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Department of State

EXCISE TELEGRAM

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AM: D850714-0477

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ACTION MCT-04

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-05	SS-00	CIAE-00	NSCE-00
ARA-00	NSAE-00	SSO-00	SY-05	L-02	AMA0-01	TRSE-00	
PH-05	PA-02	INRE-00	CA-02	A-02	USSS-00	SYE-00	
USIE-00	FBIE-00	FAIM-01	SLPD-01	/030 W			

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O 072239Z OCT 85
 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7147
 INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
 AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
 AMEMBASSY QUITO
 USAFSO HOWARD AFB PN
 AMEMBASSY PANAMA
 DIA WASHDC
 USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
 REVIEWED by Pugh DATE OCT 3 1988
 RELEASE DECLASSIFY
 EXCISE DECLASSIFY in PART
 DENY Non-responsive info.
 FOI EO or PA exemptions (b)(1)
 TS authority to:
 CLASSIFY as _____, OADR
 DOWNGRADE TO () S or () G. OADR

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 01 OF 02 LIMA 11485

TERREP

DIA FOR IR BRANCH; PANAMA FOR ADS

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: PTER, PGOV, SHUM, PE
 SUBJECT: THIRTY INMATES DIE IN CONFRONTATION AT
 LURIGANCHO PRISON

1. (C) SUMMARY: APPROXIMATELY 30 PRISONERS DIED AND ABOUT 20 WERE WOUNDED ON OCTOBER 4 WHEN POLICE SEARCHED A SENDERO LUMINOSO CELL BLOCK AT LURIGANCHO PRISON. ALMOST ALL OF THE VICTIMS DIED IN A FIRE WHICH THE GOP CLAIMS WAS STARTED BY PRISONERS. BUT WHICH OTHER PERSONS CLAIM WAS A:

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END SUMMARY.

2. (U) ON OCTOBER 4, PERUVIAN POLICE (GUARDIA REPUBLICANA) CARRIED OUT SEARCHES OF LURIGANCHO PRISON CELL BLOCKS. SEARCH WENT SMOOTHLY UNT CAME TO CELL BLOCK HOUSING ALLEGED MEMBERS OF SENDERO LUMINOSO (SL), WHERE POLICE INTELLIGENCE REPORTEDLY INDICATED THAT PRISONERS WERE MAKING WEAPONS IN PREPARATION FOR AN ESCAPE. PRISONERS BARRICADED THE ENTRANCES WITH CEMENT BLOCKS, BURNED MATTRESSES, AND FIRED ARROWS AND STONES AT POLICE, WOUNDING ONE OFFICER. POLICE THEN USED EXPLOSIVE CHARGES AND A BULLDOZER TO ENTER THE BUILDING AND SUBDUED THE PRISONERS. POLICE CLAIM THEY FOUND THE CHARRED BODIES OF 28 PRISONERS IN A ROOM ON THE SECOND FLOOR, AND SPECULATED THAT THEY HAD BEEN MURDERED BY OTHER SL INMATES. POLICE FOUND AND DISPLAYED AN ARRAY OF SL WEAPONS, INCLUDING BOWS AND ARROWS, SLINGS, LANCES, HOMEMADE "FLAMETHROWERS," AND QUANTITIES OF KEROSENE.

3. (U) SEVERAL PERSONS, MOSTLY FROM THE UNITED LEFT (IU), CLAIMED THAT THE POLICE HAD KILLED THE VICTIMS AND THEN BURNED THEIR BODIES TO HIDE THE FACT. GOP SKEPTICS CITE THE ABSENCE FROM THE SCENE OF SEVERAL IMPORTANT AUTHORITIES, INCLUDING THE PRISON DIRECTOR, THE STATE PROSECUTOR, AND A JUDGE, WHO WERE PRESENT EARLIER IN THE DAY. THEY ALSO POINTED TO THE REFUSAL

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OF PRISON AUTHORITIES TO RECEIVE MEMBERS OF THE PEACE COMMISSION ON THE NIGHT OF OCTOBER 4, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE THE AUTHORITIES DESIRED TO AVOID EARLY SCRUTINY OF THE CELL BLOCK (THE PEACE COMMISSION WAS ALLOWED TO VISIT THE CELL BLOCK ON OCTOBER 5).

4. (C) COMMENT: [

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ON OCTOBER 3 TO EVICT 5000 SQUATTERS
(SEPTEL). MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS OF THE BODIES MAY
REVEAL MORE INFORMATION.

5. (C) WE BELIEVE THAT THE IU, WHICH ALREADY HAS
DEMONSTRATED THAT IT BELIEVES IT CAN USE THE HUMAN
RIGHTS ISSUE ADVANTAGEOUSLY AGAINST APRA, WILL NOW
REDOUBLE ITS EFFORTS. MORE RADICAL ELEMENTS OF THE IU
MEMBER PARTIES MAY SEEK TO CONFRONT THE GOP BY
ORGANIZING DEMONSTRATIONS THAT COULD LEAD TO FURTHER
VIOLENCE. COMING WEEKS COULD PROVE TO BE A MAJOR TEST
OF THE GOP'S ABILITY TO MAINTAIN AUTHORITY WITHOUT
LAPSING INTO EXCESS.

6. (C) [

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] FINALLY, WE BELIEVE THERE IS A

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USIE-00	FBIE-00	FAIM-01	SLPD-01	1030 W			

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DIA FOR IR BRANCH; PANAMA FOR ADS

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PTER, PGOV, SHUM, PE

SUBJECT: THIRTY INMATES DIE IN CONFRONTATION AT
 STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT SL WILL ATTEMPT TO CARRY OUT
 A REPRISAL FOR THE OCTOBER 4 EVENTS. JORDAN

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