

UNCLAS

** NARRATIVE MESSAGE **

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DAN=404-132330

>>> R O U T I N E <<<

TOR = 071458Z FEB 96

ACTION = [TCC,SVC]	DAW(-)	DEA(1)	MXI(-)	POLAD(1)
	SCCS(1)	SCJ3(1)	SCJ5(1)	SCRF(1)
	SIMS(-)			

INFO =

[TCC,SVC]TOTAL COPIES = 85 MDC = AUTO

RTTUZYUW RUEHPEA1080 0381352-UUUU--RHLBAAA.

ZNR UUUUU ZZH

R 071352Z FEB 96

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9391

/INFO RHLBAAA/USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM

RUEHFB/DIRFBI WASHDC

RUEKDIA/DIA WASHDC

RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC

RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 6909

RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 6593

RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ 0102

RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 8435

BT

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TERREP

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

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PTER, ASEC, AMGT, CASC, PE, BL

SUBJECT: DEFIANT TERRORIST LEADER SENDS VIDEO TO
MEDIA; ROUNDUP OF RECENT TERRORIST
INCIDENTS

REF: 95 LIMA 11076

1. SUMMARY: IN A VIDEOTAPE DELIVERED TO THE
OFFICES OF A LIMA NEWSPAPER, TUPAC AMARU
REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT (MRTA) LEADER NESTOR CERPA

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CLAIMED THE TERRORIST ORGANIZATION WAS REGROUPING AND WOULD NOT GIVE UP ITS ARMED STRUGGLE. HE ADMITTED THE MRTA HAD PLANNED TO SEIZE CONTROL OF THE CONGRESS BUILDING IN DECEMBER; THE SCHEME (WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS WELL-INTENTIONED) WAS THWARTED WHEN THE MAIN PLANNERS/PARTICIPANTS WERE CAPTURED BY POLICE. A NUMBER OF RECENT TERRORIST ATTACKS, MOSTLY IN RURAL AREAS, SUGGESTS THAT BOTH GROUPS HAVE THE PRESENCE AND THE CAPABILITY IN CERTAIN AREAS OF THE COUNTRY TO CARRY OUT RECRUITING, THE GATHERING OF RESOURCES, AND INCURSIONS INTO POPULATED AREAS. END SUMMARY.

MRTA LEADER TRIES TO JUSTIFY TERRORIST PLANS

2. ACCORDING TO THE FEBRUARY 5 EDITION OF THE LIMA DAILY "LA REPUBLICA," A VIDEOTAPE CONTAINING A RECORDING OF A DISCOURSE BY TERRORIST LEADER NESTOR CERPA CARTOLINI WAS DELIVERED TO THE NEWSPAPER'S OFFICES. THE VIDEO SHOWS CERPA -- THE HIGHEST-RANKING MEMBER OF THE TUPAC AMARU REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT (MRTA) STILL AT LARGE -- IN MILITARY GARB, SITTING IN FRONT OF AN MRTA FLAG AND FLANKED BY TWO HOODED MILITANTS CARRYING RIFLES. AMONG CERPA'S ASSERTIONS IN THE RECORDING WERE:

-- THE MRTA DOES NOT MAINTAIN TIES WITH NARCOTRAFFICKERS;

-- THE MRTA IS REGROUPING, BOTH POLITICALLY AND MILITARILY, AND COMBATANTS ARE BEING TRAINED; AND

-- THE MRTA DOES NOT INTEND TO GIVE UP ITS ARMED STRUGGLE.

3. CERPA ADMITTED BEFORE THE CAMERA THAT THE MRTA HAD BEEN PLANNING TO TAKE THE PERUVIAN CONGRESS AND HOLD ITS MEMBERS HOSTAGE IN DECEMBER, AND THAT THIS PLAN HAD BEEN FOILED BY THE NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 1 ARRESTS OF SOME TWO DOZEN MRTA LEADERS IN LIMA

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(REFTEL). ACCORDING TO CERPA, THE SUBVERSIVE GROUP PLANNED TO HOLD MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AS "PRISONERS OF WAR" WHOSE RIGHTS WOULD HAVE BEEN PROTECTED UNDER THE GENEVA CONVENTION; THEIR RELEASE WOULD HAVE COME ONLY IN EXCHANGE FOR THE GOP'S FULFILLMENT OF SEVERAL MRTA DEMANDS. THOSE DEMANDS -- CERPA'S JUSTIFICATION FOR THE ACTION -- WOULD HAVE INCLUDED THE REPEAL OF THE 1995 AMNESTY LAW THAT FORGAVE ALL HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATORS; THE "REESTABLISHMENT OF LABOR STABILITY AND UNION RIGHTS; THE ABANDONMENT OF THE LAND LAW; THE DISCONTINUATION OF NEOLIBERAL (ECONOMIC) POLICIES AND THE LETTER OF INTENTION TO THE IMF; THE END OF GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION IN THE UNIVERSITIES; AND THE RELEASE OF ALL MRTA LEADERS AND COMBATANTS." CERPA ADDED THAT THE MRTA CONSIDERS THAT IT HAS A "RIGHT" TO LIBERATE ITS IMPRISONED MEMBERS AND WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK ON ACHIEVING THIS OBJECTIVE. IN ANY CASE, HE WENT ON, EVEN IF THE MOVEMENT'S MEMBERS ARE SENTENCED TO LIFE, THERE WILL ALWAYS BE OTHERS WILLING TO TAKE UP THE CAUSE.

4. IN CLOSING, CERPA DEMANDED AN END TO THE "PERSECUTION" OF PERUVIAN CITIZENS IN BOLIVIA AND OF ACTIVISTS OF THE BOLIVIAN WORKERS FEDERATION.
RECENT TERRORIST INCIDENTS

5. A SPATE OF RECENT TERRORIST INCIDENTS INDICATES THAT BOTH MRTA AND SENDERO LUMINOSO (SL) REMAIN ACTIVE, PRINCIPALLY IN PROVINCIAL REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY. THE UPPER HUALLAGA VALLEY AND EASTERN JUNIN DEPARTMENT CONTINUE TO BE THE MOST VIOLENT AREAS IN PERU. AMONG THE MOST RECENT INCIDENTS:
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— ACCORDING TO POLICE, ON JANUARY 4 IN LIMA, SUSPECTED SL TERRORISTS DETONATED A SMALL EXPLOSIVE DEVICE (500 GRAMS OF DYNAMITE) AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE OF "EDELSUR" (LIMA'S ELECTRIC COMPANY) IN THE VILLA MARIA DEL TRIUNFO DISTRICT, WOUNDING A WATCHMAN AND CAUSING DAMAGE TO THE FRONT OF THE BUILDING. THREE NIGHTS LATER, A SIMILAR DEVICE WAS DETONATED AT THE GARAGE DOOR OF THE HOME OF A POLICE NCO IN LIMA'S SANTA ANITA DISTRICT. THE POLICEMAN, WHO IS ASSIGNED TO THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE SECURITY DETAIL, AND FOUR MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY WERE SLIGHTLY WOUNDED. AUTHORITIES SUSPECT SENDERO.

— ON JANUARY 20, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, A COLUMN OF AN ESTIMATED 100 SL MEMBERS ATTACKED THE VILLAGE OF SELVA VIRGEN, RIO TAMBO DISTRICT, SATIPO PROVINCE, IN EASTERN JUNIN DEPARTMENT. TWO TERRORISTS WERE KILLED AND AN UNKNOWN NUMBER WOUNDED IN AN ENSUING SHOOTOUT WITH POLICE. ANOTHER ATTEMPTED SL INCURSION INTO THE SAME VILLAGE FOUR DAYS LATER RESULTED IN THE DEATHS OF FIVE TERRORISTS AND THREE MEMBERS OF THE PEASANT SELF-DEFENSE PATROL (RONDA).

— ON JANUARY 24, AN SL COLUMN OF SOME 80 MEMBERS INVADDED THE COMMUNITY OF MIRAFLORES, SAN MARTIN DE PANGOA DISTRICT, ALSO IN SATIPO PROVINCE, JUNIN DEPARTMENT. ACCORDING TO A PRESS REPORT, THE GROUP KILLED TWO AND WOUNDED THREE, AND STOLE FOOD, CLOTHES AND SHOTGUNS FROM THE LOCAL RONDA.

— THE SAME DAY, ACCORDING TO A MEDIA REPORT, NATIONAL POLICE COLONEL JUAN GONZALES WAS AMBUSHED ON THE PATIVILCA-HUARAZ HIGHWAY IN ANCASH

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DEPARTMENT. HE AND HIS DRIVER MANAGED TO ESCAPE UNHARMED; ONE OF THE ATTACKERS REPORTEDLY DIED IN THE INCIDENT, AND THE OTHERS ESCAPED. COL. GONZALES LED THE NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 1 OPERATION THAT CAPTURED MRTA LEADER MIGUEL RINCON AND OTHERS IN LIMA (REFTEL). IT IS UNKNOWN WHETHER THE ASSAILANTS IN THIS INCIDENT WERE MEMBERS OF MRTA OR SL; THEY MAY HAVE BEEN COMMON CRIMINALS.

COMMENT

6. CERPA'S VIDEO APPEARANCE IS NOT THE FIRST TIME THAT MRTA -- OR SENDERO -- HAS USED SUCH A FORMAT TO PASS ALONG MESSAGES TO THE MEDIA AND THE PUBLIC; THIS TECHNIQUE HAS BEEN USED BY BOTH GROUPS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. CERPA'S ADMISSIONS IN THE RECORDING ARE INTRIGUING. INTER ALIA, HE ACKNOWLEDGES MISTAKES MADE BY MRTA LEADERS. HIS CLAIM THAT THE MRTA DOES NOT HAVE TIES TO NARCOTRAFFICKING IS MISLEADING; REPORTS SUGGEST THAT THE MRTA LIKELY CONTINUES TO EXTORT MONEY FROM NARCO INTERESTS, BUT PROBABLY ON A MUCH SMALLER SCALE THAN IT USED TO. CERPA HOPED THAT THE VIDEO MIGHT CONVINCE SOME VIEWERS OF THE SINCERITY OF THE MRTA'S GOALS (WHICH, HE CLAIMS, ARE NOT LIMITED TO ACHIEVING THE RELEASE OF IMPRISONED LEADERS, BUT EXTEND TO HELPING THE WORKERS, THE POOR AND VICTIMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSERS). WE BELIEVE THAT FEW PERUVIANS WOULD FIND THOSE CLAIMS CREDIBLE OR ATTRACTIVE.

7. THE SMALL BOMBS IN LIMA ARE UNDOUBTEDLY THE WORK OF SENDERO. PAST HISTORY SUGGESTS THESE "NUISANCE" DEVICES (WHICH IN SOME CASES HAVE BEEN DEADLY, BUT ARE MOSTLY DIRECTED AT LIGHTLY-GUARDED FACILITIES TO CAUSE PROPERTY DAMAGE) MAY BE MISSIONS TO TRAIN CADRE IN THE USE OF EXPLOSIVES. EASTERN JUNIN DEPARTMENT CONTINUES TO BE EXTREMELY DANGEROUS; BOTH SL AND MRTA ARE KNOWN TO HAVE STRONGHOLDS IN THE JUNGLE AREAS THERE.

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