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Director of Central Intelligence

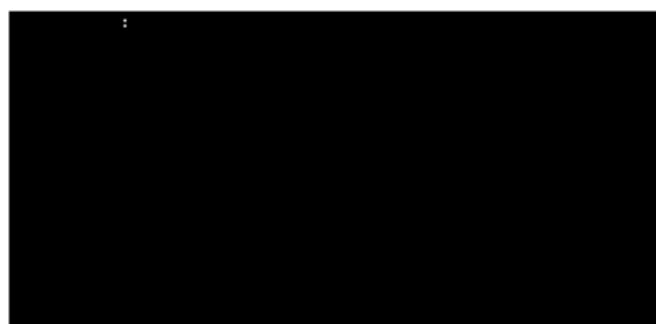
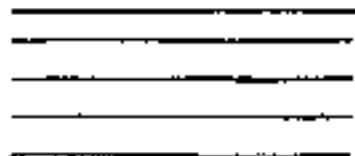


*CPAS NID 97-001CX*



# National Intelligence Daily

Thursday, 2 January 1997



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~~Top Secret~~  
2 January 1997

~~Top Secret~~**Developments****PERU:****Terrorists Renew Defiance**

Nestor Cerpa, the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) leader in the Japanese Ambassador's residence, renewed demands for the release of more than 400 colleagues and accused Lima of state terrorism in an impromptu press conference on Tuesday. He dismissed speculation that safe passage would suffice to end the crisis and boasted that the MRTA has succeeded in focusing world attention on poor conditions in Peruvian jails.

— Cerpa released seven hostages yesterday and two on Tuesday, *probably to balance his harsh rhetoric and to discourage government action against the compound.*

— The Ambassador from Bolivia—another country holding MRTA terrorists—is the only hostage who is not a Peruvian or Japanese national.

The government had given the media permission to approach the Ambassador's residence but not to enter. Lima subsequently complained that the media allowed the terrorists to present distorted views.

— *The inability of police to prevent the press conference indicates officials are still having problems managing the situation.*

*Cerpa's defiant comments and the news conference fiasco probably will harden President Fujimori's position on terrorist demands. The government, however, is likely to continue talks to get more releases and to gain time to refine plans for a possible assault.*

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[REDACTED]**Current Notes****AMERICAS****Chile:****Terrorists Escape From Prison** [REDACTED]

Four members of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR) on Monday escaped from a maximum security prison in Santiago, according to press reports. FPMR members posing as tourists hijacked a helicopter and picked up the inmates from the prison's outdoor recreation area.

- Among the escapees was Mauricio Hernandez Norambuena, the FPMR's second in command, who was serving a life sentence for masterminding the assassination in 1991 of a rightwing Chilean congressman. [REDACTED]

The FPMR, as an armed wing of the Chilean Communist Party, waged a terrorist campaign against the Pinochet government during the 1980s. Since then, the government's push for national reconciliation and its counterterrorist successes have driven most of the group's membership into inactivity or prison.

- This past weekend, a person claiming to be affiliated with the FPMR publicly threatened to retaliate against the US, Japanese, or Peruvian Embassies in Santiago if any of the MRTA terrorists holding the Japanese Ambassador's residence in Lima are killed. [REDACTED]