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EXCISE

TELEGRAM

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CTION ARA-16

NFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-07 INR-10 SS-10 OPR-02
IAE-00 DODE-00 H-01 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-01 SY-06
A-08 L-03 PM-08 PA-01 MCT-02 CCO-00 OMB-01
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M AMEMBASSY LIMA
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MEMBASSY QUITO
MEMBASSY SANTIAGO
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED by Pugh DATE OCT 3 1988

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FOI EO or PA exemptions (b)(7)(C)

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() DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () C, OADR

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EO 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER PINS PINT PE ASEC
SUBJECT: TERRORISTS ON THE ATTACK IN LIMA

1. (C) DRAMATICALLY ESCALATING THE VICIOUSNESS AND AUDACITY OF TERRORIST ACTIVITY IN PERU, AT LEAST ONE TEAM OF COMMANDOS STORMED THE LIMA HEADQUARTERS OF THE GOVERNING AP PARTY ONE BLOCK FROM THE EMBASSY CHANCERY THE EARLY EVENING JULY 11. FIRING BURSTS FROM A SUBMACHINEGUN AND HURLING HOME-MADE DYNAMITE DEVICES, THE TERRORISTS PANICKED THE HUNDREDS OF PARTY OFFICIALS JUST LEAVING THE MAIN MEETING HALL AFTER A PLENARY SESSION WAS CANCELLED FOR LACK OF QUORUM. SO FAR ONE PARTY FUNCTIONARY IS DEAD AND AT LEAST A SCORE OF OTHER VICTIMS. NAME OF WHOM ARE

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PAGE 02 LIMA 07247 12227Z

WOMEN, ARE IN AREA HOSPITALS, SOME GRAVELY WOUNDED.

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2. (C) PROVING THAT DETENTION OF THE MAIN PERPETRATORS OF THE BAYER ATTACKS LAST MONTH (LIMA 5526) PARALYZED NEITHER THE TERRORISTS' ORGANIZATIONAL NOR LOGISTICAL CAPABILITIES. OTHER COORDINATED ATTACKS OCCURRED AT WIDELY SEPARATED SITES IN METROPOLITAN LIMA AT APPROXIMATELY THE SAME TIME, APPARENTLY TIMED TO AN INTENDED BLACKOUT OF THE CITY. DETAILS OF THESE ATTEMPTS ARE FUZZY AND CONFLICTING BUT SEEMINGLY INCLUDED THE SUCCESSFUL DOWNING OF A HIGH-TENSION TOWER, EXPLOSIONS AT A PAINT FACTORY (WHICH DID NOT LEAD TO A CONFLAGRATION AS MAY HAVE BEEN THE TERRORISTS' INTENT), THE DETONATION OF HALF THE DEVICES THROWN AT A CAR DEALERSHIP ON A MAJOR CROSS-TOWN ARTERY, AND, ACCORDING TO SOME, A BURST FIRED AT THE ARMY'S RIMAC GARRISON.

3. (C) THE DETONATION OF A DEVICE SOME FIFTEEN FEET FROM THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE EMBASSY CHANCERY KICKED UP ROADBED WHICH CRACKED SEVERAL FRONT WINDOWS (THE MYLAR PREVENTED SHATTERING). THE INVESTIGATIVE POLICE (PIP) ASSERT THAT THREE MORTAR-TYPE DEVICES, ONE WITH THE CHARGE STILL IN PLACE, WERE FOUND IN THE PARK ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE EMBASSY. THEY ASSUME THAT THE EXPLOSION ON THE STREET WAS LAUNCHED FROM ONE OF THE HOME-MADE TUBES. THE UNIFORMED POLICE, CIVIL GUARD, DENY THAT ANYTHING WAS FOUND IN THE PARK. HOWEVER, IN AN ACCOUNT REMINISCENT OF THE ALLEGED ATTACK ON THE RESIDENCE TWO WEEKS AGO (LIMA 6617), THE GUARDIA TOLD THE PRESS OF STOPPING A SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE CRUISING NEAR THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE. THE THREE OCCUPANTS ALLEGEDLY FLED AND POLICE FOUND TWO MORTARS INSIDE AND SUGGEST THEY WERE TO BE TARGETTED AGAINST THE RESIDENCE WHERE A RECEPTION FOR PERUVIAN NAVAL OFFICERS
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PAGE 03 LIMA 07247 122272

WAS IN PROGRESS. THE PIP VERSION IS THAT POLICE FOUND THE DEVICES IN AN ABANDONED STOLEN CAR PARKED SEVERAL BLOCKS AWAY.

4. (J) PRESIDENT BELAUNDE AND OTHER PUBLIC FIGURES INCLUDING OPPOSITION PARTY LEADERS APPEARED AT PARTY HEADQUARTERS AS SOON AS INFORMED OF THE ATTACK. VISIBLY SHAKEN, PRESIDENT BELAUNDE PROMISED THAT NEITHER HE NOR THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE COMED BY SUCH ACTS AND PROMISED TO HAVE THE BUILDING REOPENED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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5. (C) COMMENT: F

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6. (C) WE ARE AWARE OF NO COMPARABLE TERRORIST INCIDENT IN CONTEMPORARY PERU AND CERTAINLY NOTHING SIMILAR SINCE THE APPEARANCE THREE YEARS AGO OF SENDERO LUMINOSO. THE RAPID ESCALATION OF WELL-COORDINATED VIOLENCE IS OBVIOUSLY A CAUSE FOR GENERAL CONCERN. IT SEEMS FAIRLY CLEAR FROM THE EVENTS OF JULY 11 THAT WHAT WERE BELIEVED TO BE THE TERRORISTS' OBJECTIVES AND METHODS HAVE UNDERGONE RADICAL CHANGE.
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