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SUBJECT: THOUSANDS MARCH TO COMMEMORATE FIRST
ANNIVERSARY OF MIRAFLORES SL CARBOMB

1. (U) SUMMARY: TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PERUVIANS
MARCHED FOR PEACE JULY 18 IN LIMA'S MIRAFLORES
DISTRICT. THEY PAUSED AT THE SITE OF ONE OF THE
SL'S WORST TERROR BOMBINGS ON THE FIRST
ANNIVERSARY OF THAT ATTACK. CHARGE AND EMBOFFS
PARTICIPATED. WHILE MUNICIPAL LEADERS AND
PROMINENT OPPOSITION POLITICIANS WALKED THE
ROUTE, GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES WERE NOTABLE
FOR THEIR ABSENCE.

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END SUMMARY.

MASSIVE MARCH FOR PEACE

2. (U) ACCORDING TO MEDIA ESTIMATES, BETWEEN 30,000 - 50,000 PERSONS PARTICIPATED IN A MARCH FOR PEACE ON SUNDAY, JULY 18. THE MARCH COMMEMORATED THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE SENDERO LUMINOSO TERRORIST CAR BOMBING ("LA TARATA") IN CENTRAL MIRAFLORES, LIMA'S UPSCALE OCEANSIDE DISTRICT. THE TWO-HOUR, HALF-MILE LONG GATHERING OF PARTICIPANTS CIRCLED MIRAFLORES ALONG A FIVE MILE ROUTE. MOST MARCHERS CARRIED HOMEMADE SIGNS. THE MUNICIPAL BAND AND A LOCAL SCHOOL ORCHESTRA SUPPLIED THE MUSIC; MARCHERS SUPPLIED THE CHANTS.

3. (U) CHARGE FORMED PART OF THE GUARD OF HONOR OF LIMA DISTRICT MAYORS AND CONSTITUENT CONGRESS MEMBERS WHO CARRIED A MASSIVE 20'X30' PERUVIAN FLAG AT THE HEAD OF THE MARCH ON THE ENTIRE ROUTE. A/DCM AND ACTING POLCOUNS ALSO PARTICIPATED IN THE MARCH. MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL, PRIVATE CITIZENS, AND BOMB VICTIMS FOLLOWED CARRYING AN EQUALLY MASSIVE WHITE "PEACE FLAG" OF THE CITY OF MIRAFLORES. POLICE TOOK TURNS CARRYING VANESA QUIROGA, A SIX-YEAR-OLD WHO LOST A LEG IN THE BOMBING, ON THEIR SHOULDERS ON THE MARCH.

4. (U) MARCHERS PAUSED MOMENTARILY FOR A SILENT TRIBUTE WHEN THEY PASSED THE SITE OF THE JULY 16, 1992, SL CAR BOMBING, A NARROW STREET LINED WITH HIGH RISE OFFICE AND APARTMENT BUILDINGS LOCATED A BLOCK FROM MIRAFLORES' CITY HALL, IN THE CENTER OF THE CITY'S HOTEL AND COMMERCIAL DISTRICT.

5. (U) THE CEREMONY CONCLUDED WHEN MARCHERS RETURNED TO THE CITY HALL WITH THE RAISING OF THE NATIONAL AND CITY "PEACE" FLAGS, THE SINGING OF THE PERUVIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM, AND THE PLAYING OF "TAPS." AS PART OF THE CLOSING CEREMONY, MESSAGES FROM PERU'S PRIMATE, ARCHBISHOP AUGUSTO VARGAS ALZAMORA, AND MICHEL AZCUETA, FORMER MAYOR OF VILLA EL SALVADOR WHO IS NOW IN A POLICE HOSPITAL RECUPERATING FROM WOUNDS SUFFERED IN A RECENT SL ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT, WERE READ. SEVERAL HUNDRED RED AND WHITE BALLOONS AND WHITE PIGEONS WERE RELEASED.

GOVERNMENT NOTICEABLE BY ITS ABSENCE

6. (U) MANY PROMINENT PERUVIAN POLITICAL

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FIGURES PARTICIPATED IN THE MARCH INCLUDING THE CURRENT MAYOR OF VILLA EL SALVADOR, WHICH WAS ALSO THE OBJECT OF SIMULTANEOUS SL TERRORIST ATTACKS A YEAR AGO; THE INCOMING PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE PERUVIAN MAYORS CONFERENCE, ARTURO CASTILLO OF CHICLAYO AND JOSE MURGIA OF TRUJILLO; THE MAYOR OF PACHACAMAC, CARMEN DE POBLET, WHO WAS ELECTED TO OFFICE IN THIS CITY JUST SOUTH OF LIMA WHEN HER HUSBAND WAS ASSASSINATED BY THE SL, AND OTHERS.

7. (U) AMONG THE NATIONAL POLITICAL FIGURES WHO WALKED THE MARCH ROUTE WERE PPC LEADERS LOURDES FLORES AND ANTERO FLORES ARAOZ, DEMOCRATIC LEFT LEADERS PROFESSOR HENRY PEASE AND GLORIA HELFER, GUSTAVO MOHME AND MANUEL MOREYRA. CONSTITUENT CONGRESS THIRD VICE PRESIDENT RAFAEL REY (RENOVATION MOVEMENT) REPRESENTED HIMSELF AND, POSSIBLY, THE GOVERNMENT.

8. (U) PRESIDENT FUJIMORI HAD BEEN EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MARCH. HE DID NOT. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CCD'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE, MIGUEL VELIT (NM/C90), ARRIVED JUST AS THE MARCH WAS CONCLUDING AND GRABBED A PLACE CARRYING THE FLAG. HE WAS IGNORED. NO OTHER REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE ADMINISTRATION OR THE PRO-GOVERNMENT MAJORITY IN CONGRESS WAS NOTICED.

9. (C) COMMENT: MIRAFLORE'S PPC MAYOR, ALBERTO ANDRADE, WHO SET A RECORD WHEN HE CAPTURED 94 PER CENT OF THE VOTE IN HIS RE-ELECTION BID IN JANUARY, ORGANIZED THE MARCH. HE HOPES TO MAKE IT AN ANNUAL EVENT. THE MARCH, AND THE CROWD'S RELAXED MOOD, INDICATE HOW FAR PERU HAS COME FROM THE DARK DAYS OF 1992 WHEN SOME ANALYSTS EVEN FEARED THE SURVIVAL OF THE PERUVIAN STATE WAS IN DOUBT. THE PARANOIA AND PALPABLE FEAR OF ATTACK APPARENT IN THE STREETS OF THE CAPITAL A YEAR AGO HAS DISAPPEARED. AND WHILE THE MARCH DIGNITARIES' NUMEROUS BODYGUARDS FORMED A SMALL CROWD OF THEIR OWN, IT WAS MORE REFLECTION OF THE REALITIES OF DAILY LIFE IN THE PERU RATHER THAN FEAR OF A MASS ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT. ALTHOUGH THE MARCH HAD BEEN WELL PUBLICIZED, THE SL DID NOT, OR COULD NOT, SET OFF A SYMBOLIC BLAST IN THE VICINITY TO REMIND MARCHERS OF ITS PRESENCE.
BRAYSHAW

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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