORPORATIVIST DEVELOPMENT PACKAGE IS FINANCED BY A NUMBER OF PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL BANKING INSTITUTIONS." THE PAPER CLAIMED THAT SAWAKI HAD BEEN WARNED BY SL MEMBERS THAT HE WAS THE OBJECT OF A "PEOPLE'S TRIAL," AND THAT IF HIS BANK'S ASSISTANCE TO THE LCP'S "CORPORATIVIST PROJECTS" DID NOT CEASE, HE WOULD BE EXECUTED AS AN "ACCOMPLICE OF THE GENOCIDAL GOVERNMENT." THE ARTICLE ALSO CLAIMED THAT THE MARCH 20 BOMBING AGAINST THE BANK OF TOKYO HAD BEEN A LAST WARNING TO SAWAKI.

2. (U) IN ANOTHER PART OF THE SAME ARTICLE, "EL DIARIO" CLAIMED AN ADDITIONAL REASON FOR THE ATTACK WAS TO UNDERCUT GARCIA'S "CAMPAIGN TO REESTABLISH THE INTERNATIONAL IMAGE OF HIS GOVERNMENT, 'TOTALLY DETERIORATED AFTER THE GENOCIDE IN THE LIMA PRISONS IN JUNE 1985.'" THE SL ATTACK AGAINST THE INDIAN (TEL) IN FEBRUARY HAD UNDERCUT GARCIA DURING HIS VISIT. THE IMPLICATION WAS THAT GARCIA'S UPDATING TRIP TO PERU WOULD PROVIDE ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO EMBARRASS THE PRESIDENT.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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