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# Department of State

# TELEGRAM

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ACTION MCT-05

LIMA 04368 192246Z

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-05	SS-05	CIAE-00	NSCE-00
ARA-00	NSAE-00	SSO-00	SY-05	L-02	AMAD-01	TRSE-00	
PM-05	PA-02	INRE-00	CA-02	A-05	USSS-00	SYE-00	
FBIE-00	FAIM-01	/038 W					

-----101227 192247Z /38

P 192247Z APR 85  
 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3188  
 INFO USAFSO HOWARD AFB PN  
 AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
 DIA WASHDC  
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
 AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
 AMEMBASSY QUITO  
 USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN  
 USIA WASHDC 4043

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

OCT 3 1988

REVIEWED BY Pueg DATE \_\_\_\_\_

RELEASE  DECLASSIFY  
 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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TERREP

DIA FOR IR BRANCH; USIA FOR AR P/G M/S; PANAMA FOR ADS

E.O. 12356: DECL: 4/19/91  
 TAGS: PTER, ALOW, PE  
 SUBJECT: SENDERO ADDS ELECTION POST-SCRIPT

i. (LOU) FOR SECOND TIME IN 1985, SENDERO LUMINOSO (SL) TERRORISTS STRUCK AT METROPOLITAN LIMA'S ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION SYSTEM, BLACKING OUT CAPITAL AREA SHORTLY BEFORE 8 P.M. APRIL 18. WHILE NO EXACT MEASURE IS AVAILABLE, OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT THIS BLACKOUT WAS MORE SEVERE THAN THAT OCCURRING FEB. 4 (DURING POPE'S VISIT--LIMA 1421), BUT LESS SO THAN NEXT-MOST-RECENT

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BLACKOUT ON NOV. 5 (84 LIMA 13029 AND 13253). AS TENDS

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TO BE CASE UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, INFORMATION IS BOTH INCOMPLETE AND CONFUSED. APRIL 19 LIMA NEWSPAPERS ARE REFERRING TO BETWEEN 4-6 DYNAMITED TRANSMISSION TOWERS, WITH SOME REPORTS OF SHOOTING AT SCATTERED SPOTS IN CITY. DYNAMITINGS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN CONFINED TO REGION ALONG CENTRAL HIGHWAY EAST OF LIMA WHERE AFFECTED TOWERS ARE LOCATED (I.E. BLACKOUT APPARENTLY WAS NOT RPT NOT ACCOMPANIED BY SL-PERPETRATED INCIDENTS ELSEWHERE IN CITY).

2. (LOU) WHILE APRIL 18 BLACKOUT INCONVENIENCED CITY'S SEVERAL MILLION RESIDENTS, NO CASUALTIES HAVE BEEN REPORTED. ON APRIL 17, HOWEVER, ONE MORE LIMA POLICEMAN (GUARDIA CIVIL--GC) WAS CUT DOWN. INCIDENT OCCURRED IN BROAD DAYLIGHT, IN MIDDLE-CLASS SURBURBAN DISTRICT OF SURCO. INFORMATION AVAILABLE IS INSUFFICIENT TO LABEL IT AS ONE MORE IN SERIES OF COP KILLINGS (SEE LIMA 3490, 2891, 2750, 473) ATTRIBUTABLE TO SENDERO; COMMON CRIMINALS ALSO SHOOT POLICEMEN, AND CURRENT VICTIM MAY HAVE BEEN IN WRONG SPOT AT TIME OF AN INTENDED HOUSEBREAKING. NEVERTHELESS, TERRORIST CONNECTION CANNOT BE RULED OUT.

3. (C) COMMENT: BLACKOUT DEMONSTRATES (AS IF SUCH EVIDENCE WERE NEEDED) THAT SL REMAINS A LESS-THAN-CENTRAL, BUT MORE-THAN-PERIPHERAL, ELEMENT IN POLITICAL EQUATION IN PERU. TIMING COULD BE INTERPRETED AS SENDERO'S CALCULATED ANNOUNCEMENT TO VIRTUAL PRESIDENT-ELECT ALAN GARCIA THAT IT STILL IS AROUND, AND THAT IT NO MORE INTENDS TO COME TO TERMS WITH AN APRISTA GOVERNMENT THAN IT WAS INTERESTED IN DOING SO WITH GOVERNMENT OF FERNANDO BELAUNDE. WE SUSPECT, HOWEVER, THAT APRIL 18 OPERATION IS NOTHING MORE THAN ANOTHER IN SERIES OF SL EFFORTS TO DISRUPT ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN,  
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IS UNRELATED TO FIRST-ROUND ELECTION RESULTS, AND PROBABLY OCCURRED NOW (INSTEAD OF IN MORE SENSITIVE PERIOD PRIOR TO APRIL 14--SEE REFTTEL) BECAUSE OF RELAXED SECURITY PRECAUTIONS AROUND EXPOSED TOWERS. THE RENEWAL OF CAMPAIGNING, SHOULD GARCIA'S VOTE TOTAL REMAIN BELOW 50 PERCENT AND THEREBY REQUIRE A "SECOND ROUND," PROBABLY WILL STIMULATE MORE SUCH INCIDENTS. AS WITH CAMPAIGN THAT TERMINATED IN APRIL 14 ELECTIONS, HOWEVER, WE EXPECT SECURITY FORCES WILL BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC ORDER.

4. (C) IN FOOTNOTE TO NEWSPAPER AND WIRE SERVICE

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REPORTING ON PERUVIAN TERRORISM, WE CALL ATTENTION TO AN  
APRIL '14 ASSERTION THAT POLICE ON APRIL 13 FOUND  
AND DEACTIVATED A "POWERFUL BOMB WITH A MERCURY  
MECHANISM" IN DOWNTOWN LIMA'S PLAZA DE ARMAS. OUR FOLLOW-  
UP CHECK WITH GC BOMB SQUAD INDICATES THAT REPORT IS  
BUT ONE MORE IN SERIES OF SUCH JOURNALISTIC  
INVENTIONS. TO DATE, WE KNOW OF NO RPT NO VERIFIED  
INCIDENT DEMONSTRATING INCREASED SL SOPHISTICATION IN  
SUPPLY OR USE OF EXPLOSIVE DEVICES. JORDAN

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