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ACTION SCT-00

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-05	ACDE-00	AID-00	AMAD-01	ARA-01	A-00
	CA-02	CCO-00	CG-00	CIAE-00	COME-00	CTME-00	OASY-00
	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	DS-00	EB-01	FAAE-00	IMMC-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	INSE-00	L-02	ADS-00	M-00	NRCE-00	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OCS-06	OIS-01	PA-02	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01
	SSO-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-01	PMB-00
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R 192119Z MAY 95
 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5016
 INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
 DIA WASHDC
 DIRFBI WASHDC
 AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
 AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
 AMEMBASSY QUITO

DEPARTMENT OF STATE IM/IPS/CR/IR Date: 9/11/97
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TERREP

DEPT ALSO FOR DS/OP/ARA, DS/DSS/ITA, DS/OSAC
 MONTEVIDEO FOR LEGATT
 SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PTER, ASEC, PGOV, AMGT, CASC, PE
SUBJECT: RECENT TERRORIST ACTIVITY IN PERU

1. SUMMARY: DESPITE A SPATE OF RECENT TERRORIST ATTACKS (MANY INSPIRED BY THE ELECTIONS AND THE TEMPORARY ABSENCE OF FORCES CONSIGNED TO THE ECUADOR BORDER FIGHTING), POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN PERU APPEARS TO BE CONTINUING TO DECLINE. MOST OF THE INCIDENTS HIGHLIGHTED BELOW -- INCURSIONS INTO VILLAGES, ASSASSINATIONS, GUERRILLA AMBUSHES OF MILITARY PATROLS -- HAVE OCCURRED IN THE COUNTRYSIDE (LITTLE VISITED BY NON-OFFICIAL AMERICANS), AND ARE CONCENTRATED ESPECIALLY THE UPPER HUALLAGA VALLEY. THE ARMED FORCES DISMISSED RUMORS (SPREAD IN PART BY A WIRE SERVICE) THAT "FELICIANO," SENDERO LUMINOSO'S HIGHEST-RANKING LEADER AT LARGE, WAS NEARLY CAPTURED BY AN ARMY PATROL IN MID-MAY. A MILITARY COURT CONVICTED MARGIE CLAVO, A RECENTLY-CAPTURED SENDERO LEADER, OF TREASON AND SENTENCED HER AND SEVERAL OTHERS TO LIFE IN PRISON. THE GOP HAS ISSUED AN ARREST WARRANT FOR TWO AMERICANS WHO VISITED PERU IN LATE 1994 AND ARE SUSPECTED OF PROVIDING POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO SENDERO LUMINOSO. END SUMMARY.

TERRORIST ATTACKS CONTINUE TO DECLINE

2. WHILE TERRORIST ATTACKS IN PERU HAVE NOT RECEIVED A LOT OF PUBLICITY SO FAR IN 1995,
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SENDERO LUMINOSO (SL) AND THE TUPAC AMARU
REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT HAVE CARRIED OUT A NUMBER
OF ACTIONS RECENTLY THAT LED ONE TERRORISM EXPERT
TO EXPRESS CONCERN OVER A "WORRISOME REACTIVATION,"
PARTICULARLY OF SL. NEVERTHELESS, SEVERAL NGO'S
THAT TRACK POLITICAL VIOLENCE HAVE INFORMED US
THAT THEIR STATISTICS SHOW THAT THE NUMBER OF
ATTACKS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1995 IS

SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER THAN WHAT IT WAS IN THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 1994. THE NGO WHOSE DATA ARE ON THE HIGH END, THE INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND NATIONAL DEFENSE RESEARCH (INIDEN), ESTIMATED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN AN AVERAGE OF TWO TERRORIST ATTACKS PER DAY SO FAR IN 1995, AND AN AVERAGE OF ONE DEATH PER DAY DUE TO TERRORISM. MOST OF THE TERRORIST INCIDENTS IN 1995 HAVE OCCURRED IN THE UPPER HUALLAGA VALLEY, THE MOUNTAIN PROVINCES OF LA LIBERTAD DEPARTMENT, THE EASTERN JUNGLE PROVINCES OF JUNIN DEPARTMENT, AND CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AYACUCHO DEPARTMENT.

RECENT ATTACKS

3. THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF SOME OF THE MORE RECENT TERRORIST INCIDENTS IN PERU, BASED ON INFORMATION FROM POLICE, THE MILITARY, THE MEDIA AND NGO'S:

-- THE NIGHT OF APRIL 26-27, TERRORISTS BOMBED A POWER PYLON LOCATED AT MOROCOCHA, JUNIN DEPARTMENT,
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BLACKING OUT THE CITY OF HUANCAYO AND OTHER TOWNS
IN THE DEPARTMENT.

-- ACCORDING TO AN ARMY COMMUNIQUE, A SENDERO COLUMN AMBUSHED TWO TRUCKS TRANSPORTING ARMY PERSONNEL ON THE ROAD TO AUCAYACU (NORTH OF TINGO MARIA, HUANUCO DEPARTMENT) ON MAY 7. THE STATEMENT SAID THAT 15 TERRORISTS WERE KILLED AND AN UNKNOWN NUMBER WOUNDED IN THE ENSUING FIGHT. FIVE SOLDIERS DIED AND THIRTEEN WERE WOUNDED.

-- ON MAY 8, ALLEGED SL TERRORISTS AMBUSHED A VEHICLE TRANSPORTING THE MAYOR OF THE DISTRICT OF YANACANCHA AND HIS WIFE ON THE ROAD TO CERRO DE PASCO (PASCO DEPARTMENT). THE DRIVER WAS WOUNDED, BUT THE PASSENGERS WERE UNHARMED.

-- ALSO ON MAY 8, ACCORDING TO A MILITARY COMMUNIQUE, A SHOOTOUT BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE 31ST INFANTRY DIVISION AND UNIDENTIFIED "NARCOTERRORISTS" IN THE ENE RIVER VALLEY, SATIPO PROVINCE, JUNIN DEPARTMENT, LEFT ONE SOLDIER DEAD, AND TWO WOUNDED.

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R 192119Z MAY 95
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5017
INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
DIA WASHDC
DIRFBI WASHDC

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY QUITO

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-- TWO SEPARATE ARMY PATROLS, ONE IN SOUTHEASTERN PASCO DEPARTMENT (NEAR VILLA RICA, OXAPAMPA PROVINCE) AND ONE IN NORTHEASTERN JUNIN DEPARTMENT (IN UBIRIQUE RAVINE NEAR PICHANAKI, CHANCHAMAYO PROVINCE) WERE AMBUSHED ON MARCH 11, ACCORDING TO A NEWS REPORT THAT CITED ARMY SOURCES. THE TERRORISTS, PRESUMED TO BE MEMBERS OF MRTA, ESCAPED; ONE SOLDIER IN EACH PATROL GROUP WAS INJURED.

-- PRESUMED SL MEMBERS ARMED WITH RIFLES BROKE INTO THE FACILITIES OF A MINE IN HUANCVELIVA DEPARTMENT AND STOLE 30 STICKS OF DYNAMITE, 40 IGNITION DEVICES AND 20 METERS OF FUSE ON MAY 10.

-- ACCORDING TO A NEWS REPORT, AN MRTA COLUMN ENTERED THE VILLAGE OF MIRICHARO IN CHANCHAMAYO PROVINCE, JUNIN DEPARTMENT, THE NIGHT OF MAY 14. THE TERRORISTS, WHO WERE REPORTEDLY ARMED WITH LONG-RANGE WEAPONS, REVOLVERS AND MACHETES, FORCED

VILLAGERS INTO THE TOWN SQUARE, WHERE THEY ASSASSINATED A LOCAL MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE.

-- ON MAY 14, A GROUP OF ARMED MEN WEARING SKI MASKS EMBROIDERED WITH HAMMERS AND SICKLES STOPPED A BUS IN IN-LAND ANCASH DEPARTMENT (ON THE HIGHWAY
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LEADING INLAND FROM CHIMBOTE) AND ROBBED MONEY AND BELONGINGS FROM 50 PASSENGERS. ACCORDING TO THE NEWS REPORT, THREE AMERICAN TOURISTS WERE ON BOARD AND WERE ALSO ROBBED (COMMENT: THIS MAY HAVE BEEN THE WORK OF COMMON ROBBERS MASQUERADING AS TERRORISTS TO INTIMIDATE THEIR VICTIMS. THE CONSULAR SECTION HAS RECEIVED NO REPORT OF ANY AMCITS INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT. END COMMENT.)

-- AFTER MIDNIGHT MAY 15, A PRESUMED SL COLUMN OF APPROXIMATELY 20 MEMBERS ENTERED THE VILLAGE OF ALLCCOMACHAY IN AYACUCHO DEPARTMENT AND SHOT TWO VILLAGE LEADERS IN THE HEAD AT POINT-BLANK RANGE, THEN THREW THEIR BODIES ONTO THE HUANTA-HUANCAYO HIGHWAY.

-- ACCORDING TO A NEWS REPORT, PRESUMED SL TERRORISTS BLEW UP A SECTION OF RAILROAD TRACK ALONG THE ACOSTAMBO-HUANCAYO ROUTE IN JUNIN DEPARTMENT ON MAY 17, AND PLACED MORE EXPLOSIVES AT BOTH SIDES OF THE ACOSTAMBO TUNNEL. A PASSENGER TRAIN WAS ABLE TO STOP IN TIME BEFORE HITTING THE DAMAGED TRACK. A NOTE WITH SUBVERSIVE SLOGANS WAS FOUND AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE TUNNEL.

RUMORS OF FELICIANO'S NEAR-CAPTURE PROVE FALSE

4. THE EFE WIRE SERVICE REPORTED ON MAY 15 THAT, ACCORDING TO AN UNNAMED MILITARY SOURCE, AN ARMY PATROL AND A SENDERO COLUMN CLASHED IN THE VILLAGE
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OF DURANMARCA, VILCASHUAMAN PROVINCE, AYACUCHO
DEPARTMENT. ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, THE
HIGHEST-RANKING SL LEADER STILL AT LARGE, OSCAR
ALBERTO RAMIREZ DURAN ("COMRADE FELICIANO"), WAS
INJURED AND NEARLY CAPTURED DURING THE ARMY
OFFENSIVE. THE STORY ALSO REPORTED THAT 20
SENDERISTAS WERE KILLED IN THE CLASH. LATER THAT
EVENING, THE DIRECTOR OF THE ARMED FORCES JOINT
COMMAND'S INFORMATION DEPARTMENT DENIED THAT
SOLDIERS HAD WOUNDED DURAN. "THIS IS A FALSE
REPORT DISSEMINATED BY A PRANKSTER," THE GENERAL
ANNOUNCED, ADDING THAT THE ARMED FORC
ES HAD NOT
RECEIVED ANY REPORTS OF A CLASH.

MARGIE CLAVO GETS LIFE

5. ON MAY 11, THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF MILITARY
JUSTICE COMPLETED ITS TRIAL OF MARGIE EVELYN CLAVO,
THE SL CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER ARRESTED EARLIER
THIS YEAR. CLAVO WAS CONVICTED OF TREASON AND
SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON. FIVE OTHERS CAPTURED
IN THE SAME OPERATION, INCLUDING CLAVO'S
COMMON-LAW HUSBAND JORGE OLIVARES DEL CARPIO, WERE

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R 192119Z MAY 95
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ALSO GIVEN LIFE TERMS. SEVERAL OTHER TERRORISTS IN THE SAME CASE WERE GIVEN SENTENCES RANGING FROM 20 TO 30 YEARS IN PRISON. CLAVO WILL SERVE HER SENTENCE AT THE YANAMAYO MAXIMUM-SECURITY PRISON IN PUNO DEPARTMENT.

AMERICANS ACCUSED OF COOPERATING WITH SL

6. ACCORDING TO TWO TELEVISION NEWS MAGAZINE PROGRAMS, A PERUVIAN JUDGE HAS ISSUED ARREST WARRANTS FOR TWO AMERICANS, FRANK HILL AND ROBERT PARSONS, WHO VISITED PERU IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 1994 AND ALLEGEDLY PARTICIPATED IN MEETINGS WITH SENDERO LUMINOSO MEMBERS. THE T.V. JOURNALISTS CLAIMED THAT POLICE HAD KNOWLEDGE THAT THE TWO AMERICANS HAD MET WITH MEMBERS OF FELICIANO'S RED PATH FACTION IN AUCAYACU (HUANUCO DEPARTMENT). HILL AND PARSONS (NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED) WERE SUSPECTED OF PROVIDING POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR SENDERO ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNIST PARTY AND THE INTERNATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT. WE UNDERSTAND FROM SEPARATE SOURCES THAT THE TWO WOULD INDEED BE ARRESTED IF THEY EVER RETURNED TO PERU.

7. COMMENT: MANY OF THE SL ATTACKS IN MID-MAY
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COULD HAVE BEEN PART OF A SENDERO ATTEMPT TO COMMEMORATE THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BEGINNING OF ITS "ARMED STRUGGLE" (ON ELECTION DAY, MAY 17, 1980, A GROUP OF ARMED SENDERISTAS ENTERED THE TOWN OF CHUSCHI, AYACUCHO AND BURNED VOTING URNS). THE ATTACKS ARE VERY MUCH REDUCED (IN BOTH NUMBER AND SIZE) FROM "COMMEMORATIVE" ASSAULTS STAGED IN PREVIOUS YEARS PRIOR TO THE CAPTURE OF SL FOUNDER

ABIMAEEL GUZMAN IN 1992. MOST OBSERVERS AGREE THAT THE FUTURE LOOKS BLEAK FOR SENDERO. HOWEVER, MANY ALSO AGREE THAT SENDERO REMAINS IN A RECRUITING AND REGROUPING MODE AND THUS CARRYING OUT MILITARY ACTIONS AND TERRORIST ATTACKS IS NOT CONSIDERED A HIGH PRIORITY FOR THE ORGANIZATION AT PRESENT.
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED