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Department of State

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ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-10 CIAE-00 H-01
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DIA WASHDC
ANEMBASSY LA PAZ
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR OCT 3 1988

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 8073
DIA FOR IR BRANCH

E.O. 12356: DECL: 8/4/89
TAGS: PTER, SHUN, PE
SUBJ: (U) PERUVIAN MILITARY ANNOUNCES CASUALTIES SUFFERED
IN CONFRONTATION WITH TERRORISTS

1. (U) PERUVIAN "POLITICAL-MILITARY COMMAND"
RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC ORDER IN NINE
PROVINCE SOUTH-CENTRAL HIGHLANDS "EMERGENCY ZONE" ISSUED A
COMMUNIQUE (NO. 70) AUGUST 3 STATING THAT IN AN
ENCOUNTER ON AUGUST 2 THREE MARINES AND FORTY TERRORISTS
DIES AND FIVE MARINES WERE WOUNDED.

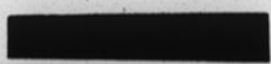
2. (U) COMMUNIQUE ALSO STATED THAT: ENCOUNTER OCCURRED
NEAR SAN JOSE DE SECCE (HUANTA PROVINCE, DEPARTMENT OF
AYACUCHO), NUMBER OF SENDERO LUMINOSO (SL) TERRORISTS
CONFRONTED WAS ONE HUNDRED; AND A TOTAL OF SEVEN
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WEAPONS, EXPLOSIVES, MILITARY UNIFORMS, AND EQUIPMENT

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AND SUBVERSIVE PROPAGANDA WERE SEIZED.

3. (C) COMMENT: THE NAVY IS THE MILITARY SERVICE RESPONSIBLE FOR HUANTA PROVINCE. GOP IS ON RECORD (SEE LINA 7363) AS ACKNOWLEDGING A TOTAL OF ONLY FOURTEEN MILITARY CASUALTIES (TWO DEAD AND TWELVE WOUNDED) IN PREVIOUS ENCOUNTERS WITH TERRORISTS. THE ENCOUNTER AT SAN JOSE DE SECCE IS THUS THE FIRST IN WHICH POLITICAL-MILITARY COMMAND ACKNOWLEDGES A RELATIVELY LARGE NUMBER OF MILITARY LOSSES AND ALSO, FOR THAT MATTER, FIRST IN WHICH CASUALTIES ARE IDENTIFIED AS MARINES. REPORTED CAPTURE OF SEVEN WEAPONS IS UNUSUAL ONLY IN THAT OTHER SUCH CONFRONTATIONS TENDED TO PRODUCE EVEN FEWER WEAPONS SEIZED.
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