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DIA FOR IR BRANCH; PANAMA FOR ADS
E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, ASEC, PE
SUBJECT: MRTA AND SL BOMBINGS IN LIMA AND CERRO DE
PASCO
REF: 85 LIMA 13878 V
1. (U) THE TUPAC AMARU REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT (MRTA)
AND THE SENDERO LUMINOSO (SL) TERRORIST GROUPS
EACH CARRIED OUT SIGNIFICANT ATTACKS IN PERU DURING
PAST SEVERAL DAYS. MRTA SET OFF FIVE BOMBS IN LIMA
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AT ABOUT 6:00 A.M. ON JANUARY 20. FOUR OF THE TARGETS WERE EXCLUSIVE RESTAURANTS, INCLUDING THE PABELLON DE CONFIDENTIAL CONFIDENTIAL PAGE 02 LIMA 00675 211843Z

LA CAZA, LOS TRONCOS, THE TRECE MONEDAS, AND THE RESTAURANT IN THE HOTEL CESAR; A STORE WAS ALSO DAMAGED. FIVE PERSONS REPORTEDLY WERE WOUNDED BY THE EXPLOSIONS. IN ADDITION, MRTA MEMBERS REPORTEDLY TOOK OVER A RADIO STATION IN CHIMBOTE BRIEFLY SAME DAY TO BROADCAST PROPAGANDA, FOUR DAYS AFTER ITS WIDELY IGNORED JANUARY 16 TAKEOVER OF SEVERAL RADIO STATIONS IN LIMA (IN WHICH MRTA REPORTEDLY DENOUNCED

PRESENCE OF SENATOR KENNEDY

2. (U) PRESUMED SL MEMBERS SET OFF ABOUT TEN BOMBS

AT 4:00 P.M. ON JANUARY 20 IN THE SIERRA CITY OF

CERRO DE PASCO. TERRORISTS BOMBED AN APRISTA PARTY

OFFICE, REPORTEDLY WOUNDING EIGHT PERSONS; THEY ALSO

DAMAGED SEVERAL ELECTRICAL GENERATORS, WOUNDING

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ADDITIONAL PERSONS AND INTERRUPTING ELECTRICAL POWER TO A NUMBER OF MINES IN PASCO DEPARTMENT.

3. (C) COMMENT: MRTA ATTACK RECALLS ITS 1985 FIREBOMBINGS OF KENTUCKY FRIED CHICKEN, WITH TWIST THAT
NEWEST TARGETS ARE MORE EXCLUSIVE AND IDENTIFIED MORE
WITH LOCAL POWER STRUCTURE. (TRECE MONEDAS RESTAURANT,
FOR EXAMPLE, IS LOCATED NEAR CONGRESS AND IS HEAVILY
FREQUENTED BY PARLIAMENTARIANS). THESE AND OTHER
COMMUNITY AND U.S. TOURISTS.

4. (C) MOST SIGNIFICANT ASPECT OF SL ATTACK IN CERRO DE PASCO IS ITS OCCURRENCE FIVE WEEKS AFTER GOP LIFTED STATE OF EMERGENCY IN PASCO AND SIX OTHER PROVINCES (REFTEL). MILITARY IS ALREADY CONCERNED ABOUT SITUATION IN UPPER HUALLAGA VALLEY (WHERE POLICE REPORTEDLY HAVE NOT SENT PERSONNEL TO REPLACE CONFIDENTIAL

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MILITARY) AND IN ANDAHUAYLAS PROVINCE (APURIMAC DEPARTMENT), WHERE THREE SL ATTACKS THIS MONTH FOLLOWED LIFTING OF STATE OF EMERGENCY. MILITARY AND OTHERS IN GOP MAY WELL CIFE THIS LATEST SL ATTACK, IN ADDITION TO OTHER INDICATIONS SL IS INCREASING ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE ITS TRADITIONAL AREAS, TO ARGUE AGAINST FURTHER REDUCTIONS IN THE EMERGENCY ZONE. (CURRENT EMERGENCY DECREE ENDS FEBRUARY 5).

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