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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA-00

INFO	OCT-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	INR-10	SS-00	CIAE-00	H-01
NSCE-00	NSAE-00	SSO-00	SY-06	HA-08	L-03	PM-09	
PA-01	MCT-02	OMB-01	INRE-00	USSS-00	SYE-00	USIE-00	
SP-02	SNP-01	PRS-01	/046 W				

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O R 212217Z DEC 83
 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2841
 INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
 /AMEMBASSY CARACAS 5657
 DIA WASHDC
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
 AMEMBASSY QUITO
 USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM

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

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DIA FOR IR BRANCH

E.O. 12356: DECL: 12/21/89
 TAGS: PTER, PE
 SUBJ: INTERIOR MINISTER ANNOUNCES CAPTURE OF RANKING
 TERRORIST LEADER

1. (U) INTERIOR MINISTER LUIS PERCOVICH CONFIRMED PUBLICLY DEC. 19 POLICE CAPTURE OF TOP SENDERO LUMINOSO (SL) TERRORIST LEADER EMILIO ANTONIO DIAZ MARTINEZ. CAPTURE TOOK PLACE IN CITY OF HUARAZ, CAPITAL OF DEPARTMENT OF ANCASH. (SOME INITIAL PRESS REPORTS MISTAKENLY IDENTIFIED SL CAPTUREE AS JULIO CESAR MEZZICH.) WHILE DIAZ MARTINEZ'S EXACT POSITION IN SL HIERARCHY IS NOT KNOWN, HE CLEARLY IS A KEY LIEUTENANT OF SL FOUNDER AND LEADER ABIMAEI GUZMAN. DIAZ MARTINEZ REPUTEDLY WAS OPERATIONAL HEAD OF SL ACTIVITIES IN MUCH OF SOUTHERN PERU, INCLUDING DEPARTMENTS OF CUZCO, PUNO, AND AREQUIPA.

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2. (C) COMMENT: THIS MARKS FIRST TIME SINCE SL

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INITIATED "ARMED STRUGGLE" IN MAY 1980 THAT SECURITY
FORCES HAVE SUCCEEDED IN CAPTURING A TOP TERRORIST
LEADER. ARREST REPRESENTS, AT MINIMUM, AN IMPORTANT
PSYCHOLOGICAL COUP FOR GOVERNMENT. WHATEVER HIS EXACT
ROLE IN SL'S ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE, DIAZ MARTINEZ
IS POTENTIALLY A KNOWLEDGEABLE AND AUTHORITATIVE SOURCE
OF INFORMATION ON SENDERO'S INNER WORKINGS, STRATEGIES,
PERCEIVED ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND FAILINGS.
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