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DOCUMENT_ID: 40455951
INQNO: DOC27D 00332701
DOCNO: TEL 010849 93
PRODUCER: LIMA
SOURCE: STATE
DOCTYPE: IN
DOR: 19931001
TOR: 162803
DOCPREC: P
ORIGDATE: 199310012022
MHFNO: 93 4053143
DOCCLASS: [REDACTED]

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
 Release () Excise () Deny Declassify
Date 12/19/02 Exemption _____

HEADER
PP RUEAIIB
ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZH
MSI6855
PP RUEHC
DE RUEHPE #0849/01 2742022
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 012022Z OCT 93
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1879
INFO RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 3350
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 3282
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ 5267
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 1590
RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC
RHLBAAA/USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
BT

CONTROLS
[REDACTED] LIMA 10849

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TEXT
TAGS: PTER, ASEC, PGOV, ALOW, PE
COMBINE: COMPLETE

SUBJECT: SENDERO LUMINOSO CONTINUES BOMBING
- CAMPAIGN IN LIMA

REF: LIMA 10438

1. (C) SUMMARY: SENDERO LUMINOSO (SL) CARRIED ON ITS CAMPAIGN OF ASSASSINATIONS AND BOMBINGS AROUND LIMA BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 24-30. BOMB ATTACKS AGAINST HIGH VOLTAGE TOWERS PROVOKED A MASSIVE BLACKOUT IN MUCH OF PERU SEPTEMBER 24; SL TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE ATTACK TO SET OFF FIVE SMALL BOMBS AROUND THE CITY, INCLUDING TWO IN THE UPSCALE MIRAFLORES DISTRICT. SL BOMBED TEN BANKS SEPTEMBER 29-30; SET OFF A LARGE VAN-BOMB

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IN A DOWNTOWN PARKING LOT SEPTEMBER 30; AND ASSASSINATED THREE STREET VENDORS, A MERCHANT LEADER AT A LIMA MARKET, AND AN INDEPENDENT PHOTOGRAPHER IN LATE SEPTEMBER. THE LARGE NUMBER OF SMALL ATTACKS ARE PROBABLY RELATED TO SEVERAL IMPORTANT SL ANNIVERSARY DATES AND SHOW THAT SL CAN STILL PLAN AND EXECUTE COORDINATED ASSAULTS, ALBEIT WITH LESS IMPACT THAN IN EARLY 1992. END SUMMARY.

BOMBING OF POWER LINES AND SMALL BOMBS IN LIMA

2. (U) TWO OF THE FOUR MAIN POWER LINES SERVING LIMA AND MUCH OF PERU SUFFERED DAMAGE FROM A COORDINATED SL ATTACK ON EIGHT SEPARATE HIGH VOLTAGE TOWERS AROUND LIMA AND HUANCAYO JUST BEFORE 2000 HOURS ON SEPTEMBER 24. THE DAMAGE CAUSED MASSIVE BLACKOUTS AND POWER INTERRUPTIONS THROUGHOUT LIMA, THE CENTRAL MOUNTAINS AND MUCH OF PERU'S COAST, PLUNGING EIGHT DEPARTMENTS (MORE THAN HALF THE COUNTRY'S POPULATION) INTO DARKNESS.

3. (U) SL USED THE BLACKOUT TO CARRY OUT COORDINATED ATTACKS AGAINST TWO RESTAURANTS, A CINEMA AND A BANK IN THE UPSCALE MIRAFLORES NEIGHBORHOOD OF LIMA, AS WELL AS THREE ATTACKS AGAINST BANKS IN THE SAN LUIS, LA VICTORIA AND SAN JUAN DE MIRAFLORES DISTRICTS. TWO BRIEFCASE-SIZED BOMBS EXPLODED IN MIRAFLORES, ONE IN A POPULAR RESTAURANT AND ANOTHER IN FRONT OF A BANK. ONE INCENDIARY DEVICE DETONATED AT A MOVIE THEATER NEXT DOOR TO THE RESTAURANT; SEVERAL MORE PLACED IN THE THEATER WERE DEACTIVATED BEFORE THEY DETONATED. ANOTHER INCENDIARY DEVICE WAS DEACTIVATED AT ANOTHER NEIGHBORING RESTAURANT. IN ALL, THERE WERE ONLY A FEW LIGHT INJURIES BUT CONSIDERABLE MATERIAL DAMAGE; REPORTEDLY THE FIRST RESTAURANT WAS EVACUATED AFTER PATRONS WERE WARNED OF THE PRESENCE OF BOMBS BY ANONYMOUS CALLERS. POLICE BELIEVE ALL THE DEVICES WERE LEFT BY SUBJECTS POSING AS CUSTOMERS.

MORE BANKS BOMBED AROUND LIMA

4 (U) AT APPROXIMATELY 0600 HOURS ON SEPTEMBER 29, SL DETONATED TWO SMALL CHARGES IN FRONT OF THE BANCO DE CREDITO AND THE BANCO INTERNACIONAL OFFICES IN THE SAN LUIS DISTRICT OF LIMA. ONLY MATERIAL DAMAGES RESULTED, MAINLY TO A GATE AND SEVERAL WINDOWS THROUGHOUT THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

5. (U) EIGHT MORE SMALL BOMBS EXPLODED IN FRONT OF BANKS AND PENSION FUND OFFICES AROUND LIMA

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BETWEEN 0600 AND 0630 HOURS ON SEPTEMBER 30, CAUSING MATERIAL DAMAGE ONLY. AT THE SCENE OF THE BOMBING OF A PENSION FUND OFFICE, 80 SL LEAFLETS WERE LEFT NEARBY.

CAR BOMB EXPLODES IN PUBLIC PARKING LOT

6. (U) A VAN-BOMB LEFT BY SL TERRORISTS EXPLODED AT 0740 HOURS ON SEPTEMBER 30 IN A PUBLIC PARKING LOT IN CENTRAL LIMA. THE BOMB CONTAINED AN ESTIMATED 50 KILOGRAMS OF ANFO AND THREE KILOGRAMS OF DYNAMITE; Q&Q-CBQN WAS INJURED. THE BLAST LEFT A CRATER MEASURING 1.2 METERS IN DIAMETER BY 0.2 METERS IN DEPTH AND DAMAGED FIVE OTHER PARKED VEHICLES. THIS WAS THE LARGEST CAR BOMB IN LIMA SINCE THE JULY 27 ATTACK ON THE U.S. EMBASSY. THE TARGET MAY HAVE BEEN THE PERUVIAN MINT, WHICH IS LOCATED NEXT TO THE PARKING LOT AND WAS DAMAGED IN THE INCIDENT. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF BANKS IN THE AREA AS WELL. ONE PRESS REPORT ESTIMATED THAT 40 NEARBY BUILDINGS SUSTAINED VARIOUS DEGREES OF DAMAGE.

ASSASSINATION CAMPAIGN CONTINUES IN LIMA

7. (U) SL REPORTEDLY CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY THROUGH ITS NEWSPAPER, EL DIARIO, FOR THE MURDERS OF THREE STREET VENDORS ON SEPTEMBER 26. ON SEPTEMBER 28, SL ASSASSINATED THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION AT A CROWDED LOCAL MARKET IN THE YERBATEROS AREA, AS WELL AS AN INDEPENDENT PHOTOGRAPHER WHO LIVED IN LIMA'S CHORRILLOS NEIGHBORHOOD. BOTH KILLINGS WERE CARRIED OUT IN TYPICAL SL STYLE BY SMALL ASSASSINATION SQUADS; THE MERCHANT LEADER WAS DRAGGED OUT OF HIS STALL AND PUBLICLY EXECUTED. ONE REPORT INDICATED THAT HIS KILLERS TRIED TO BLOW UP HIS BODY WITH A STICK OF DYNAMITE BEFORE FLEEING.

8. (C) COMMENT: THE MAJORITY OF RECENT BOMBINGS WERE SMALL AND CONFORM TO SENDERO LUMINOSO'S RECENT TACTIC OF ANNOUNCING ITS PRESENCE THROUGH INEXPENSIVE ATTACKS AGAINST RELATIVELY SOFT TARGETS, MAINLY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS. SEVERAL OF THE ATTACKS WERE WELL-COORDINATED AND APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN DESIGNED TO CAUSE DAMAGE AND SOW TERROR. THE BOMBS IN THE NIGHT-LIFE CENTER OF MIRAFLORES DURING THE SEPTEMBER 24 BLACKOUT WERE A REMINDER THAT SL STILL IS PREPARED TO CARRY OUT ATTACKS IN COMMERCIAL CENTERS, NOT JUST ISOLATED NEIGHBORHOODS. BOMBS IN MIRAFLORES CARRY A SPECIAL HORROR FOR PERUVIANS, GIVEN THE

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CARNAGE OF THE TARATA STREET BOMB OF JULY 1992.

9. (C) THIS WAVE OF ATTACKS DEMONSTRATES THAT SL STILL HAS LARGE CAPABILITIES TO INFLICT DAMAGE ON SOCIETY AND UNDERMINE GOP CLAIMS THAT "VICTORY" IS ONLY TWO YEARS AWAY. SL LACKS THE ABILITY TO CONDUCT THE WELL COORDINATED AND HIGHLY EFFECTIVE CAMPAIGNS OF EARLY 1992, BUT IT IS FAR FROM BEATEN.
BRAYSHAW

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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