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PERU: MRTA TERRORISTS CONSIDER A CHANGE IN TACTICS

Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) leaders believe that the organization must carry out more spectacular operations, including selective assassinations and a series of kidnappings of "businessmen and North American diplomats," to reestablish itself in Lima and raise much needed funds, according to a clandestine source. MRTA feels upstaged by recent Sendero Luminoso (SL) armed operations in the capital and fears SL's may be seeking to recruit potential MRTA members.

INR Comment: Recent reports that Sendero is broadening its urban base suggest that MRTA may feel threatened by the larger SL. MRTA, however, is more likely to resort first to kidnappings than assassinations given the group's apparent policy of avoiding casualties. MRTA has been relatively inactive since last year largely because of the government's increased efforts against the group.

Drafted: INR/TNA: TStater

5/10/88 0787s X78318

Approved: INR/TNA: MSteinitz

Cleared: INR/IAA: JBuelow

95D059  
Box 10  
88 MRTA