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Current Class: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1997LIMA07077

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RELEASED IN PART
B6 Channel: n/a

PTQ5697

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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	COME-00	CTME-00	OASY-00	DODE-00
	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	FAAE-00	IMMC-01
	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00	L-02	ADS-00	M-00	DCP-01
	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-03	OIS-01	PA-00	PM-00
	PRS-00	P-00	SSO-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-01
	PMB-00	DSCC-00	G-00	/018W			

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P 201116Z AUG 97
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9190
INFO CIA WASHINGTON DC
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
USIA WASHDC 3758
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
DIA WASHDC
DOJ WASHDC
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
DIRFBI WASHDC

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

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JUSTICE FOR TVCS -- J. LANCASTER
SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: 08/19/2007
TAGS: PTER, ASEC, AMGT, PE
SUBJECT: EXTORTION IN THE JUNGLE: "KINDER, GENTLER"
- SENDERO TAKES A DIFFERENT TACK

1. (U) ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, A COLUMN OF SHINING
PATH (SENDERO LUMINOSO-SL) MILITANTS RELEASED 30 EMPLOYEES

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: DONALD A. JOHNSTON
DATE/CASE ID: 21 DEC 2001 200103376

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OF THE GENERAL GEOPHYSICS COMPANY (CGG) AFTER HOLDING THEM CAPTIVE FOR TWO DAYS. CGG IS A CONTRACTOR IN THE EMPLOY OF THE TRANSNATIONAL FRENCH FIRM KNOWN AS "ELF." THE INITIAL PRESS REPORTS INDICATED THAT UPWARDS OF 60 SL TERRORISTS WERE INVOLVED IN THE KIDNAPPING. NUMBERS OF MILITANTS IN SUCH ATTACKS ARE TYPICALLY INFLATED; LATER REPORTS, INCLUDING INFORMATION FROM THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN LIMA AND PERU'S NATIONAL COUNTERTERRORISM POLICE (DINCOTE), PUT THE NUMBER OF SL INSURGENTS AT 15.

2. (U) THE SL OPERATIVES REPORTEDLY TOOK THE PETROLEUM WORKERS HOSTAGE AT ABOUT 1500 HRS. LOCAL ON AUGUST 15 AFTER FAILING TO CAPTURE A COMPANY HELICOPTER AT THE WORK SITE IN THE PROVINCE OF SATIPO, IN THE EASTERN PART OF JUNIN PROVINCE. LOCAL OBSERVERS SPECULATED THAT THE SL MAY HAVE SOUGHT THE HELICOPTER TO TRANSPORT CHIEF SL MILITARY STRATEGIST OSCAR RAMIREZ DURAND, ALIAS "FELICIANO," TO RECEIVE MEDICAL CARE. (NOTE: REPORTS HAVE SURFACED IN RECENT MONTHS THAT "FELICIANO" IS SUFFERING FROM "UTA," A SKIN DISEASE SPECIFIC TO THE JUNGLE AREAS OF THE ANDEAN REGION. "UTA" IS A FORM OF LEISHMANIASIS AND ITS SYMPTOMS

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 RESEMBLE THOSE OF LUPUS. END NOTE.)

3. (SBU) ACCORDING TO AN OFFICIAL [REDACTED] THE WORKERS, ALL PERUVIAN, WERE RELEASED UNHARMED AT ABOUT 1500 HRS. LOCAL ON AUGUST 17 IN EXCHANGE FOR A RANSOM CONSISTING OF FOOD, CLOTHING, AND FOOTWEAR. PRESS REPORTS NOTED THAT THE RANSOM PAYMENT INCLUDED MEDICINES AND A LARGE QUANTITY OF FLASHLIGHT BATTERIES. [REDACTED] SAID THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE CONDUCTED DIRECTLY WITH THE TERRORISTS BY ELF OFFICIALS VIA HF RADIO.

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4. (SBU) [REDACTED] WAS UNABLE TO CONFIRM PRESS REPORTS THAT THE POLITICAL-MILITARY LEADER OF THE EMERGENCY ZONE, ARMY GENERAL JOSE HUERTA TORRES, WAS ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH RESULTED IN THE RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES. NEITHER MILITARY NOR CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES WERE EAGER TO DISCUSS THE TERRORIST INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED NEAR THE ENE RIVER. LOCAL MILITARY FORCES ARE PURSUING THE SL COLUMN WHILE THE ELF-CGG OPERATION HAS SUSPENDED BUSINESS IN EASTERN JUNIN PROVINCE AND EVACUATED ITS EMPLOYEES; AT LEAST THROUGH THE REMAINDER OF AUGUST.

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5. (U) A MOBIL/SHELL CONSORTIUM EXPECTS TO BUILD A BILLION DOLLAR GAS PIPELINE FROM THE CAMISEA GAS FIELD IN MADRE DE DIOS PROVINCE TO LIMA SOMETIME EARLY NEXT CENTURY. THE PIPELINE WOULD TRANSVERSE THE AREA IN WHICH THE MOST RECENT TERRORIST INCIDENT OCCURRED. AN ELECTRIC POWER TRANSMISSION LINE ASSOCIATED WITH THE CAMISEA PROJECT PROBABLY WOULD NOT/PASS THROUGH THE AREA.

[REDACTED] AL

[REDACTED] AL

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6. (C) COMMENT: THE SL TERRORISTS APPEARED TO BE HEAVILY ARMED BUT DID NOT OPEN FIRE ON THE HELICOPTER OR THE HOSTAGES. THESE "KINDER, GENTLER" SL TACTICS, IN THE END SEEKING ONLY TO RESUPPLY THEIR FOLLOWERS IN THE JUNGLE, LIKELY SIGNAL THE DIFFICULTY SL HAS HAD IN SUPPORTING ITS FIELD OPERATIONS DURING A PERIOD OF REGROUPING AND RETHINKING ITS REVOLUTIONARY STRATEGY. WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE SL'S UNDERLYING PHILOSOPHY DIRECTED AT DESTRUCTION OF THE OLD ORDER TO PERMIT THE BIRTH IN PERU OF A NEW UTOPIAN COMMUNIST ORDER HAS CHANGED.

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