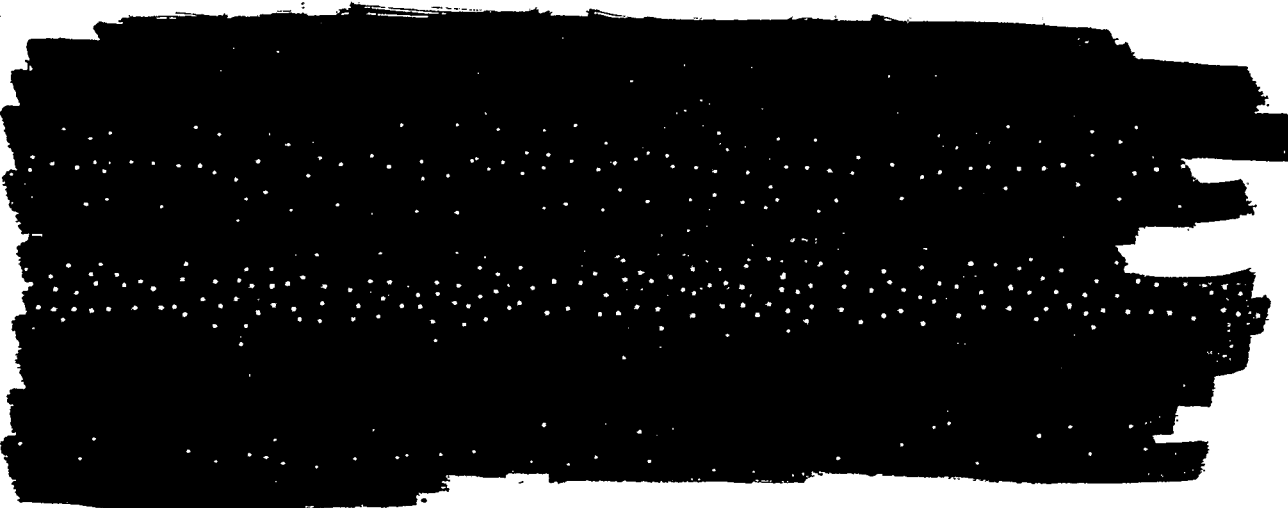


SECTION II

X. PERU: NUMBER 2 LEADER OF MRTA SURRENDERS

(U) MIGUEL RINCON, AKA "FRANCISCO" OR "EDGARDO", THE NUMBER TWO LEADER OF THE TUPAC AMARU REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT (MRTA) WAS CAPTURED DURING AN ANTI-MRTA OPERATION CONDUCTED BY JOINT PERUVIAN FORCES ON 01 DEC. THE OPERATION WAS UNDER CONTROL OF THE PERUVIAN NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) WITH SUPPORT OF THE PERUVIAN ARMY, NAVY, AND AIR FORCE. RINCON REPORTEDLY SURRENDERED FOLLOWING A VIOLENT FIREFIGHT THAT BEGAN THE PREVIOUS NIGHT AT APPROXIMATELY 2130 HOURS WHEN POLICE SURROUNDED A HOUSE IN THE UPPER-MIDDLE CLASS NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE "LA MOLINA" DISTRICT OF LIMA, PERU.



(U) ALTHOUGH THE FIGURES REPORTED IN MEDIA SOURCES DIFFER, IT APPEARS THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF MRTA MEMBERS CAPTURED WAS 20 IN ADDITION TO RINCON. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DEAD IS REPORTED AS ONE POLICEMAN AND FOUR MRTA, THERE WERE ALSO NINE POLICE AND THREE TERRORISTS WOUNDED. AS EVIDENCE THAT THE MRTA IS RECEIVING INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT THE PRESS POINTS OUT THAT FIVE OF THE TWENTY CAPTURED MRTA WERE FOREIGNERS; TWO WERE FROM CHILE, ONE FROM BOLIVIA, ONE FROM THE UNITED STATES (SOME SOURCES SAID PUERTO RICO), AND ONE FROM PANAMA. POLICE FOUND A SUBSTANTIAL CACHE OF WEAPONS, EXPLOSIVES, AND MUNITIONS IN THE HOUSE WHICH WAS BEING USED BY THE MRTA AS A LOGISTICS BASE. ACCORDING TO OPEN SOURCES, THE CACHE OF ARMS INCLUDED 25 FAL AND AKM RIFLES, 100 GRENADES, DYNAMITE, A MORTAR, AND ABOUT 50,000 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION.

(U) RINCON IS CONSIDERED THE POLITICO-IDEOLOGICAL HEAD OF THE MRTA AND SECOND ONLY TO NESTOR CERPA CARTOLINI, AKA "COMANDANTE EVARISTO". THE FORMER NUMBER ONE OF THE MRTA, VICTOR POLAY CAMPOS, AKA "COMANDANTE ROLANDO", IS CURRENTLY SERVING A

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LIFE SENTENCE AT THE PRISON ON THE NAVAL BASE OF CALLAO. RINCON PROBABLY FACES THE SAME FATE. POLICE HAD CAPTURED RINCON IN APR 89 BUT HAD TO RELEASE HIM IN SEPT 89 DUE TO A JUDICIAL FINDING OF INSUFFICIENT PROOF FOR TERRORISM CHARGES. RINCON HELPED POLAY AND OTHERS FOUND THE MRTA IN 1984. AFTER THE CAPTURE OF SEVERAL OF HIS COMRADES, RINCON ASSUMED COMMAND OF THE "FUERZA ESPECIAL" OF THE MRTA, AN ELITE GROUP ENTRUSTED WITH CARRYING OUT THE MOST IMPORTANT OPERATIONS. RINCON IS BELIEVED TO HAVE PERSONALLY CARRIED OUT SEVERAL ASSASSINATIONS AND KIDNAPPINGS. HE IS CONSIDERED THE MASTERMIND OF THE KILLINGS OF RETIRED ARMY GENERAL ENRIQUE LOPEZ ALBUJAR, JUDGE ALBERTO RUIZ TRIGOSO, BUSINESSMAN DAVID BALLON VERA AND BUSINESSMAN PEDRO MIYASATO. WHEN CAPTURED, RINCON POSSESSED A FALSE VENEZUELAN PASSPORT.

(U) ONE OF THE MOST SURPRISING REVELATIONS DISCOVERED BY THE PNP AS A RESULT OF INTERROGATIONS OF THIS MRTA GROUP IS THAT THE LARGE WEAPONS ARSENAL WAS INTENDED FOR USE IN DECEMBER OPERATIONS IN LIMA. IN STATEMENTS MADE TO OPEN SOURCES, PRESIDENT ALBERTO FUJIMORI SAID THAT MOST NOTABLY THE GROUP INTENDED TO CONDUCT A LARGE OPERATION AGAINST CONGRESS, SEIZING HOSTAGES AND DEMANDING THE RELEASE OF IMPRISONED FELLOW-MRTA TERRORISTS. AMONG THE CAPTURED DOCUMENTS WAS A SKETCH OF PLAZA BOLIVAR LOCATED IN FRONT OF THE LEGISLATIVE PALACE. THE SKETCH INCLUDED THE LOCATION OF POLICE GUARD POSTS AND A SERIES OF ARROWS WHICH HAVE NOT YET BEEN DECIPHERED. ACCORDING TO THE PLAN, THE MRTA WOULD ATTACK A PRESTIGIOUS STORE IN LIMA TO DISTRACT POLICE AND THEN ATTACK CONGRESS. POLICE ALSO FOUND PICTURES OF MRTA DRESSED IN POLICE UNIFORMS WITH "P.M." ARM BANDS, SIMILAR TO THOSE USED BY GUARDS, WHICH THE MRTA PROBABLY INTENDED TO USE IN THE ATTACK AGAINST THE CONGRESS.

(U) J2 COMMENTS: THE CAPTURE OF RINCON AND OF A SIZEABLE MRTA ARSENAL HAS DEALT A HARD BLOW TO THE MRTA ORGANIZATION. ADDITIONALLY, THE GOOD PRESS IS INVALUABLE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE POLICE HIERARCHY AT A TIME WHEN THE POLICE AND THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR ARE UNDER THE GUN FOR MISUSING CONFISCATED NARCOTRAFFICKER HOMES AND APARTMENTS. AFTER A SHORT PERIOD OF DETENTION BY THE POLICE, RINCON WILL BE PASSED TO THE MILITARY'S CUSTODY FOR TRIAL BY THE MILITARY COURTS. ACCORDING TO PERUVIAN LAW, ANY PERSON WHO BELONGS TO THE LEADERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION IS CHARGED WITH TREASON AND SUCH CASES FALL UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE MILITARY COURTS.

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THE MRTA HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR NUMEROUS ANTI-US
ATTACKS, THE LAST WAS THE BOMBING OF A US EMBASSY WAREHOUSE IN
LIMA IN NOVEMBER 1992.

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