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| INFO | LOG-00  | ACDA-17 | ACDE-00 | AID-01  | ARA-01  | A-01    | CA-02   |
|      | CCO-00  | CG-00   | CIAE-00 | COME-00 | CTME-00 | OASY-00 | DOEE-00 |
|      | DOTE-00 | DS-00   | EB-01   | FAAE-00 | FBIE-00 | H-01    | IMMC-01 |
|      | TEDE-00 | INR-00  | INSE-00 | JUSE-00 | L-01    | ADS-00  | M-00    |
|      | NRCE-00 | NSAE-00 | NSCE-00 | OCS-06  | OIS-01  | PA-01   | PM-00   |
|      | PRS-01  | P-01    | SSO-00  | SS-00   | TRSE-00 | USIE-00 | USSS-00 |
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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3795  
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E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR  
TAGS: PTER, PE  
SUBJECT: PERUVIAN POLICE CAPTURE HIGH-LEVEL  
MEMBERS OF SENDERO LUMINOSO

CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARRESTED

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1. (U) PERUVIAN COUNTERTERRORISM POLICE CAPTURED SEVERAL HIGH-RANKING MEMBERS OF THE SENDERO LUMINOSO (SL) TERRORIST GROUP ON MARCH 22, ACCORDING TO A MARCH 23 ANNOUNCEMENT BY PRESIDENT ALBERTO FUJIMORI. AMONG THOSE ARRESTED WAS SL CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER MARGIE CLAVO PERALTA (ALIAS "COMRADE NANCY"). FUJIMORI TOLD JOURNALISTS IN PUCALLPA THAT TWENTY TERRORISTS

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WERE CAPTURED ALTOGETHER IN A COORDINATED OPERATION THAT TOOK PLACE IN LIMA, CALLAO, HUANCAYO AND AREQUIPA. (VARIOUS PRESS REPORTS HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY PUT THE NUMBER OF DETAINEES AT ANYWHERE FROM 18 TO 30.)

2. (U) THE FORTY-ONE-YEAR-OLD CLAVO WAS ONE OF THE FOUNDING MEMBERS OF SL AND PART OF ITS POLITBURO. AMONG OTHER THINGS, SHE HAD BEEN IN CHARGE OF SL'S SOUTHERN REGIONAL COMMITTEE, WHICH INCLUDED THE DEPARTMENTS OF ICA, AREQUIPA, MOQUEGUA, PUNO, CUZCO AND TACNA, AND LATER BECAME THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S MILITARY COMMANDER. SHE WAS CLOSE TO THE HIGHEST-RANKING SL LEADER STILL AT LARGE, OSCAR ALBERTO RAMIREZ DURAND (ALIAS "FELICIANO"), WHO WAS HER FRIEND SINCE THEIR UNIVERSITY DAYS. CLAVO WAS ARRESTED IN HUANCAYO. HER COMMON-LAW HUSBAND, JORGE OLIVARES DEL CARPIO, WAS CAPTURED IN CALLAO THE SAME DAY, IN A HOUSE HE HAD ONLY RENTED SOME FORTY DAYS BEFORE; HE WAS REPORTEDLY THE

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 SOUTHERN REGIONAL COMMITTEE MILITARY COMMANDER. AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE 40-YEAR-OLD OLIVARES DEL CARPIO IS BELIEVED RESPONSIBLE FOR PLANNING THE MARCH 1993 ESCAPE OF 35 TERRORISTS FROM CUZCO'S QUENQORO PRISON.

3. (U) OTHERS ARRESTED IN THE SAME OPERATION WERE RODOLFO CARDENAS RUIZ (ALIAS "GABRIEL"), REPORTEDLY THE MILITARY COMMANDER OF SL'S HUALLAGA COMMITTEE AND REPORTEDLY HEAVILY INVOLVED IN RAISING MONEY ABROAD FOR SL, AND RODOLFO MARTINEZ MUNOZ, THE POLITICAL COMMANDER IN THE CANGALLO ZONE, IN VICTOR FAJARDO PROVINCE, AYACUCHO DEPARTMENT.

RUMORS THAT "FELICIANO" IS IN CUSTODY  
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4. (U) THERE HAVE BEEN UNSUBSTANTIATED RUMORS, APPARENTLY STARTED BY A TELEVISION NEWS MAGAZINE SHOW, THAT "FELICIANO" WAS CAPTURED SEVERAL WEEKS AGO AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS WAITING TO MAKE THE ANNOUNCEMENT A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE

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APRIL 9 NATIONAL ELECTIONS. THE PROGRAM'S JOURNALISTS CLAIMED THE INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED BY A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE. ONE OPPOSITION CONGRESSMAN PICKED UP ON THE RUMOR AND ACCUSED THE GOVERNMENT OF IMMORAL AND ILLEGAL PRACTICES.

5. (C) COMMENT: THE CAPTURE OF CLAVO AND THE  
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 OTHER TERRORIST LEADERS -- THE RESULT OF A CAREFUL COUNTERTERRORISM POLICE OPERATION THAT REPORTEDLY WAS INITIATED IN AUGUST 1994 -- IS A MAJOR BLOW TO SL. (ACCORDING TO SOME MEDIA REPORTS, POLICE HAD CLAVO AND HER HUSBAND UNDER SURVEILLANCE FOR A FEW WEEKS, HOPING TO MAKE FURTHER CAPTURES, BUT WENT AHEAD AND ARRESTED THEM WHEN CLAVO ALERTED OLIVARES DEL CARPIO BY PHONE THAT SHE HAD NOTICED SHE WAS BEING FOLLOWED.) THE ARRESTS COME RIGHT AT A TIME WHEN THE ORGANIZATION WAS CONCENTRATING ON RECRUITMENT, BUT ALSO POSSIBLY GEARING UP FOR SOME ATTACKS IN THE FINAL WEEKS OF THE ELECTIONS. CLAVO, OLIVARES DEL CARPIO AND CARDENAS WERE AMONG THE MOST EXPERIENCED SL LEADERS. THEIR ARRESTS ARE A SERIOUS SETBACK FOR SENDERO AND SHOULD CONTRIBUTE TO HIGHER ELECTION SECURITY AS WELL AS RECALL TO VOTERS FUJIMORI'S SUCCESSES IN PACIFICATION. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION THAT WOULD SUBSTANTIATE THE RUMOR THAT "FELICIANO" HAS BEEN CAPTURED.  
 ADAMS

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