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LUMINOSO ITSELF THE GOP ANNOUNCEMENT CAME AS ALMOST
AN ANTICLIMAX. THE GENERAL REACTION AMONG EMBASSY
CONTACTS--AGAIN NOT SURPRISINGLY--IS THAT IF ANYTHING
BELAUDE WAITED TOO LONG BEFORE SENDING IN
THE MILITARY.
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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6429
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
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TAGS: PINS, PE

SUBJ: PERU: PRESIDENT BELAUDE'S USE OF THE ARMY AGAINST
SENDERO PROMPTS PREDICTABLE REACTIONS

1. THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY AND CONGRESSIONAL RECESS LIMITED THE IMMEDIATE REACTION TO PRESIDENT BELAUDE'S ACTIONS. AFTER THE GOP'S EXTENDED SPADEWORK, TV REPORTERS FOUND THE MAN IN THE STREET IN AYACUCHO AS WELL AS LIMA RELIEVED AT THE ARMY PRESENCE.
2. OUTGOING PRIME MINISTER ULLOA, INCOMING PRIME MINISTER SCHWAB, SENATOR JAVIER ALVA ORLANDINI, SECGEN OF THE GOVERNING POPULAR ACTION (AP) PARTY, AND OTHER AP POLITICIANS WELCOMED THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO PUT THE ARMED FORCES IN CONTROL OF THE EMERGENCY AREA AROUND AYACUCHO. ALVA REJECTED SUGGESTIONS THAT THE ARMED FORCES MIGHT ENGAGE IN INDISCRIMINATE BLOODSHED.
3. SEVERAL APRISTA POLITICIANS WELCOMED THE DISPATCH OF TROOPS TO AYACUCHO, RECALLING THAT APRA LONG URGED MORE ENERGETIC ACTION TO END TERRORISM, INCLUDING USE OF THE ARMED FORCES. PRESIDENT BELAUDE INVITED APRA SECGEN ALAN GARCIA TO MEET WITH HIM ON DECEMBER 29. INTERVIEWED LEAVING THE PALACE, GARCIA PRAISED THE PRESIDENT'S COURTESY AND OPENNESS TO DIALOGUE, SAID THE PRESIDENT HAD ASSURED HIM THAT HUMAN RIGHTS WOULD BE RESPECTED, AND THAT EXCESSES, REPRESSION, UNNECESSARY BLOODSHED AND DAMAGE TO THE INNOCENT WOULD BE AVOIDED. GARCIA EXPRESSED HIS SATISFACTION AT THESE ASSURANCES BUT SAID APRA WOULD MONITOR DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY AND WOULD LOOK FOR ECONOMIC POLICY CHANGES UNDER THE NEW CABINET TO GET AT THE ROOT CAUSES OF TERRORISM.
4. UNITED LEFT (U) CONGRESSMAN AGUSTIN HAYA DE LA TORRE ASKED WHAT GUARANTEE SI MEMBERS WOULD HAVE AGAINST TORTURE AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. MOSCOW-LINE COMMUNIST PARTY SECGEN JORGE DEL PRADO REJECTED BELAUDE'S DECISION TO SEND IN THE ARMED FORCES AS THE BEGINNING OF BLOODY REPRESSION WHICH WOULD ENGULF DEMOCRATIC FORCES. HE CALLED INSTEAD FOR CHANGES IN GOP ECONOMIC POLICIES. OTHER LEFTIST SPIKESHEN EXPRESSED SIMILAR CONCERNS BUT BLAMED SENDERO LUMINOSOS FOR STUPIDLY PROVIDING THE GOP WITH ABUNDANT PROVOCATION. MARXIST DAILY "EL DIARIO MARKA" CARRIED AN IRRESPONSIBLE HEADLINE DEC 30 SUGGESTING, WITH NO SUBSTANTIATION WHATSOEVER, THAT THE ARMY MIGHT NAPALM VILLAGERS IN AYACUCHO.
5. COMMENT: GIVEN RECENT NEWS LEAKS, AMPLE COVERAGE OF TROOP BUILDUPS AND THE PROVOCATIONS OF SENDERO

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