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CONFIDENTIAL *Peru - Sendero Luminoso*
Department of State

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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PATROLS IN THE MOST SEVERELY AFFECTED AREAS. THERE ARE NOW AT LEAST 2,500 ARMY TROOPS IN THE AREA AND APPROXIMATELY 1,900 OFFICERS OF THE COMBINED POLICE BRANCHES. RESIDENTS OF AYACUCHO ARE REPORTEDLY SENDING THEIR CHILDREN TO LIMA AND OTHER CITIES AS THE POSSIBILITY OF MAJOR MILITARY ACTION INCREASES. MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN AYACUCHO ANNOUNCED RESTRICTIONS ON ENTRY INTO THE CITY'S AIRPORT, ON DECEMBER 29, AND FAUCETT AIRLINES CANCELLED ALL FLIGHTS TO AND FROM THE CITY, EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 30. A NINE P.M. TO SIX A.M. CURFEW IS NOW IN EFFECT.
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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PINS, PE
SUBJ: SENDERO LUMINOSO DEFIES GOP ULTIMATUM

REF: LIMA 13208

1. (U) THE GOP ANNOUNCED ON DECEMBER 29 THAT MEMBERS OF THE PERUVIAN CIVIL GUARD (GC) ENCOUNTERED ELEMENTS OF THE SENDERO LUMINOSO IN HUANCARAYLLA (OUTSIDE OF HAUWCAPI, CAPITAL OF VICTOR FAJARDO PROVINCE, AYACUCHO) KILLING 12 AND CAPTURING SEVERAL DURING A BRIEF GUNBATTLE ON DECEMBER 27. ACCORDING TO THE INTERIOR MINISTRY'S COMMUNIQUE, THE TERRORISTS, WHO HAD GATHERED THE TOWNSPEOPLE IN THE VILLAGE PLAZA TO CONDUCT "A PEOPLE'S TRIAL", FIRED ON A PATROL OF GC "SINCHIS" WHEN DISCOVERED. ONE GC WAS WOUNDED AND EVACUATED BY HELICOPTER TO AYACUCHO CITY. THE GOP SAID FOLLOWING THE ENCOUNTER, THE GC CONDUCTED A HOUSE-TO-HOUSE SEARCH AND CONFISCATED A LARGE QUANTITY OF DYNAMITE AND BLASTING CAPS. AMONG THE CAPTURED WERE TWO SUSPECTS IN PREVIOUS SENDERO LUMINOSO ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS, AS WELL AS A TEACHER AND TWO STUDENTS FROM A SECONDARY SCHOOL IN NEIGHBORING CANGALLO PROVINCE.
2. (U) DURING THE LAST TWO DAYS, AS ARMY TROOPS CONTINUED THEIR BUILDUP AND DEPLOYMENT, AND CIVIL GUARDSMEN BEGAN REOCCUPYING FORMERLY ABANDONED POSTS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, THE SL CONTINUED HARRASSING OPERATIONS IN A CLEAR EXPRESSION OF DEFIANCE OF PRESIDENT BELAUNDE'S ULTIMATUM (LIMA 13104). ON DECEMBER 28, TERRORISTS STOPPED SIX TRUCKS BEARING FOODSTUFFS FOR AYACUCHO ON THE ARIZONA HIGHWAY FROM LOS LIBERTADORES, UNLOADING THE TRUCKS AND SENDING THEM ON EMPTY. ON THE 29TH, TERRORISTS DESTROYED THE TEMPORARY BRIDGE OVER THE RIO PAMPAS, AGAIN CUTTING COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN AYACUCHO AND APURIMAC, (THE PERMANENT BRIDGE WAS KNOCKED OUT AT THE BEGINNING OF DECEMBER). ON THE NIGHT OF THE 28TH, IN HUANTA, SOMEONE DAMAGED A SCHOOL WITH A DYNAMITE ATTACK; HUANTA HAS BEEN QUIET SINCE AND REPORTEDLY NOW HAS A CONTINGENT OF 200 ARMY TROOPS GARRISONING THIS PROVINCIAL CAPITAL. IN ANGARAES PROVINCE OF HUANCVELICA (NOW UNDER A STATE OF EMERGENCY AND MILITARY CONTROL), BETWEEN 26 AND 28 DECEMBER TERRORISTS DESTROYED A MUNICIPAL WATERPUMP; SACKED A POST OFFICE, THE HEALTH POST, AND THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING; AND DESTROYED ROAD REPAIR EQUIPMENT.
3. (C) COMMENT: SINCE PRESIDENT BELAUNDE AUTHORIZED MILITARY CONTROL OF SEVEN PROVINCES IN THE AYACUCHO-APURIMAS-HUANCVELICA REGION, MILITARY AND POLICE ELEMENTS HAVE BEEN TAKING UP POSITIONS AND INITIATING

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