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ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 5349

E.O. 12356: NDECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, SHUM, PINS, PE
SUBJ: (U) PERUVIAN TERRORISTS "CELEBRATE" THIRD ANNIVERSARY
OF ARMED UPRISING

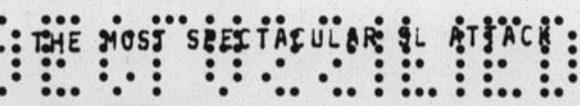
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1. (U) PERU'S SENDERO LUMINOSO (SL) TERRORISTS "CELEBRATED" THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR MAY 18, OIP ARMED UPRISING WITH A SERIES OF COORDINATED ATTACKS IN AYACUCHO AND OUTLYING AREAS OF THE 9-PROVINCE EMERGENCY ZONE. OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUES ACKNOWLEDGE A TOTAL OF 210 DEAD IN THE PERIOD MAY 17-22. THE OFFICIAL FCGURES BREAK DOWN AS: 160 SL DEAD, 48 CIVILIANSDEAD, AND TWO LOSSES AMONG THE SECURITY FORMES. THE SAME COMMUNIQUES ALSO REPORT 11 INJURIES NAMONO POLICE AND SOLDIERS.

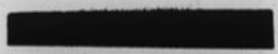
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2. (U) AYACUCHO CITY: THE MOST SPECTACULAR SL ATTACK:



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TOOK PLACE IN THE DEPARTMENTAL CAPITAL ITSELF, WITH A COORDINATED SERIES OF SL DYNAMITE ASSULTS LAUNCHED AT DUSK ON MAY 20 AGAINST CIVIL GUARD (POLICE) HEAD-QUARTERS, ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS, AND OTHER TARGETS IN THE CENTRAL AREA. THE SL ATTACK BLACKED OUT THE CITY. PORTIONS OF OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUES DEALING WITH THE AYACUCHO ATTACK ARE SILENT ON SECURITY FORCE DEATHS, ACKNOWLEDGING ONLY THAT NINE WERE HURT, AND LISTING OTHER CASUALTIES (PRESUMABLY CIVILIANS) AS EIGHT INJURED AND EIGHT DEAD. THE APPROXIMATELY 50 EXPLOSIONS SL SF OCCURRED OVER THE SPACE OF FOUR HOURS.

3. (LOJ) HUANCAYO. OTHER MAJOR INCIDENTS OCCURRED IN AND AROUND THE CITY OF HUANCAYO, CAPITAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUNIN (WHICH IS ADJACENT TO, BUT NOT PART OF, THE "EMERGENCY ZONE"). THREE ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION TOWERS WERE DESTROYED BY DYNAMITE BLASTS OCCURRING AT APPROXIMATELY THE SAME TIME ON FRIDAY EVENING, MAY 20, AS THOSE SET OFF IN AYACUCHO. THE EXPLOSIONS LEFT THE CITY BLACKED OUT FOR 15 HOURS. OTHER EXPLOSIONS WERE SET OFF IN THE PROVINCE OF JAUJA, TO THE NORTHWEST OF HUANCAYO. THE BINATIONAL CENTER WAS ONE OF THE SITES HIT INSIDE HUANCAYO. CENTER PERSONNEL REPORT THAT DAMAGE WAS MINOR (A HOLE IN THE ROOF AND A FEW WINDOWS KNOCKED OUT), AND NO ONE WAS HURT.

4. (U) OTHER INCIDENTS. ELSEWHERE IN THE ZONE, GOP COMMUNIQUES ASSERT THAT SECURITY FORCES KILLED 42 SENDERISTAS IN INCIDENTS OCCURRING BETWEEN MAY 17-21 IN THE AYACUCHO PROVINCES OF CANGALLO AND
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VICTOR FAJARDO AND IN ANDAHUAYLAS PROVINCE (APURIMAC). ANOTHER 77 SL DEATHS REPORTEDLY OCCURRED ON MAY 21 IN CANGALLO AND HUANTA (AYACUCHO), WHILE 41 SL MEMBERS WERE REPORTED KILLED IN UNSPECIFIED AREAS OF THE ZONE ON SUNDAY, MAY 22. MOST OF THE CIVILIAN DEAD ALSO INVOLVED HUANTA, WITH SOME 25 VILLAGERS IN JCHURACCAY--SCENE OF LAST JANUARY'S MASSACRE OF EIGHT PERUVIAN NEWSMEN--KILLED BY SENDERISTAS WHO ENTERED THE COMMUNITY DISGUISED AS CIVIL GUARDS. OTHER SITES OF SL WEEKEND ATTACKS INCLUDE SAN JOSE

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DE SECCE, PAMPA CANGALLO (ONE CIVIL GUARD KILLED),
CHANCHA CHANCHA IN CANGALLO (SIX VILLAGERS DEAD),
LLAUSA IN LA MAR PROVINCE, AND MATARA IN HUAMANGA.
REPORTS OUT OF THE LATTER COMMUNITY ARE STILL
FRAGMENTARY, WITH ONE LIMA DAILY ("REPUBLICA") REPORT-
ING 16 VILLAGERS KILLED BY SENDERISTAS AND A SECOND
(MARXIST "EL DIARIO") SPEAKING OF OVER 100 "UNCON-
FIRMED" DEATHS AMONG CIVILIANS AND SENDERISTAS--
THE LATTER INLT OF A COUNTERATTACK LAUNCHED
BY GOVERNMENT FORCES FLOWN INTO THE AREA BY
HELICOPTER.

5. (C) COMMENT: WHATEVER THE EXACT CASUALTY FIGURES
MAY BE, WEEKEND EVENTS DEMONSTRATE THAT SL HAS NOT
LOST ITS ORGANIZATIONAL ABILITY OR TALENT. THE
MOUNTING GOVERNMENT-CLAIMED TOLL OF SL DEAD SUGGESTS
THAT WHILE "TERRORISTS" ARE DYING, MOST ARE PROBABLY
PERIPHERAL (SEE REFTTEL) AND DO NOT INVOLVE KEY FIGURES
WITHIN THE SL ORGANIZATION.
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