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R 151528Z MAY 85 FH AMEMBASSY LIMA TO SECSTATE WASHOC 3775 INFO USAFSO HOWARD AFB PN AMEMBASSY BOGOTA AMEMBASSY CARACAS DIA WASHDC AMEMBASSY LA PAZ AMEMBASSY PANAMA AMEMBASSY QUITO USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN

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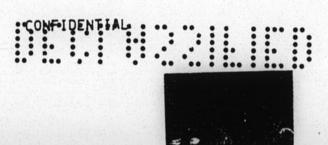
SUBJECT: GOP PLACES PROVINCE OF PASCO UNDER STATE OF EMERGENCY

REFS: (A) LIMA 5109, (B) LIMA 3763, (C) 84 LIMA 3698, V (D) DIA WASHINGTON DC//OS-1B// MESSAGE P 101200Z MAY 85

(U) IN REACTION TO MAY B ASSASSINATION OF APRISTA DEPUTY-ELECT LUIS AGUILAR NEAR HIGH SIERRA CITY OF CERRO DE PASCO (REF A), GOP ISSUED SUPREME DECREE MAY 11 THAT PLACED ENTIRE PROVINCE OF PASCO CONFIDENTIAL CONFIDENTIAL

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SUNDER A 60-DAY "STATE OF EMERGENCY." PASCO THUS JOINS



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NEIGHBORING PROVINCE OF DANIEL CARRION, WHERE PRE-EXISTING STATE OF EMERGENCY WAS RENEWED FOR ADDITIONAL 60 DAYS ON APRIL 4, AND SEVEN PROVINCES IN NEARBY DEPARTMENTS OF HUANUCO AND SAN MARTIN IN WHAT IS NOW A NINE-PROVINCE NORTH-CENTRAL SIERRA EMERGENCY ZONE (REF B).

- 2. (C) COMMENT: GOP HAS LEGITIMATE GROUNDS FOR ACTING IN PASCO, INASMUCH AS SENDERO LUMINOSO (SL) TERRORISTS HAVE BEEN OPERATING IN AREA FOR SOME TIME--AND, AS RECALLED IN REF A, WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR SHOOTING DEATH OF CITY'S MAYOR IN NOVEMBER 1983. WHAT IS NOT SO CLEAR IS EXTENT TO WHICH CURRENT SL ACTIVITY IN PROVINCE REPRESENTS AN INCREASE IN LEVEL OF TERRORIST VIOLENCE THERE OR IS SIMPLY A DISPLACEMENT EFFECT, THE CONSEQUENCE OF SENDERISTAS UNDER PRESSURE FROM SECURITY FORCES IN DANIEL CARRION AND SOUTHERN HUANUCO MOVING INTO "SAFER" TERRITORY TO OPERATE.
- 3. (C) TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, AGUILAR IS FIRST PROMINENT (OR SEMI-PROMINENT) APRISTA FIGURE TO HAVE BEEN VICTIMIZED BY SENDERO. AT LEAST UNTIL RECENTLY.

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IN INFORMAL COMMENT TO PRESS WHILE ATTENDING AGUILAR'S FUNERAL MAY 10. VIRTUAL FIRST VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT LUIS ALVA CASTRO SAID THAT NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD "UPROOT" TERRORISM, CONFRONTING PHENOMENON BOTH IN REGARD TO ITS MANIFESTATIONS AND SOCIAL-ECONOMIC CAUSES.

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4. (C) AS FOR OTHER RECENT SHOOTING INCIDENTS IN LIMA (REF A), ATTRIBUTION OF RESPONSIBILITY REMAINS UNCLEAR. SL REMAINS A PRIME SUSPECT IN CASE OF ELECTIONS BOARD HEAD GARCIA RADA, AND CANNOT BE ENTIRELY DISCOUNTED IN CASE OF TY PERSONALITY RICARDO BELMONT. IN LATTER CASE, HOMEVER, PRESS IS SPECULATING THAT BELMONT MAY HAVE BEEN VICTIM OF PERSONAL VENDETTA-FOR BUSINESS OR "PASSIONATE" REASONS-OR, FOR THAT MATTER, THE HAPPENSTANCE TARGET OF RANDOM BULLET FIRED BY GANG OF ROBBERS THAT HIT A NEARBY PHARMACY MINUTES EARLIER AND FLED IN HIS DIRECTION. BACKGROUND.)

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