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ACTION SCT-22

INFO	LOG-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-25	SS-00	CIAE-00
	EB-08	NSCE-22	ARA-05	NSAF-00	COME-00	SSO-00	L-22
	TRSE-00	PM-05	PA-02	CCO-00	INRE-00	CA-02	FAA-00
	USSS-00	USIE-00	JUSE-00	FEIE-00	OC-02	FAIM-01	DS-01
	DSE-00	ZOVD-00	/036 W				

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6065
 INFO USAFSC HOWARD AFB PM
 USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM
 AMEMBASSY PANAMA
 DIA WASHDC
 C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 14586
 TERREP
 DIA FOR AT-5/OS-1D/DB-6D2/JSI-4B/DB-3C1
 PANAMA FOR ADS
 E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: PTER, PF
 SUBJECT: DECEMBER 10 LIMA BLACKOUT

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
 REVIEWED BY [Signature] DATE OCT 3 1988
 RELEASE DECLASSIFY
 EXTEND DECLASSIFY in PART
 DENY Non-responsive info.
 FOR EO or PA exemptions
 CLASSIFY as _____ TS authority to:
 DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () C, OADR

1. (U) SEVERAL LIMA DAILIES ARE DISPUTING GOP CLAIMS THAT AN ELECTRICAL STORM NEAR HUANCAYO CAUSED A 90-MINUTE BLACKOUT IN LIMA DECEMBER 10. ACCORDING TO "LA REPUBLICA", BLACKOUT WAS CAUSED BY SENDERO LUMINOSO (SL) DOWNING OF ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION TOWERS SOUTH OF HUANCABELICA; DAMAGE WAS REPORTEDLY ESTIMATED AT TWO MILLION INTIS (144,000 DOLLARS AT OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATE).

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2. (U) INFLUENTIAL "EXPRESO" COLUMNIST MANUEL D'ORNELLAS NOTED DECEMBER 12 THAT SL AUTHORSHIP OF THE BLACKOUT WAS CREDIBLE. THE ATTACK FOLLOWED SEVERAL RECENT DECLARATIONS BY POLITICAL AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES (INCLUDING THE PRESIDENT) TO THE EFFECT THAT SL WAS ON THE RUN, WHICH D'ORNELLAS BELIEVES SPURRED SL TO DEMONSTRATE IT WAS STILL ACTIVE. HE CHIDED AUTHORITIES FOR REPEATING ERROR OF

BELAUNDE ADMINISTRATION, WHICH REPEATEDLY PREDICTED TERRORISTS' DEMISE, ONLY TO BE ANSWERED BY STEPPED UP TERRORISM.

3. (C) COMMENT: WE ARE UNABLE AT PRESENT TO DETERMINE CAUSES OF BLACKOUT. IT IS POSSIBLE IT WAS WORK OF SL. WATSON

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