

113



Department of State

ELEGR

CONFIDENTIAL

AN: 0850082-01

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LIMA 01421 052212Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-00 SS-00
DODE-00 H-01 NSC-01 NSAE-00 SY-06 HA-08
PM-10 PA-01 MCT-03 OMB-01 A-02 SYE-00
SNP-01 PRS-01 SLPD-01 SPD-02 /054 W
-----127741 052220Z /66

P 052209Z FEB 85
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1578
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY ROME
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN
USIA WASHDC 3705
USAFSO HOWARD AFB PN

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR OCT 3 1988
REVIEWED by Payton 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

CONFIDENTIAL LIMA 01421

DIA FOR IR BRANCH; PANAMA FOR ADS; ROME PASS VATICAN;
USIA FOR P/G M/S

E.O. 12356: DECL: 2/5/91
TAGS: PTER, SHUM, PE
SUBJECT: SENDERO TURNS OUT LIMA'S LIGHTS FOR POPE
JOHN PAUL

REF: LIMA 1190 ✓
1. (U) POPE JOHN PAUL II RETURNED TO LIMA FROM VISIT TO
NORTHERN PERU, ARRIVING AT CAPITAL'S AIRPORT MOMENTS
AFTER SENDERO LUMINOSO (SL) TERRORISTS BLACKED OUT CITY'S
LIGHTS AT 8:43 P.M. FEBRUARY 4. AN EMERGENCY BACKUP
SYSTEM KEPT POWER ON AT DOWNTOWN NUNCIATURE, WHERE POPE

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

Department of State

PAGE 02 LIMA 01421 052212Z

HAS SPENT ALL HIS NIGHTS IN PERU, BUT TO GET THERE POPE

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

AND ACCOMPANYING ENTOURAGE HAD TO PASS THROUGH DARKENED STREETS. POWER RESTORATION BEGAN WITHIN MINUTES OF INITIAL BLACKOUT, BUT SOME SECTIONS OF METROPOLITAN AREA REMAINED WITHOUT ELECTRICITY INTO EARLY HOURS OF THE MORNING.

2. (C) COMMENT: INITIAL PRESS REPORTING FEBRUARY 5 ATTRIBUTES BLACKOUT TO DESTRUCTION OF ONE OR MORE LIGHT "POSTS" (NOT REPEAT NOT THE TRANSMISSION TOWERS THAT SENDERO PREFERS TO HIT) IN ISOLATED AREA OFF CENTRAL HIGHWAY TO EAST OF THE CITY. OTHER SL INCIDENTS THAT TOOK PLACE IN COORDINATION WITH BLACKOUT INVOLVED DYNAMITE EXPLOSION AT BRANCH OF STATE-OWNED "BANCO DE LA NACION" IN NORTHERN WORKING-CLASS AREA AND FIRING (FROM MOVING CAR) ON A NEIGHBORHOOD STATION OF THE INVESTIGATIVE POLICE (PIP). ISOLATED DYNAMITE EXPLOSIONS REPORTEDLY OCCURRED ELSEWHERE IN THE CITY. ALTHOUGH THIS BLACKOUT OF LIMA WAS DRAMATIC -- OCCURRING WHEN POPE'S PLANE WAS LANDING AND ALL TELEVISION SETS WERE ON -- IT WAS NOT LETHAL. THIS SUGGESTS SL'S PURPOSE WAS FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES AND TO SHOW ITS CONTINUED ABILITY TO ACT DESPITE UNPRECEDENTED PRECAUTIONS BY SECURITY FORCES. JORDAN

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL