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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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AN: DB40459-0900

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ACTION ARA-00

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00  
NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 SY-06 HA-08 L-03 PM-10  
PA-01 MCT-03 CCO-00 OMB-01 INRE-00 BIB-01 A-02  
SYE-00 USIE-00 SP-02 OC-02 SNP-01 PRS-01 SLPD-01  
/054 W

-----250275 181557Z /52  
O R 181429Z JUL 84

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7119  
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
DIA WASHDC  
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDG/MR

OCT 3 1988

REVIEWED by Pyg DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 RELEASE  DECLASSIFY  
 EXCISE  DECLASSIFY in PART  
 DENY  Non-responsive info.  
FOI, EO or PA exemptions \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ TS authority to:  
 CLASSIFY as \_\_\_\_\_, OADB  
 DOWNGRADE TS to  S or  C, OADR

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DIA FOR IR BRANCH

PANAMA FOR ADS

E.O. 12356: DECL: 7/17/90  
TAGS: PTER, PE  
SUBJ: TERRORISTS BLACK OUT LIMA AGAIN

REF: (A) LIMA 7836 (B) LIMA 7400 (C) 83 LIMA 7741

1. (U) TERRORIST INCIDENTS. STRIKING AT APPROXIMATELY 7:00 P.M. IN THE EVENING JULY 16, SENDERO LUMINOSO (SL) TERRORISTS HIT ONE OR MORE CENTRAL SIERRA ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION LINES IN JUNIN DEPARTMENT, BLACKING OUT METROPOLITAN LIMA ON THE COAST. UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS, SL CARRIED OUT SERIES OF DYNAMITE ATTACKS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE CITY THAT INCLUDED:

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-- OFFICES OF AEROFLOT, LOCATED IN DOWNTOWN CIVIC CENTER

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(BETWEEN HOTEL SHERATON AND U.S. EMBASSY):  
-- LUXURY RESTAURANT NEXT TO FAMOUS "GOLD MUSEUM" IN  
SUBURBAN MONTECRICO;  
-- CHANDELIER SHOP IN NEAR DOWNTOWN DISTRICT OF LINCE;  
-- SCATTERED SITES (NOT AT THIS POINT CONFIRMED) IN  
DOWNTOWN LIMA, SAN ISIDRO, AND MIRAFLORES.

2. (U) IN SAME TIME PERIOD, CENTRAL SIERRA CITIES OF  
HUANCAYO, JAUJA, AND CONCEPTION (ALL IN DEPARTMENT OF  
JUNIN) ALSO WERE BLACKED OUT. AS NO TERRORIST  
INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED THERE, HOWEVER, BLACKOUT IN  
THAT REGION MAY HAVE BEEN SIDE CONSEQUENCE OF LIMA ATTACK  
RATHER THAN OF INDEPENDENTLY PROGRAMMED TERRORIST  
ACTION. SOME PRESS REPORTS REFER TO SHORT BLACKOUTS  
OCCURRING IN NORTHERN PERUVIAN CITIES OF CHIMBOTE,  
TRUJILLO, AND CHICLAYO, BUT THESE REPORTS ARE NOT  
CONFIRMED.

3. (C) CONSEQUENCES AND DAMAGES. ASIDE FROM  
ATTACK'S INDIRECT CONSEQUENCES (DAMAGES DUE TO POWER  
FAILURE), ECONOMIC COST OF EVENING'S INCIDENTS IS SLIGHT.  
LOSS AT AEROFLOT, FOR EXAMPLE, IS ESTIMATED AT 18 MILLION  
SOLES (APPROXIMATELY \$5,000). DAMAGED RESTAURANT'S  
MANAGER ASSURED PRESS THAT ESTABLISHMENT WOULD REMAIN  
OPEN. NOR DID ATTACK PRODUCE SERIOUS CASUALTIES. ONE OR MORE OF  
ESCAPING TERRORISTS MAY HAVE BEEN HIT BY SHOTS FIRED BY  
POLICE NEAR SCENE OF INCIDENTS. MAJOR IMMEDIATE ADVERSE CONSEQUENCE  
OF EVENING'S ACTIONS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN CLIMATE OF  
CONFUSION AND PANIC CREATED IN THE STREETS BY COMINA-  
TION OF BLACKOUT AND DYNAMITE EXPLOSIONS. WE KNOW OF  
RUSHES FOR DOORS IN CROWDED DOWNTOWN MOVIE THEATERS,  
SEVERE TRAFFIC JAMS AND PEOPLE RUNNING FOR COVER IN  
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VICINITY OF INCIDENTS. LIMA RESIDENTS HAVE BEEN THROUGH  
PEAKS IN SENDERO ACTIVITY BEFORE. LEVEL OF VIOLENCE  
HERE, AND EVEN SENDERO LUMINOSO SOPHISTICATION, WAS  
GREATER LAST JULY THAN IT SEEMS TO BE AT THIS TIME.  
ADDITIONALLY, LIMA POLICE ARE MORE ALERT AND PROFESSIONAL  
THAN THEY WERE A YEAR AGO. BUT THESE FACTORS ARE NOT  
OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE IN SHAPING THE PSYCHOLOGICAL  
CLIMATE OF THE CITY. COMING ON HEELS OF STEPPED-UP  
SENDERO LUMINOSO VIOLENCE IN COUNTRYSIDE, JULY 16  
ATTACK WILL CERTAINLY PROVOKE CALLS FOR THE GOVERNMENT

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**TO TAKE STRONGER, MORE EFFECTIVE ACTION AGAINST  
TERRORISTS. WE EXPECT REITERATED CALLS FOR IMPOSITION  
OF A "STATE OF SIEGE" AND FOR TURNING SECURITY  
FUNCTIONS IN LINA OVER TO THE ARMY. AN IMPORTANT QUESTION  
REMAINS WHETHER OR NOT SENDERO IS NOW STRONG ENOUGH HERE  
TO SUSTAIN ATTACKS AT LAST NIGHT'S LEVEL. IF IT IS,  
THE GOP MAY WELL BE FORCED BY PUBLIC PRESSURE TO  
RESPOND. JORDAN**

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