

ARA PRESS GUIDANCE
APRIL 25, 1997

RELEASED IN FULL

PERU: UPDATE ON MRTA HOSTAGE SITUATION

Q. Can you comment on reports that the GOP rescue team might have executed at least one of the hostage takers and killed two others who were attempting to surrender?

A. AS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY STATED, THE UNITED STATES DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE RESCUE OPERATION AT THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE. WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO SPEAK AUTHORITATIVELY AS TO THE DETAILS OF THAT OPERATION.

AS WE HAVE SAID, THE GOP BORE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEALING WITH THIS DIFFICULT SITUATION. IT MADE THE DECISIONS IT FELT NECESSARY UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

WE SHOULD REMEMBER THAT THE MRTA BEARS FULL AND COMPLETE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE EVENTS THAT OCCURRED.

UNCLASSIFIED

DRAFTED: ARA/AND:EKaska
E:\SEARAAND\ANDPE\PRESS425.DOC 4/25/97 x7-4177

CLEARED: S/CT:KBarmon
P:RSanders
ARA/AND:DPassage
DRL:AAriaga (info)

UNCLASSIFIED