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DS/CMI/PRD, DS/EPC/EPE, DS/EX/PPB

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: QUARTERLY STATUS REPORT FOR OCTOBER-DECEMBER 1996, LIMA,
PERU

REF: 94 STATE 110048

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED - HANDLE ACCORDINGLY

I. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

A. NARRATIVE OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

ON THE EVENING OF DECEMBER 17, APPROXIMATELY TWENTY (20) HEAVILY
ARMED MRTA TERRORISTS ASSAULTED THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE
DURING A WELL-ATTENDED DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION HONORING THE JAPANESE
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EMPEROR. AS MANY AS 400 HOSTAGES WERE TAKEN BEFORE THE TERRORISTS
BEGAN RELEASING WOMEN AND ELDERLY CAPTIVES. WITHIN HOURS OF THE
ASSAULT, OVER ONE HUNDRED HOSTAGES WERE RELEASED INCLUDING THE
DEPENDENT SPOUSES OF OFFICIAL MISSION EMPLOYEES AND A FEMALE
POLITICAL OFFICER. IN THE DAYS AND WEEKS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE
INITIAL ASSAULT, THE MRTA RELEASED MORE HOSTAGES INCLUDING THE
REMAINING SEVEN (7) OFFICIAL AMERICANS AND ONE (1) AID FSN. THE
HOSTAGE CRISIS IS STILL ONGOING WITH SEVENTY FOUR (74) HOSTAGES

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: DONALD A. JOHNSTON
DATE/CASE ID: 17 OCT 2001 200102083

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STILL BEING HELD CAPTIVE, INCLUDING THE PERUVIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, THE JAPANESE AND BOLIVIAN AMBASSADORS AND NUMEROUS SENIOR GOP POLICE AND MILITARY OFFICIALS.

CONSIDERABLE RSO EFFORT WAS DEVOTED TO HANDLING THE HOSTAGE CRISIS, PARTICULARLY DURING THE FIRST HOURS AFTER THE ASSAULT AND THE DAYS LEADING UP TO THE RELEASE OF THE REMAINING OFFICIAL AMERICAN CAPTIVES.

IN LIGHT OF THE CURRENT HOSTAGE SITUATION, POST HAS IMPLEMENTED ADDITIONAL SECURITY MEASURES FOR OFFICIAL MISSION FACILITIES AND EMPLOYEES' RESIDENCES (LIMA 10951). ADDITIONALLY, THE GOP HAS EXTENDED EMERGENCY REGULATIONS FROM SELECTED DISTRICTS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LIMA TO INCLUDE THE ENTIRE CITY AND DEPARTMENT OF LIMA. IN EMERGENCY AREAS THE GOP CEDES GREATER POWERS TO POLICE AND MILITARY FORCES TO MAKE ARRESTS AND CONDUCT SEARCHES.

RECENTLY, LIMA HAS EXPERIENCED A WAVE OF CARJACKINGS, INCLUDING TWO INCIDENTS AGAINST THE MISSION COMMUNITY (LIMA 09332). AS A RESULT THESE LATEST ATTACKS AGAINST OFFICIAL AMERICANS AND THE INCREASING VIOLENT NATURE OF CARJACKINGS AND THE FREQUENCY OF ATTEMPTS, THE EAC AGREED THAT ALL OFFICIAL TDY PERSONNEL IN LIMA WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM RENTING FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE OR OTHER SPORTS UTILITY

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TYPE VEHICLES (LIMA 09476). ADDITIONALLY, THE POST WELCOME TO LIMA TELEGRAM WAS REVISED TO EMPHASIZE THE LIKELIHOOD OF BEING CARJACKED IN ONE OF THESE VEHICLES AND STRONGLY DISCOURAGE ALL PERSONNEL FROM IMPORTING SPORT UTILITY VEHICLES, PARTICULARLY THOSE VEHICLES THAT ARE NEW AND LOADED WITH FLASHY UPGRADES.

MEMBERS OF THE MISSION COMMUNITY CONTINUED TO SUFFER RESIDENTIAL BREAK-INS, BURGLARIES AND PETTY CRIME. RSO CONTINUES TO PROVIDE SECURITY NOTICES AND PROMOTES A MORE PROACTIVE USE OF MOBILE PATROL UNITS IN THWARTING RESIDENTIAL AND PETTY CRIME.

RSO CONTINUED LIAISON WITH PNP CONTACTS AND TO PROVIDE THREAT ASSESSMENTS AND GENERAL SECURITY INFORMATION TO A NUMBER OF SECURITY REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE US AND MULTI NATIONAL CORPORATIONS. INCREASED ACTIVITY IN OIL AND MINERAL EXPLORATION IN HIGH AND CRITICAL THREAT AREAS HAS GENERATED THE INTEREST.

ON NOVEMBER 6, AN EAC MEETING WAS HELD REGARDING A PRIOR SECURITY THREAT AT PUCALLPA AND IT WAS DECIDED TO RELAX RESTRICTIONS ON PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS IN THAT TOWN.

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ON NOVEMBER 13, MISSION-WIDE BOMB THREAT AND DEFENSE DRILLS WERE CONDUCTED.

EFFORTS WERE STARTED TO PREPARE FOR OIG/SIO VISIT IN FEBRUARY - MARCH.

CONSIDERABLE RSO TIME AND EFFORT WAS DEVOTED TO THE MARINE BALL, OFFICIAL VISITORS, INCLUDING FORMER PRESIDENT BUSH, DRUG CZAR BARRY MCCAFFERY, CODELS AND OTHER SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. ADDITIONALLY, THE RSO SUPPORTED MUCH OF THE TDY CREW IN LIMA AS A

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RESULT OF THE HOSTAGE CRISIS, INCLUDING NUMEROUS FBI PERSONNEL AND TWO DS AGENTS.

POST IS TEMPORARILY HOLDING OFF ON THE COMPLETION OF THE INSTALLATION OF THE CARD-KEY ACCESS CONTROL SYSTEM. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME MINOR, BUT LENGTHY PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS.

THE NEW CHIEF OF MISSION AND SPOUSE ARRIVED POST ON OCTOBER 8, 1996.

DEPUTY RSO JOHN ROOT, WENT ON ANNUAL LEAVE FROM 10/04-15/96. ARSO FRED KETCHEM DEPARTED POST ON 10/28/96. ARSO MIKE VALLE AND FAMILY WENT ON R&R FROM 11/27/96 - 12/28/96.

B. CONSTITUENT FACILITIES

10/01/96: ARSO FRED KETCHEM TRAVELLED TO JUAN JUI AND PUCALLEPA TO

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ASSESS PROGRESS ON THE GBR SITE AND SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS AT THE
GOP AIR FORCE BASE IN JUAN JUI. DOD ELEMENTS INVOLVED IN POST'S
COUNTERNARCOTICS PROGRAMS LIVE AND WORK ON THESE SITES.

12/12-13/96: DEPUTY RSO JOHN ROOT TRAVELLED TO PUCALLPA TO
FINALIZE THE SITE SURVEY FOR THE USMC GROUND BASED RADAR SITE IN
PUCALLPA. APPROXIMATELY SEVENTY (70) USMC PERSONNEL ARE ASSIGNED
TO THIS SITE AT ANY ONE TIME.

C. MSG ACTIVITIES

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FROM 11/18-22/96, CAPTAIN CRANE, DELTA COMPANY, CONDUCTED A SEMI-
ANNUAL INSPECTION OF THE DETACHMENT.

ON 12/03/96, COLONEL GOODMAN FROM BATTALION MADE A COMMAND A VISIT
TO THE DETACHMENT. THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF REACT DRILLS
CONDUCTED DURING THE LAST QUARTER:

10/30	INTERNAL DEFENSE (EMBASSY)
10/31	BOMB THREAT (EMBASSY)
11/10	INTERNAL DEFENSE (EMBASSY)
11/11	BOMB THREAT & INTERNAL DEFENSE (EMBASSY)
11/13	BOMB THREAT & INTERNAL DEFENSE (EMBASSY)
11/14	INTRUDER (EMBASSY)
11/21	INTERNAL DEFENSE (EMBASSY)
12/30	INTERNAL DEFENSE (EMBASSY)

II THREATS AND INCIDENTS

10/21/96: PERSONNEL AT THE AMERICAN SCHOOL REPORTED THAT THEY
RECEIVED AN ANONYMOUS TELEPHONE CALL FROM AN INDIVIDUAL WARNING

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THAT THE SCHOOL WOULD BE BURGLARIZED THAT EVENING. RSO NOTIFIED THE PNP AND INCREASED THE MOBILE PATROL UNITS IN THE AREA. NO BURGLARY ATTEMPT WAS UNDERTAKEN.

10/25/96: AT LEAST FIVE (5) ARMED MEN ATTEMPTED TO CARJACK A MISSION EMPLOYEE, HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN AS THEY WAITED FOR A TRAFFIC SIGNAL TO CHANGE. THE ASSAILANTS PULLED IN FRONT OF THE EMPLOYEE, EXITED THEIR VEHICLE AND BEGAN SCREAMING AND BANGING ON

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THE VICTIMS CAR WINDOWS AND FIRING WARNING SHOTS INTO THE AIR NEAR THE VEHICLE. THE EMPLOYEE IMMEDIATELY DROVE HIS CAR OVER SOME CURBS AND SIDEWALKS TO EXIT THE AREA. THE ASSAILANTS GAVE CHASE FOR ABOUT THREE MILES FIRING THEIR WEAPONS THE ENTIRE TIME. DURING THE INITIAL CARJACKING ATTEMPT AND THE SUBSEQUENT CHASE, AT LEAST 40 - 50 ROUNDS WERE FIRED BY THE GUNMEN AND ONE IMPACTED THE MISSION EMPLOYEE'S RIGHT FRONT PASSENGER DOOR FRAME. THE EMPLOYEE AND HIS FAMILY ESCAPED UNINJURED FROM THIS CARJACKING ATTEMPT (LIMA 09332).

10/25/96: TWO (2) OFFICIAL TDYERS WERE CARJACKED AT A BUSY INTERSECTION BY SEVERAL HEAVILY ARMED MEN UTILIZING TWO VEHICLES IN A WELL COORDINATED ATTACK. THE VICTIMS WERE SLIGHTLY ROUGHED-UP, ROBBED OF THEIR RENTAL VEHICLE (4X4), MONEY, CREDIT CARDS AND RELEASED AFTER BEING DETAINED FOR ABOUT FORTY MINUTES (LIMA 09332).

10/30/96: AN EMBASSY EMPLOYEE REPORTED HEARING GUNSHOTS NEAR HIS RESIDENCE. IT WAS LATER DETERMINED THAT A NEIGHBOR'S PRIVATE SECURITY GUARD FIRED THREE SHOTS AT TWO ROBBERY/BURGLARY SUSPECTS AS THEY FLED THROUGH THE EMPLOYEE'S BACK YARD.

11/02/96: A MISSION EMPLOYEE STARTLED THREE WOULD-BE BURGLARS AS HE RETURNED HOME AFTER A BRIEF OUTING. THE SUSPECTS HAD BREACHED THE PERIMETER GATE DOOR AND A REAR ENTRY DOOR TO THE HOME UTILIZING A CROW BAR. THE BURGLARS FLED IN AN UNIDENTIFIED VEHICLE PARKED NEAR THE RESIDENCE.

11/13/96: THE EMBASSY'S LOCAL GUARD FORCE COMMUNICATOR RECEIVED A TELEPHONIC THREAT INDICATING THAT THREE MARINES WOULD DIE (LIMA 09737). THE RSO IMMEDIATELY NOTIFIED ALL DOD PERSONNEL IN LIMA AND THE REST OF PERU AS WELL AS OTHER ESSENTIAL MISSION PERSONNEL.

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11/21/96: INTRUDERS BROKE INTO A MISSION HOME EARLY IN THE MORNING AS THE EMPLOYEE AND HIS WIFE SLEPT. THE INTRUDERS STOLE NUMEROUS ELECTRONICS ITEMS, INCLUDING A COMPUTER, VCR, CAMERA AND VARIOUS TAPES. THE INTRUDERS SCALED A NINE FOOT PERIMETER WALL AND CUT THROUGH A PAD-LOCK TO GAIN ENTRY TO THE RESIDENCE. THE OCCUPANTS DID NOT ACTIVATE THEIR BURGLAR ALARM NOR DID THEY REPORT HEARING ANYTHING UNUSUAL PRIOR TO NOTICING THE THEFT. NOTE: THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN RECENT MEMORY THAT INTRUDERS ENTERED AN OCCUPIED HOME OF A MISSION EMPLOYEE. A DAY AFTER THIS THEFT, TWO MEN ATTEMPTED TO GAIN ENTRY TO THIS RESIDENCE POSING AS LOCAL POLICE WITH A WARRANT TO ARREST THE EMPLOYEE'S LIVE-IN MAID.

12/04/96: PNP ARRESTED TWO NOTORIOUS AND WANTED GANG MEMBERS AFTER A SUSTAINED STAND-OFF AND SHOOTOUT IN AN UP-SCALE NEIGHBORHOOD NEAR SEVERAL MISSION RESIDENCES. THE TWO SUSPECTS, WHO WERE SERIOUSLY WOUNDED PRIOR TO BEING APPREHENDED, ARE BELIEVED TO BE THE PERPETRATORS OF A NUMBER OF VIOLENT CRIMES INCLUDING SEVERAL CARJACKINGS. THERE WERE NO OTHER INJURIES FROM THIS INCIDENT.

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12/05/96: LGF MOBILE PATROL PERSONNEL DETAINED THREE WOULD-BE

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INTRUDERS NEAR THE FRONT DOOR TO A MISSION RESIDENCE. THE PEDESTRIAN GATE FOR THE RESIDENCE WAS OPEN, BUT NO ITEMS WERE REPORTED MISSING FROM THE RESIDENCE. THE SUSPECTS WERE TAKEN TO A NEARBY POLICE STATION AND LATER RELEASED FOR LACK OF EVIDENCE.

III. DS INITIATED INVESTIGATIONS

A. PERSONNEL SECURITY INVESTIGATIONS

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ACTIVE (8)	RECEIVED (4)
CLOSED (3)	OVERDUE (1)

B. CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

ACTIVE (2)	RECEIVED (2)
CLOSED (0)	OVERDUE (0)

C. AT POST FSN/PC INVESTIGATIONS

ACTIVE (1)	RECEIVED (10)
CLOSED (9)	OVERDUE (0)

IV. ACTION CABLES NOT ANSWERED BY DS

NONE.

V. SUMMARY OF SEPARATE REPORTS

A. CIWG REPORT - 1/95

B. EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN - 03/96

C. SECURITY SURVEYS
CHANCERY - 03/96
AID - 08/96
NAMRID - 03/96

D. COMPREHENSIVE SPE INVENTORY - 04/96

E. RSO QUARTERLY TRAVEL REPORT - 09/96

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F. ANNUAL CRIME AND SAFETY REPORT - 01/97

THE FOLLOWING, WHICH IS KEYED TO THE FORMAT CONTAINED IN THE OSAC FAX OF 12/21/94, IS POST'S SUBMISSION OF THE ANNUAL CRIME AND SAFETY REPORT FOR 1995, PER 95 STATE 288074.

1. DISCUSSION OF GENERAL SAFETY AND CRIME IN PERU RELATING TO ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENT, CIVIL UNREST, TERRORISM AND STREET CRIME:

TERRORISM AND STREET CRIME STILL ARE OF SERIOUS CONCERN TO AMERICAN VISITORS. THE BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, CLASSIFIES LIMA AS A HIGH THREAT POST FOR BOTH CRIME AND TERRORISM. THERE IS NO OVERT ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENT IN PERU, AND THE POSSIBILITY OF UNREST AND DISORDER TENDS TO BE LIMITED, DUE TO AN IMPROVING ECONOMY AND STABLE GOVERNMENT. ALTHOUGH THE NUMBER OF TERRORIST INCIDENTS HAS DIMINISHED OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS, THE MOVIMIENTO REVOLUCIONARIO DE TUPAC AMARU (MRTA) STILL MAINTAINS THE CAPABILITY TO PLAN AND EXECUTE SOPHISTICATED AND SOMETIMES SENSATIONAL TERRORIST ACTIONS. THE TERRORIST ASSAULT AND TAKEOVER OF THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE AND THE CONTINUED HOSTAGE CRISIS SITUATION DRAMATICALLY ILLUSTRATES THAT THE GOP HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO COMPLETELY SUBDUCE MRTA. NOTWITHSTANDING THE CURRENT CRISIS IN LIMA, TRADITIONAL MRTA INFLUENCE HAS BEEN CONCENTRATED IN THE EASTERN REGION OF JUNIN DEPARTMENT. SENDERO LUMINOSO (SL) STILL POSES A THREAT, AND IS STILL CONSIDERED A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH. MOST SL ATTACKS TOOK PLACE IN THE UPPER HUALLAGA AND APURIMAC VALLEYS. HOWEVER, SL DID MANAGE TO DETONATE TWO MAJOR CAR BOMBS (ONE NEAR A POLICE STATION AND THE OTHER AT A SHELL GAS STATION/DEPOT) AND CARRYOUT SEVERAL POLITICAL ASSASSINATIONS AND OTHER BOMBINGS IN LIMA THE PAST YEAR. DESPITE SOME SETBACKS BOTH

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MRTA AND SL APPEAR TO BE REORGANIZING AND REBUILDING THEIR ORGANIZATIONS AND WILL MOST LIKELY CONTINUE TO BE A THREAT AND A CONCERN.

MANY AREAS OF THE COUNTRY ARE CONSIDERED DANGEROUS DUE TO SIGNIFICANTLY HIGH LEVELS OF TERRORIST AND/OR CRIMINAL ACTIVITY. TRAVEL TO SUCH AREAS, PARTICULARLY OVERLAND, CAN BE RISKY. THESE AREAS ARE: DEPARTMENT OF ANCASH, PROVINCES OF PALLASCA, CORONGO, AND SIHUAS; DEPARTMENT OF APURIMAC, ALL AREAS EXCEPT ABANCAY CITY BY ROAD FROM CUSCO AND ANDAHUAYLAS BY PRIVATE CHARTER AIR ONLY; DEPARTMENT OF AYACUCHO, ALL AREAS, EXCEPT AYACUCHO AND HUANTA

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CITIES AND THE HIGHWAY THAT CONNECTS THEM; DEPARTMENT OF CAJAMARCA, PROVINCES OF CAJABAMBA, AND JAEN, EXCEPT JAEN CITY; DEPARTMENT OF CUSCO, PROVINCE OF LA CONVENCION, EXCEPT QUILLABAMBA CITY; DEPARTMENT OF HUANCVELICA, ALL AREAS, EXCEPT HUANCVELICA CITY BY TRAIN FROM HUANCAYO; DEPARTMENT OF HUANUCO, ALL AREAS, EXCEPT THE CITIES OF HUANUCO BY HIGHWAY FROM CERRO DE PASCO, AND TINGO MARIA BY HIGHWAY FROM HUANUCO. THE HIGHWAY LEADING NORTH FROM TINGO MARIA IS CONSIDERED EXTREMELY DANGEROUS; DEPARTMENT OF JUNIN,

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PROVINCES OF SATIPO, AND CHANCHAMAYO, EXCEPT LA MERCED CITY AND SAN RAMON, AND THE HIGHWAY THAT JOINS THESE TWO CITIES WITH TARMA; DEPARTMENT OF LA LIBERTAD, PROVINCES OF BOLIVAR, SANCHEZ CORRION, OTUZCO, AND PATAZ; DEPARTMENT OF PASCO, PROVINCE OF OXAPAMPA, EXCEPT PUERTO BERMUDEZ, AND CIUDAD CONSTITUCION CITIES, BY AIR. DEPARTMENT OF PIURA, PROVINCE OF HUANCABAMBA; DEPARTMENT OF SAN MARTIN, ALL RURAL AREAS, TRAVEL BY AIR IS PERMITTED TO THE CITIES OF TARAPOTO, JUANJUI, LAMAS, SAPOSOA, RIOJA, AND MOYOBAMBA; DEPARTMENT OF UCAYALI, PROVINCES OF PADRE ABAD, AND CORONEL PORTILLO, EXCEPT PUCALLPA CITY BY AIR.

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 ADDITIONALLY, INDIVIDUALS HIKING THROUGH THE AGUARUNA/HUAMISA TRIBAL AREAS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AMAZONAS SHOULD REQUEST PERMISSION FROM THE TRIBAL COUNCIL PRIOR TO TRANSITING THE AREA. TWO YEARS AGO, TWO US CITIZENS WERE ATTACKED, ONE OF WHOM WAS KILLED, WHILE HIKING THROUGH THIS AREA WITHOUT PRIOR NOTIFICATION. STREET CRIME IS PREVALENT IN MOST URBAN AREAS OF PERU, PARTICULARLY IN LIMA AND CUSCO. RECENTLY, LIMA HAS EXPERIENCED A WAVE OF CARJACKINGS, PARTICULARLY OF SPORT UTILITY TYPES OF VEHICLES IN EXCELLENT CONDITION AND OF OTHER NEW MODELS LOADED WITH FLASHY UPGRADES. THE INCREASING VIOLENT NATURE OF CARJACKINGS AND THE FREQUENCY OF ATTEMPTS, PARTICULARLY DURING THE HOURS OF DARKNESS IN THE UPSCALE AREAS OF LIMA IS CAUSE FOR CONCERN. BURGLARIES, PICKPOCKETING, PURSE SNATCHING AS WELL AS THEFT OF ITEMS OR PARTS FROM VEHICLES ARE ALSO COMMON CRIMES.

2. ASSESSMENT OF GENERAL QUALITY OF POLICE ASSISTANCE IN THE COUNTRY:

THE PERUVIAN NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE SPECIALTY UNITS, LACK PROFESSIONALISM BY US STANDARDS AND TEND TO BE CORRUPT. GENERALLY, THERE IS POLICE PRESENCE IN ALL MAJOR CITIES AND TOWNS, BUT RESPONSE TIMES TO EMERGENCY CALLS IS OFTEN VERY SLOW. VIRTUALLY EVERY CRIME, INCLUDING TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS, MUST BE REPORTED IN PERSON AT THE LOCAL POLICE STATION (DELEGACION). TOURISTS VICTIMIZED BY CRIME SHOULD CONTACT THE POLICIA DE TURISMO (TOURISM POLICE) IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CRIME OCCURS.

BURGLARIES HAVE REMAINED STEADY DURING THE PAST YEAR. GENERALLY, MOST SUCCESSFUL BURGLARIES ARE COMMITTED ON WEEKENDS, DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS AND WHEN THE HOMES IS VACANT.

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POLICE EMERGENCY NUMBERS:

PERUVIAN NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) TEL: 105 (EMERGENCY) 313040
 TOURISM POLICE TEL: 476 7708

TRUJILLO PNP TEL: 233181, 233821, 244791

IQUITOS PNP TEL: 232509, 231852, 232116, 232421

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CUZCO PNP TEL: 235740, 226009, 227783

CHICLAYO (SECOND REGION, PNP) TEL: 235740, 236700, 229592

CAJAMARCA
(SUBREGIONAL HEADQUARTERS, PNP) TEL: 922832, 923428, 922357

HUARAZ
(FOURTH POLICE REGION, PNP) TEL: 722948, 721461, 721592

CHIMBOTE
(SUBREGIONAL HEADQUARTERS, PNP) TEL: 321450, 322441, 322931

HUANCAYO
(EIGHTH POLICE REGION, PNP) TEL: 238925, 234651, 234696

ICA
(SUBREGIONAL HEADQUARTERS, PNP) TEL: 224350, 234900, 233632

ILO
(PROVINCIAL HEADQUARTERS, PNP) TEL: 781331, 781212

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HUANUCO
(SUBREGIONAL HEADQUARTERS, PNP) TEL: 513262, 513117

PIURA
(FIRST POLICE REGION, PNP) TEL: 328751, 328456

3. APPRAISAL OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH FOREIGN AND US VISITORS AND RESIDENTS ARE VICTIMS OF CRIME.

ALL US AND FOREIGN VISITORS ARE PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TO BEING VICTIMS OF CRIME BECAUSE THEY ARE GENERALLY PERCEIVED TO POSSESS MORE HIGH VALUE ITEMS THAN THE LOCAL POPULACE. WHILE THERE IS LITTLE OR NO STATISTICAL DATA, SUBJECTIVE APPRAISAL BASED ON CONVERSATIONS WITH FOREIGNERS AND US RESIDENTS SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT THE RATE OF CRIME AGAINST THESE GROUPS IS HIGHER THAN AGAINST THE GENERAL COMMUNITY. MANY FOREIGN CONTACTS AND US RESIDENTS HAVE REVEALED THAT THEY HAVE BEEN TARGETS OF CRIMINALS.

WHILE US MISSION MEMBERS AND FOREIGN RESIDENTS NORMALLY RESIDE IN AFFLUENT AREAS OF THE CITY WHERE PRIVATE SECURITY AND LOCAL POLICE

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5329

UNCLAS SECTION 05 OF 06 LIMA 000412

DEPT FOR DS/DSS, DS/CMI, DS/DSS/OP, DS/DSS/I, DS/CMI/I, DS/CMI/PSP,
DS/CMI/PRD, DS/EPC/EPE, DS/EX/PPB

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: QUARTERLY STATUS REPORT FOR OCTOBER-DECEMBER 1996, LIMA,
PERU

PROTECTION ARE MOST EFFECTIVE, THEIR RESIDENCES (SINGLE FAMILY
HOMES) AND BUSINESS ARE FREQUENTLY BURGLARIZED AND THEY ARE OFTEN
VICTIMIZED BY STREET CRIME. RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES ARE MOST COMMON
DURING THE DAYS AND ON WEEKENDS. THIEVES WILL GAIN ENTRY THROUGH
OPEN GARAGE DOORS, ARE ALLOWED IN BY NAIVE DOMESTICS, OR FORCE
ENTRY WHEN A RESIDENCE IS VACANT (OR APPEARS VACANT) FOR A
PROLONGED PERIOD OF TIME. THE THEFT OF VEHICLES (INCLUDING
CARJACKINGS) AND PARTS FROM PARKED VEHICLES IS STILL A FREQUENT
CRIME IN WHICH MOST FOREIGNERS ARE POTENTIAL VICTIMS. PERSONNEL
SHOULD BE CONSCIENTIOUS OF WHERE AND WHEN THEY DRIVE AS WELL AS
WHERE THEY PARK THEIR VEHICLE. DRIVING DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS AND

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PARKING IN SECURE PARKING LOTS IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED TO AVOID BEING
VICTIMIZED.

PERSONNEL SHOULD MAINTAIN A LOW PROFILE. AN EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE
TO DRESS DOWN, DO NOT CARRY LARGE SUMS OF CASH, CREDIT CARDS,
CAMERAS, OR WEAR EXPENSIVE JEWELRY. ALSO, TOURISTS SHOULD TRY TO
TRAVEL IN GROUPS, USING TAXI CABS RATHER THAN THE LOCAL PUBLIC
TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE.

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THERE ARE NUMEROUS TAXI SERVICES AVAILABLE IN LIMA WHICH PROVIDE RELIABLE SERVICE IN LATE MODEL, RADIO EQUIPPED SEDANS. THESE SHOULD BE USED OVER THE LOCAL GYPSY TAXIS, WHICH ARE OFTEN MECHANICALLY UNSOUND AND ARE DRIVEN BY INDIVIDUALS WITH A LIMITED KNOWLEDGE OF THE CITY. TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF THE LIMA SHOULD NOT BE CONDUCTED DURING THE HOURS OF DARKNESS, AS THE ROADS ARE OFTEN BLOCKED BY BANDITS OR TERRORISTS.

WHILE TERRORISM HAS WANED CONSIDERABLY IN LIMA IN THE PAST TWO TO THREE YEARS, IT IS STILL AN AREA OF CONCERN. GOP INSTALLATIONS, OFFICES AND FACTORIES OF LARGE COMPANIES, FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AS WELL AS DIPLOMATIC FACILITIES ARE FAVORITE BOMBING TARGETS IN THE EVENING HOURS. IN 1996, THERE WERE A NUMBER OF BOMBINGS AND ASSAULTS AGAINST FOREIGN AND PERUVIAN TARGETS.

G. ANNUAL CRIME REPORT

THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BELOW IS KEYED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FORMAT CONTAINED IN 94 STATE 173444:

1. CRIME ENVIRONMENT (4,3)

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CRIMINAL ACTIVITY IS PREVALENT AND COMMON IN ALL PARTS OF THE CITY, REGARDLESS OF THE SOCIAL CLASS OF THE VICTIM OR THE AFFLUENCE OF THE AREA. CRIMINALS OPERATE RANDOMLY IN MANY CASES, WAITING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EASY VICTIMS. RECENTLY, A MOTORIST WAS SERIOUSLY INJURED AND TRAPPED IN HER VEHICLE AS A RESULT OF AN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ACCIDENT NUMEROUS PEOPLE SWARMED THE VEHICLE AND BEGAN TO STRIP THE VEHICLE OF USABLE PARTS AND EVEN STOLE JEWELRY, MONEY AND OTHER BELONGINGS FROM THE TRAPPED AND INJURED MOTORIST. HOWEVER, INCIDENTS OF MORE SOPHISTICATED CRIMES, SUCH AS BURGLARY, INDICATE THAT CRIMINALS WILL ALSO SURVEIL AND PLAN INTRICATE CRIMES IF THE REWARDS WILL JUSTIFY THE EFFORT. WHILE EMBASSY EMPLOYEES HAVE BEEN SPARED, CRIMINALS WILL NOT HESITATE TO USE LETHAL FORCE, PARTICULARLY WHEN RESISTANCE IS ENCOUNTERED DURING CARJACKINGS, IN PERPETRATING CRIMES.

PNP STATISTICS FOR METROPOLITAN LIMA (APPROX. 8 MILLION PEOPLE) REVEAL THE NUMBER OF HOMICIDES HOVERS AT ABOUT 450 TO 500 PER YEAR. AUTOMOBILE THEFTS, INCLUDING CARJACKINGS, RUN APPROXIMATELY 4500 TO 5000 PER YEAR WITH ABOUT 400 OF THE THEFTS OCCURRING WHEN THE STOLEN VEHICLE IS OCCUPIED. THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 465,000 VEHICLES REGISTERED IN THE CITY.

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2. CRIMINAL PERPETRATOR PROFILE (2,3,3)

WHILE MOST CRIMINAL ACTS ARE COMMITTED WITHOUT VIOLENCE, CRIMINALS ARE NOT HESITANT TO USE FORCE WHEN NECESSARY. CRIMINALS WILL MOST LIKELY RESORT TO VIOLENCE SHOULD A VICTIM ATTEMPT TO RESIST. INCREASINGLY, CRIMINALS ARE ARMED WITH GUNS (INCLUDING MACHINE GUNS) AND KNIVES, AND HAVE DEMONSTRATED NO RELUCTANCE IN USING THEM. INCIDENTS OF ARMED CARJACKINGS ARE INCREASINGLY COMMON, PARTICULARLY THOSE INVOLVING SPORT UTILITY FOUR-WHEEL DRIVES,

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ALTHOUGH SEDANS, STATION WAGONS, AND PICK-UPS ARE STOLEN WITH REGULARITY. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, CRIMINALS HAVE SHOT AND KILLED OR WOUNDED UNCOOPERATIVE VICTIMS.

3. EFFECTIVENESS OF POLICE/CRIME PREVENTION (3,5)
POLICE EFFECTIVENESS AGAINST COMMON CRIMINAL ACTIVITY IS CONSIDERED LOW BY US STANDARDS AND HAS BECOME A POLITICAL ISSUE IN PERU. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL POLICE HAS BEEN TASKED WITH IMPROVING THE PNP'S CRIME FIGHTING ABILITY, PARTICULARLY AGAINST VIOLENT AND PETTY STREET CRIME.

POLICE FREQUENTLY SOLICIT AND ACCEPT BRIBES AND ON OCCASION HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN CRIMINAL ACTIVITY. THE EXTENT OF POLICE PARTICIPATION IS DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE. FOREIGNERS AS WELL AS PERUVIANS ARE OFTEN STOPPED BY POLICE, WHO ALLEGE THAT AN INFRACTION HAS BEEN COMMITTED. THE POLICE IN SUCH CASES WILL SOLICIT A BRIBE TO OVERLOOK THE OFFENSE.

NO RESIDENTIAL AREA IS IMMUNE TO CRIME, INCLUDING AREAS WHERE

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ADS-00 ASDS-01 CRYE-00 DSCC-00 /004W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5330

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DEPT FOR DS/DSS, DS/CMI, DS/DSS/OP, DS/DSS/I, DS/CMI/I, DS/CMI/PSP,
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EMBASSY PERSONNEL RESIDE. THOSE AREAS WHICH HAVE ACCESS CONTROL
AND PRIVATE SECURITY ARE LESS LIKELY TO HAVE CRIMES COMMITTED THAN
NEIGHBORHOODS LACKING SUCH FEATURES. THE NATIONAL POLICE, AND IN
SOME AREAS, DISTRICT PATROLS CALLED SERENAZGOS PATROL THESE AREAS
TWENTY-FOUR HOURS A DAY. HOWEVER, POLICE PREVENTIVE MEASURES AND
PATROL TACTICS ARE NOT CONSIDERED VERY EFFECTIVE.

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