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US DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Office of the Spokesman

For Immediate Release  
April 22, 1997

RELEASED IN FULL

PERU: RAID ON JAPANESE RESIDENCE

At approximately 4:30 pm this afternoon Peruvian security forces staged a raid on the Japanese Ambassador's Residence in Lima where members of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) had been holding 72 hostages.

While the fate of all of the hostages is unknown it is clear that there have been some casualties. The United States deeply regrets these injuries and any loss of life that may have occurred. Our thoughts are with the hostages and their families who are to be saluted for the courage they have shown throughout this difficult ordeal.

One thing is clear, the MRTA bears the full and complete responsibility for this outcome. This regrettable incident demonstrates once again the terrible costs of terrorism.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SAM A. MOSKOWITZ  
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PERU: RAID ON JAPANESE RESIDENCE

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Q: What is our reaction to the raids on the Japanese Ambassador's residence?

A: AT APPROXIMATELY 4:30 PM THIS AFTERNOON PERUVIAN SECURITY FORCES STAGED A RAID ON THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE IN LIMA WHERE MEMBERS OF THE TUPAC AMARU REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT (MRTA) HAVE BEEN HOLDING 72 HOSTAGES.

WHILE THE FATE OF ALL OF THE HOSTAGES IS UNKNOWN IT IS CLEAR THAT THERE HAVE BEEN SOME CASUALTIES. THE UNITED STATES DEEPLY REGRETS THESE INJURIES AND ANY LOSS OF LIFE THAT MAY HAVE OCCURRED. OUR THOUGHTS ARE WITH THE HOSTAGES AND THEIR FAMILIES WHO ARE TO BE SALUTED FOR THE COURAGE THEY HAVE SHOWN THROUGHOUT THIS DIFFICULT ORDEAL.

ONE THING IS CLEAR: MRTA BEARS FULL AND COMPLETE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS OUTCOME. THIS REGRETTABLE INCIDENT DEMONSTRATES ONCE AGAIN THE TERRIBLE COSTS OF TERRORISM.

Q: Do we support this use of force?

A: FROM THE BEGINNING, THE BURDEN OF RESOLVING THIS ISSUE RESTED WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF PERU. I CERTAINLY WOULD NOT WANT TO SECOND GUESS THEIR ACTIONS.

HOWEVER, LET US REMEMBER THAT THE ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS TERRIBLE INCIDENT RESTS SQUARELY WITH THE MRTA HOSTAGE TAKERS.

Q: Did the U.S. get advance warning from the Peruvian Government?

NO.

Q: Did the U.S. participate or advice the Peruvian Government?

A: NO.