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INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 SY-06 PH-09 PA-01 MCT-02 SYE-00 USIE-00 SP-02 1048 W

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P R 0821212 APR 83 FN AMENBASSY LIMA TO SECSTATE WASHOC PRIORITY 8097 INFO AMENBASSY BOGOTA AMEMBASSY BRASILIA AMEMBASSY LA PAZ AMEMBASSY PANAMA USCINSSOUTH QUARRY HTS PN AMEMBASSY QUITO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO DIA WASHDC -

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PANAMA FOR ADS

DIA FOR IR BRANCH

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR TAGS: PTER, PINS, PE

SUBJ: (LOU) PERUVIAN TERRORISH TURNS BLOODIER, BUT NOT NECESSARILY ACCORDING TO PLAN

REFS: A) LINA 1913: VB) LINA 2197/(NOTAL): C) LINA 2356 V

1. (U) PERU'S BLOODIEST TERRORIST MASSACRES YET LEFT AN ESTIMATED 50-100 DEAD IN WEEKEND VIOLENCE. INFORMATION FILTERING OUT OF THE ISOLATED CENTRAL HIGHLANDS IDENTIFIES AT LEAST THREE SEPARATE INCIDENTS IN OR NEAR THE EMERGENCY ZONE IN WHICH ARMED SENDERO LUMINOSO (SL) BANDS ENTERED UNDEFENDED VILLAGES AND, AFTER SUMMARY "PEOPLE'S JUSTICE" CONFIDENTIAL CONFIDENTIAL

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TRIALS, PUBLICLY EXECUTED A BROAD RANGE OF WICTINS ... THREE CONFIDENTIAL

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DIED ON APRIL 2 ATTACK ON A SHALL VILLAGE OF CALCA (HUANCAYO PROVINCE, DEPARTMENT OF JUNIN). DEPENDING ON WHOSE ACCOUNT YOU BELIEVE, SOME 45, 80, OR UPWARDS OF 100 VILLAGERS WERE KILLED ON APRIL 3 INCIDENTS IN SANTIAGO DE LUCANAMARCA AND HUANCASANCOS, BOTH IN VICTOR FAJARDO PROVINCE (DEPARTMENT OF AYACUCHO).

- 2. (U) REASONS FOR THIS RENEWED SPATE OF SL KILLINGS, WHICH WERE MARKED BY UNACCUSTOMED BRUTALITY, DIFFER. MARXIST LIMA DAILY "EL DIARIO", NOTED FOR ITS PRO-SL SLAMT, ACKNOWLEDGES POSSIBILITY THAT SOME "INNOCENT" PERSONS DIED BUT ATTRIBUTES MASSACRES TO SL VENGENANCE ON VILLAGERS WHO HAD COOPERATED WITH GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES AND TURNED IN TERRORISTS. OTHER ACCOUNTS SPEAK OF BALKED SL RECRUITMENT EFFORTS: WHEN VILLAGERS REFUSED TO JOIN THE "ARMED STRUGGLE," INFURIATED TERRORISTS KILLED ALL.
- 3. (C) COMMENT: AS ALWAYS, NEWS ON EMERGENCY ZONE DEVELOPMENTS IS NOT EASY TO COME BY AND HARD TO DECIPHER. BUT AMONG THE RUMORS, EXAGGERATIONS, AND DENIALS, SOME TENTATIVE CONCLUSIONS EMERGE THAT, UNTIL HARDER DATA DISPLACES THEM, SEEM PROBABLE: A. THE SL HAS COME A LONG WAY FROM THE ROMANTIC DAYS OF 1980. THE IMAGE OF SHERWOOD FOREST TENDED TO LINGER, EVEN AFTER DEVELOPMENTS TOOK A BLOODY TURN IN LATE 1981. BUT EVEN THE REPLACEMENT IMAGE OF METHODICAL RUTHLESSNESS SERVED SENDERO'S PURPOSES. WITH GOVERNMENT FORCES ON THE RUN, SENDERO'S EFFICENT ASSASSINATIONS AND WIDENING SPHERE OF OPERATION PRODUCED A PUBLIC IMPRESSION OF INEXORABLE MANACE THAT, AMONG OTHER EFFECTS, INTRIGUED SOME ELEMENTS OF THE (LEGAL) CONFIDENTIAL CONFIDENTIAL

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RADICAL LEFT. WHEN GOVERNMENT FORCES COUNTERATTACKED IN FEBRUARY AND AMRCH (REFS A AND B). THEY DESTROYED IN FEBRUARY AND AMRCH (REFS A AND B). THEY DESTROYED THAT IMPRESSION. NOW, IT WOULD SEEM, SENDERO IS RAISING THE PRICE OF OPPOSITION.

B. WE ASSUME THAT ADDITIONAL FACTORS ARE AT PLAY ALSO. THE REPORTED INDISCRIMINATE VICTIMIZATION POINTS TO CRIMES BASED ON AROUSED PASSION AS MUCH AS IDEOLOGICAL DEDICATION. THE UCHURUCCAY INVESTIGATING COMMISSION'S REPORT AND PREVIOUS EMBASSY CABLES (REFS A AND C) REFER TO TRADITIONAL RIVALRIES IN THE HIGHLANDS. TO TRONTIER

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JUSTICE". AND TO THE AGGRAVATION OF PRE-EXISTING TENSIONS CAUSED BY THE EBB AND FLOW OF FORCES "OF ORDER". IN ADDITION, THE GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-TERRORIST OFFENSIVE MUST BE AFFECTING SL COMMUNICATIONS COMMAND AND CONTROL -- A PROBLEM UNDER THE BEST OF CIRCUMSTANCES FOR A CLANDESTIME ORGANIZATION SPREAD OUT IN TORTUOUS TERRAIN. THUS WE SURMISE LOWER ECHELON LIEUTENANTS AND SUB-LIEUTENANTS -- SOME LITTLE MORE THAN TEENAGERS, SWAYED ONLY IN PART BY IDEOLOGY AND MUCH BY EMOTION, OPPORTUNISM, AND FEAR--CAN MOBILIZE SUPPORT GROUPS AND ENGAGE IN ACTIONS WITHOUT DIRECT CONTROL BY SENDERO'S TOP LEADER-

C. THE GOP STANDS TO BEMEFIT INTERMS OF PUBLIC RELATIONS. LEFTIST CRITICS HAVE KEPT THE GOVERNMENT OFF BALANCE WITH CHARGES THAT SECURITY FORCES HAVE NOT RESPECTED HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE EMERGENCY ZONE. IN THE WARE OF THESE MASSACRES, SO CLEARLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO SL, FOREIGN AND THE DOMESTIC LEFT WILL FIND IT MORE DIFFICULT NOT TO RECOGNIZE SL'S ATROCITIES. THEN TOO, THOSE IN THE HIGHLANDS MAY NOT REGARD SOLDIERS AND POLICE IN THEIR MIDST AS FRIENDS, BUT GARRISONED TOWNS OFFER GUARANTEES OF SECURITY FRIGHTENINGLY ABSENT IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.

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