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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-10 CIAE-00 MSC-01 ARA-16  
NSAE-00 SSO-00 PM-09 MCT-02 IMM-06 SYE-00 SP-02  
/061 W

-----077372 201743Z /44

P R 201497Z APR 82  
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2062  
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
USINT HAVANA  
DIA WASHDC  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM

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PANAMA FOR ADS

DIA FOR IR BRANCH

13. (C) SENDERO'S UNDERGROUND STRUCTURE CONSISTS OF SMALL HERMETIC CELLS, WELL ESTABLISHED IN AYACUCHO, BUT ALSO PRESENT IN LIMA AND TO A LESSER EXTENT ELSEWHERE. THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SUCH ACTIVITIES AS SUBVERSION, PENETRATION, INTIMIDATION, TERROR, PROPAGANDA, AND SABOTAGE. THEY SHOULD ALSO PROVIDE RECRUITS, SUPPLIES, AND INTELLIGENCE TO SUPPORTED GUERRILLA UNITS, IF AND WHEN THE "PEOPLE'S REVOLUTION" PASSES FROM ITS INITIAL STAGE TO THAT OF GUERRILLA WARFARE, ITSELF A PRELUDE TO THE FINAL STAGE, THE GENERAL OFFENSIVE.

14. (C) "GONZALISMO" ADAPTS MAOIST PRECEPTS TO

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PERUVIAN PRACTICE, MOST EFFECTIVELY IN THE EMPLOYMENT OF "PETARDISMO" AS A MODUS OPERANDI FOR THE FIRST STAGE.

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THE TERM ITSELF DERIVES FROM "PETARDO" (A SMALL STICK OR CHARGE OF DYNAMITE). PRIOR TO ITS RECENT BOUT OF "GUERRILLA CHIC," THE IU USED "PETARDISMO" AS A SCOURNFUL LOCUTION TO DISMISS SENDERO LUMINOSO'S ACTIVITIES AS PUERILE. SOME GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN ALSO EMPLOYED THE TERM TO DENIGRATE THE TERRORIST THREAT. SENDERO LUMINOSO'S TERM FOR THOSE ACTIVITIES WAS "SABOTAGE CAMPAIGN." AT LEAST SINCE THE MAY 1980 ELECTIONS MIDNIGHT BOMBINGS OF SYMBOLS OF AUTHORITY BROUGHT HEADLINES AND ENHANCED THE PERCEPTION OF A SERIOUS THREAT, WITHOUT REQUIRING OF THE PERPETRATORS A MAJOR RESOURCE COMMITMENT OR A DANGEROUSLY HIGH PROFILE.

15. (LOU) SUCH LOW-OVERHEAD OPERATIONS AS THE AUGUST 1981 BOMBING OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY OR THE MARCH 1982 BOMBING OF THE PALACE OF GOVERNMENT (LIMA 2569) MUST BE AMONG THE BIGGEST PUBLICITY BANGS FOR A BUCK IN THE HISTORY OF TERRORIST MOVEMENTS. AT THE SAME TIME, THE DECISION TO "GO ANONYMOUS" (I.E., TO MAKE NO PHONE CALLS TO CLAIM CREDIT, AND TO DISTRIBUTE NO PROPAGANDIZING LEAFLETS) HEIGHTENED THE MYSTERY, AND PRODUCED A SITUATION IN WHICH ALMOST ANY UNTOWARD EVENT WAS SEEN AS A POSSIBLE TERRORIST INCIDENT. THE CONSEQUENT PHENOMENALLY INFLATED INCIDENT RATE (SEE 81 LIMA 4781) GREATLY ENHANCED THE PERCEIVED MENACE AND DISCREDITED THE GOVERNMENT'S CLAIMS THAT IT HAD THE SITUATION UNDER CONTROL. THE BOMBING OF HIGH-TENSION TOWERS, AND THE USE OF ENSUING BLACKOUTS AS COVER FOR OTHER OPERATIONS, SHOWED INCREASED SOPHISTICATED

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