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69

TELEGRAM

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AM: DB40417-0418

PAGE 01 LIMA 07560 282331Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
H-01 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 HA-08 L-03 PM-10
PA-01 MCT-03 OMB-01 INRE-00 USIE-00 SP-02 SMP-01
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6788
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
DIA WASHINGTON DC
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY QUITO 5903
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED by Prof DATE OCT 3 1988
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 EXCISE DECLASSIFY in PART
 DENY Non-responsive info.
FOL 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

PANAMA FOR ADS

E.O. 12356: DECL 6/27/90

TAGS: PTER, SHUM PE

SUBJECT: PERUVIAN TERRORIST ATTACKS CONTINUE

REFS: A) LIMA 7400, (B) LIMA 7036, (C) LIMA 7033 ✓

1. (U) FURTHER TERRORIST INCIDENTS. CURRENT WAVE OF
ATTACKS LAUNCHED BY SENDERO LUMINOSO (SL) TERRORISTS ON JUNE 22
(REF A) PRODUCED NEW SERIES OF INCIDENTS JUN 25-26. MOST
SERIOUS EVENT REPORTED IN PRESS INVOLVED AMBUSH KILLING OF
FIVE SOLDIERS AND WOUNDING OF EIGHT OTHERS NEAR SAN FRANCISCO
(PROV. OF LA MAR, DEPT. OF AYACHUCHO). (COMMENT: MILITARY
OFFICIALS HAVE CONFIRMED THIS LOSS. THIS REPRESENTS LARGEST

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PAGE 02 LIMA 07560 282331Z

SUFFERED BY ANY MILITARY UNIT OVER FOUR-YEAR SPAN OF ARMED

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FIGHTING). OTHER INCIDENTS INCLUDED:

- A BLACKOUT IN CENTRAL SIERRA'S PRINCIPAL CITY, HUANCAYO (DEPT. OF JUNIN);
- FIRES SET AT TEXTILE FACTORIES IN CANETE (SOUTHERN LIMA DEPT.) AND PISCO (DEPT OF ICA);
- DYNAMITE THEFT FROM MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION ENCAMPMENT AT CIENEGUILLA (ON EASTERN OUTSKIRTS OF LIMA);
- BRIDGES BLOWN UP IN THREE PROVINCES IN EMERGENCY ZONE (HUANTA AND CANGALLO IN AYACUCHO, ANGARAES IN HUANCAYELICA).

2. (U) CONDITION OF INFIERNILLO RAILROAD BRIDGE. ESTIMATES OF TIME REQUIRED TO REPAIR DAMAGED INFIERNILLO RAILROAD BRIDGE LINKING COAST TO CENTRAL SIERRA (REF. A) RUN FROM 3-4 WEEKS. WHILE TRANSPORT OF FOOD, FUEL, AND MINERALS BETWEEN TWO REGIONS WILL BE SERIOUSLY INCONVENIENCED IN THIS PERIOD, ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS BEING WORKED OUT SHOULD ASSURE THAT MOVEMENT WILL NOT BE HALTED.

3. (U) MORE RUMOR AND EXAGGERATION. CURRENT SL ACTIONS ARE PRODUCING TYPICAL FLOCK OF EXAGGERATED AND MISLEADING REPORTS, INCLUDING ASSERTION THAT CURFEW WAS REIMPOSED IN CITY OF AYACUCHO. (EMERGENCY ZONE POLITICAL MILITARY COMMAND ISSUED OFFICIAL DENIAL OF THIS REPORT ON JUNE 26.) INFIERNILLO BRIDGE ATTACK, ACCORDING TO ONE REPORT, INVOLVED USE OF "PLASTIC" EXPLOSIVES EMPLOYED BY "EXPERTS" OTHER ACCOUNTS, HOWEVER, REFERRED TO SOME 375 STICKS OF DYNAMITE BEING USED IN INCIDENT WHICH, ACCORDING TO RAIL SYSTEM EMPLOYEE PRESENT AT SITE, INVOLVED THREE SEPARATE EXPLOSIONS BETWEEN 7:30 AND 9:30 P.M. SL ATTACKS IN UPPER HUALLAGA VALLEY INSPIRED RENEWED SPECULATION THAT SENDERISTAS ARE RECEIVING MODERN WEAPONS FROM DRUG

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PAGE 03 LIMA 07860 282331Z

TRAFFICKERS. MOST CONFUSING REPORTS, HOWEVER, REFERRED TO ALLEGED SL ASSAULT ON REMOTE COMMUNITY OF PALLCA (ALSO REFERRED TO AS PACIACA AND PAICAS). PRESS ACCOUNTS AGREED THAT 48 CAMPESINOS DIED THERE, BUT EXACTLY WHERE THE "THERE" WAS REMAINED UNCLEAR, WITH ONE REPORT FIXING LOCATION IN HUANGA PROVINCE, A SECOND IN LA MAR, AND A THIRD IN VICTOR FAJARDO. THE NUMBER OF SL PARTICIPANTS IN INCIDENT WAS VARIOUSLY STATED AS 50, 500, AND 200.

4. (C) CHARACTERISTICS OF CURRENT SL WAVE. THIS MAJOR

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L EFFORT PRESENTS CERTAIN CONTRASTS WITH THOSE OF A YEAR AGO (LATE MAY-EARLY AUGUST) AND THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION PERIOD (MID-OCTOBER TO MID-NOVEMBER):

- THEY APPEAR MORE SELECTIVELY AIMED AT SECURITY FORCES. SL HIT SQUADS HAVE TARGETED INDIVIDUAL POLICEMEN BEFORE, AND LIMA AREA POLICE STATIONS SUFFERED A SERIES OF ATTACKS DURING ELECTION CAMPAIGN. THIS TIME, HOWEVER, SL SEEMS TO BE DEVOTING EVEN GREATER ATTENTION TO GOING AFTER EXPOSED SECURITY FORCE INSTALLATIONS:
-- ALTHOUGH EFFORTS TO INDUCE ELECTRICAL BLACKOUTS CONTINUE, THEIR IMPACT IS LESS. THE AT TIMES DAY-LONG INTERRUPTIONS OF ELECTRICAL SERVICE THROUGH WHICH LIMA AND OTHER CITIES SUFFERED A YEAR AGO HAVE NOT BEEN REPEATED. BY COMPARISON, THE CURRENT TARGETS (TRUJILLO, ICA, AND HUANCAYO) HAVE EXPERIENCED LIMITED SERVICE INTERRUPTIONS, CAUSED BY THE DOWNING OF ONE OR MORE TRANSMISSION TOWERS, THAT TECHNICIANS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO RESTORE WITHIN HOURS. SL HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO REPRODUCE ANYTHING IN THE ORDER OF THE EXCEPTIONALLY WELL COORDINATED (AND GEOGRAPHICALLY EXTENSIVE) BLACKOUT THAT STRUCK LIMA AT THE START OF THE NEW YEAR (REF B):

-- SL INCIDENTS IN URBAN AREAS OUTSIDE THE EMERGENCY ZONE HAVE BEEN LIMITED. WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT LIMA (AND, FOR THAT MATTER, OTHER MAJOR COASTAL AND SIERRA CITIES) NO LONGER ARE ON SL'S LIST OF TARGETS. POLICE INVESTIGATIONS AND ARRESTS, HOWEVER, HAVE SERIOUSLY
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04

LIMA 07560 2023312

INTERFERED WITH SL'S ABILITY TO CARRY OUT ITS AIMS IN THESE MAJOR CENTERS. WHILE TO SAY THAT THE POLICE HAVE "CRIPPLED" SL IN THE CITIES MIGHT BE OVEROPTIMISTIC, TO SAY THAT POLICE EFFORTS ARE "HAMPERING" SL THERE UNDERSTATES SECURITY FORCE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

-- SITES OF ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE MAY BE BECOMING LIKELIER SL TARGETS. THIS POINT IS DEBATABLE, HOWEVER, AS SL HAS GONE AFTER BRIDGES BEFORE AND, TO DATE, NONE OF THE "ECONOMIC" TARGETS SELECTED HAS HAD THE VISIBILITY OF THE BAYER PLANT BLAZE THAT SENDERO PROVOKED MAY 27, 1983:

-- ATTACKS IN THE EMERGENCY ZONE CONTINUE, BUT ON A REDUCED SCALE. RESURGENT SL ACTIVITY OVER LAST SEVERAL DAYS IN BROAD SECTORS OF AYACUCHO AND HUANCAYO DEPARTMENTS DEMONSTRATES THAT TERRORISTS ARE FAR FROM BEING ERADICATED IN ZONE. AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, WE NOTE THAT CONCENTRATION AND INTENSITY OF INCIDENTS IS FAR LESS THAN

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THAT IN CONTRASTED PERIODS:
-- SL ATTACKS ARE GEOGRAPHICALLY DISPERSED -- BUT,
WITH EXCEPTION OF UPPER HUALLAGA VALLEY, THEIR SCALE TOO
IS LESS THAN THAT OF OCTOBER-NOVEMBER.

5. (C) INTERNAL SECURITY IMPACT. REF C PROJECTED RENewed
WAVE OF SL VIOLENCE, INCLUDING LIKELY CHANGE IN TACTICS
AND LOCATIONS. NOT ALL CHANGED TACTICS (OR LOCATIONS)
MAY YET HAVE BEEN PUT IN EVIDENCE, AND WE DO NOT DISCARD
POSSIBILITY SL WILL PULL SOME SURPRISES. BUT, GIVEN RANGE
OF THE PROBABLE, SECURITY FORCES ARE CAPABLE OF
CONTAINING CURRENT WAVE. CONTINUING VIOLENCE HARMS
THE REGIME'S PRESTIGE BUT AS YET DOES NOT THREATEN ITS SURVIVAL.
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