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ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-  
NSC-01 NSAE-00 SY-06 HA-08 L-03 PM-10  
MCT-03 OMB-01 A-02 USIE-00 SP-02 SNP-01  
SLPD-01 SPD-02 /054 W  
-----020125 160603Z /10

R 141401Z MAR 85  
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2346  
INFO USAF SO HOWARD AFB PN  
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
DIA WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

OCT 3 1988

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

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DIA FOR IR BRANCH; PANAMA FOR ADS

E.O. 12356: DECL: 3/14/91  
TAGS: PTER, PE, ASEC  
SUBJECT: A LOOK AT SENDERO AFTER THE COP KILLINGS:  
TERROR AND TORPIDITY

REF: LIMA 2750 ✓  
1. (LOU) ONE DAY AFTER LIMA WAS SHOCKED BY SERIES  
FOUR SENDERO LUMINOSO (SL) COP SHOOTINGS (REFTEL),  
MARCH 13 PRESS CARRIED FOLLOWING ITEMS THAT OFFER  
VIGNETTE INSIGHTS RE CURRENT TERRORIST SITUATION:  
-- "EXPRESSO" REPORTED CAPTURE OF PRIME SUSPECT IN  
KILLING OF POLICEMAN; COUNTERTERRORIST POLICE  
(DIRCOTE) TRACKED HIM DOWN AFTER FINDING VOTER  
REGISTRATION DOCUMENT IN CAR THAT SENDERISTAS HAD USED  
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DURING ATTACK; DOCUMENT BELONGED TO WOMAN FRIEND OF

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SUSPECT, WHO SAID SHE HAD LOANED IT TO HIM; ONCE LOCATED AND ARRESTED, SUSPECT REPORTEDLY TOLD DIRCOTE INVESTIGATORS THAT HIS SL UNIT'S MISSION WAS TO PLAN AND CARRY OUT POLICE KILLINGS IN LIMA;

-- "EXPRESSO" ALSO REPORTED THAT POLICE HAD FOUND SECOND CAR, THAT USED BY TERRORISTS WHO ATTEMPTED TO KILL TRANSIT POLICEMAN; CAR SHOWED BULLET IMPACTS (IT IS NOT CLEAR IF THESE WERE FIRED BY POLICEMAN BEFORE OR AFTER HE WAS WOUNDED);

-- "CRONICA" SAID THAT POLICE INVESTIGATION DISCLOSED THAT SENDERISTA SQUAD RESPONSIBLE FOR SHOOTING TWO MEMBERS OF GUARDIA CIVIL (GC) HAD WAITED NEAR RESIDENCE OF ONE FOR APPROXIMATELY FOUR HOURS; CAR'S OCCUPANTS REPORTEDLY HAD PASSED TIME DRINKING BEER FROM CANS AND LISTENING TO MUSIC AT HIGH VOLUME.

2. (C) COMMENT: ABOVE CITED REPORTS ILLUSTRATE NATURE OF SUBVERSIVE-COUNTERSUBVERSIVE SITUATION IN LIMA. IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT SENERO IS PLACING PRIORITY ATTENTION ON TARGETING POLICEMEN. BUT IT SEEMS EQUALLY CLEAR THAT INDIVIDUAL TERRORISTS ENTRUSTED WITH JOB ARE GOING ABOUT IT IN FAR FROM "PROFESSIONAL" MANNER. LIMA POLICE, ON OTHER HAND (AND ESPECIALLY PROFESSIONALS IN DIRCOTE), ARE DISPLAYING COMPETENCE IN CAPITALIZING ON TERRORISTS' MISTAKES TO IDENTIFY LIKELY SUSPECTS AND TRACK THEM DOWN. THUS, WHILE MORE SL OUTRAGES IN CAPITAL ARE BEYOND SECURITY FORCES' ABILITY TO PREVENT, IT SEEMS EQUALLY CERTAIN THAT POLICE WILL CONTINUE TO EXACT HIGH PRICE ON SENERISTAS' PERSONNEL INFRASTRUCTURE.

3. (C) OUTSIDE IMMEDIATE METROPOLITAN AREA, POLICE' EFFECTIVENESS HAS DEPENDED, AND PROBABLY WILL CONTINUE TO DEPEND, MORE ON LUCK THAN ANYTHING ELSE. ASIDE FROM

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COP KILLING, SENERO'S MOST COMMON M.O. IN AND AROUND LIMA HAS INVOLVED USE OF DYNAMITE--SETTING OFF OF CHARGES AT BANK DOORWAYS AND PLACEMENT OF EXPLOSIVES AT BASE OF ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION TOWERS AND STRATEGIC BRIDGES. SL ATTEMPTED TO CARRY OFF TWO SUCH DYNAMITINGS NIGHT OF FEB. 26, BOTH INVOLVING TRESTLES OVER WHICH RAILROAD LINKING CAPITAL TO INTERIOR (AND VITAL MANTARO RIVER VALLEY) MUST PASS. TERRORISTS NEARLY SUCCEEDED IN DOWNING "ANCHE" BRIDGE, DAMAGING SEVEN OF STRUCTURE'S TEN SUPPORT BASES (IT IS NOW OUT

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OF COMMISSION, AND REPAIRS ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE BETTER PART OF A MONTH). BUT SENDERO DID NOT DO SO WELL AT NEARBY CHAUPICHACA BRIDGE. A POLICE PATROL SURPRISED SL SQUAD ENGAGED IN SYNCHRONIZED EFFORT THERE, WITH ONE SENDERISTA KILLED AND A SECOND CAPTURED IN CONSEQUENCE. DYNAMITE SENDERISTAS HAD PLANTED DID NOT GO OFF. SAME PROVED TRUE MORNING MARCH 12 AT TWO OTHER SITES IN (RURAL) LIMA DEPARTMENT. ONE INVOLVED SL ATTACK ON POLICE POST AT MATUCANA--IN SAME GENERAL AREA OF RAILROAD BRIDGES. SECOND INCIDENT OCCURRED IN BARRANCA, 200 KMS. NORTH OF CITY, AND INVOLVED MAJOR BRIDGE CARRYING PANAMERICAN HIGHWAY. IN BOTH INSTANCES, LUCK WAS WITH SECURITY FORCES, AND SL'S DYNAMITE CHARGES FAILED TO EXPLODE. JORDAN

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