

UNCLASSIFIED

D3

PAGE:0003

R

INQUIRE=DOC5D
ITEM NO=00444416

DTG 122249Z MAY 88
FROM FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

CONTROLS

SECTION 01 OF 02 LIMA 06384

TERREP

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
(X) Release () Excise () Deny (X) Declassify
Date 01-25-02 Exemption

DIA FOR OA
5/OS-1D/DB-6D2/JSI-4B/DB-3C1

DEA FOR OF, PS, OC, OI

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD JOHN YOULE

ROME FOR VATICAN

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

TAGS: PTER, PGOV, ASEC, PE

SUBJECT: MRTA, SL STAGE HIGH PROFILE ATTACKS ON
- EVE OF PAPAL VISIT

REF: LIMA 6088

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY: THE TUPAC AMARU REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT (MRTA) APPARENTLY BROKE A LONG DRY SPELL WITH THREE ATTACKS MAY 11-12: SHELLING THE INTERIOR MINISTRY, A CAR BOMB IN FRONT OF AN ARMY INSTALLATION (ESCUELA MILITAR), AND INTERRUPTING MASS AT A CHURCH SCHEDULED TO BE VISITED BY THE POPE IN THREE DAYS. THE RIVAL SENDERO LUMINOSO (SL) ATTACHED TWO FACTORIES MAY 11, AND KILLED AT LEAST TEN (10) POLICEMEN MAY 12. THE ATTACKS UNDERSCORE PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS OF MAJOR TERRORIST ATTACKS OVER THE NEXT WEEK. RIVALRY BETWEEN SL AND MRTA IS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT. WE ARE CONCERNED BY APPARENT MRTA ACQUISITION OF MORTARS, AND BY INADEQUATE POLICE PROTECTION OF SITES ON THE POPE'S SCHEDULE. THE RENEWAL OF MRTA OPERATIONS WITH HIGH-PROFILE ATTACKS GIVES CREDENCE TO RECENT REPORTS (REFTEL) OF THREAT AGAINST DIPLOMATS AND BUSINESSES. END SUMMARY.
3. (C) IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER, THE MRTA ATTACKS INCLUDE: THE MAY 11 EXPLOSION OF A CAR BOMB NEAR THE ENTRANCE OF THE MILITARY'S TRAINING/

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE:0004

ACADEMIC CENTER IN THE SUBURB OF CHORRILLOS. THERE ARE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT ONE SOLDIER OR CADET ON GUARD DUTY NEARBY WAS KILLED OR INJURED. THE EXPLOSION OCCURRED ABOUT 50 METERS FROM THE RESIDENCE OF DEFENSE MINISTER GENERAL (RET) ENRIQUE LOPEZ ALBUJAR. ONE NEWSPAPER RECEIVED AN ANONYMOUS CALL THAT ATTRIBUTED THE ATTACK TO THE MRTA;

--AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME, TERRORISTS FIRED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES AT THE INTERIOR MINISTRY HEADQUARTERS IN SAN ISIDRO. TWO POLICEMEN ON DUTY WERE WOUNDED BY SHRAPNEL. INITIAL PRESS REPORTS CLAIM TERRORISTS USED MORTARS. A POLICE REPORT NOTES THAT POLICE UNITS LATER FOUND AND DEFUSED A 60MM MORTAR ROUND. THE SAME ANONYMOUS CALLER MENTIONED ABOVE CLAIMED THE MRTA HAD CARRIED OUT THIS ATTACK AS WELL;

--AT ABOUT 9:00 AM MAY 12, SUSPECTED MRTA TERRORISTS INTERRUPTED A MASS CONDUCTED AT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH'S MARIANIST CONGRESS. THE TERRORISTS REPORTEDLY CALLED UPON THOSE PRESENT TO SUPPORT THE "ARMED REVOLUTION," AND DISTRIBUTED PROPAGANDA. NOBODY WAS HURT. THIS CHURCH IS ONE THE POPE IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT; WE DO NOT KNOW WHY THERE WERE NO POLICE HERE.

4. [REDACTED] THE ATTACK AGAINST THE INTERIOR MINISTRY AND THE INCURSION IN THE CHURCH SOUND VERY MUCH LIKE MRTA ACTIONS. THE MRTA HAS ATTACKED THE INTERIOR MINISTRY ON AT LEAST TWO OTHER OCCASIONS AND IT HAS USED HOME-MADE MORTARS. IN THE CASE OF THE CHURCH, WE NOTE THE LACK OF BLOODSHED AND THE APPARENT ABSENCE OF TYPICAL SL SLOGANS. ALTHOUGH BOTH SL AND THE MRTA USE CAR BOMBS, WE BELIEVE THAT IN THIS CASE THE ATTACK WAS DONE BY THE MRTA, HAD IT BEEN SL, THE PRO-SL DAILY WOULD HAVE COVERED IT IN ITS MAY 12 EDITION. THESE ATTACKS FOLLOW THE MRTA'S BOMBING OF TWO BUSINESS-RELATED TARGETS OVER THE MAY 7-8 WEEKEND (THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF INDUSTRIES AND THE EXPORTERS' ASSOCIATION), WHICH CAUSED MATERIAL DAMAGES BUT NO PERSONAL INJURIES.

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 002 *****/

5. BY COINCIDENCE, SL ALSO CARRIED OUT AN ATTACK EARLY MAY 12. AT ABOUT 7:30 AM, PROBABLE SL TERRORISTS ATTACKED A POLICE BUS THAT WAS TRANSPORTING 39 OR 40 POLICE (GUARDIA REPUBLICANA) TO A PRISON FOR GUARD DUTY. THE ATTACKERS REPORTEDLY THREW A DYNAMITE CHARGE INTO THE BUS THROUGH A MISSING REAR WINDOW. THE POLICE REPORT SEVEN POLICEMEN WERE KILLED AND THE REST WERE WOUNDED. THE POLICE ALSO REQUESTED THAT PROBABLE SL MEMBERS KILLED THREE POLICEMEN TODAY IN THE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE:0005

STREETS OF LIMA. ALSO EARLY MAY 11 SL ATTACKED TWO INSTALLATIONS OF THE "BATA" CANADIAN-OWNED SHOE FACTORY.

6. COMMENT: COMING ON THE EVE OF THE POPE'S VISIT (MAY 14-16) AND OF SL'S EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OF ARMED STRUGGLE (MAY 17), THESE ATTACKS WILL REINFORCE PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS THAT THERE WILL BE MAJOR TERRORIST ATTACKS OVER THE NEXT WEEK. THE MAY 11-12 AND LAST WEEKEND'S ATTACKS BY THE MRTA ARE THE FIRST MRTA OPERATIONS IN LIMA IN SEVERAL MONTHS. THEY FOLLOW RUMORS THAT THE MRTA, WHICH HAD BEEN HURT BY POLICE OPERATIONS, WAS PLANNING ATTENTION-GRABBING ATTACKS IN ORDER TO RECOVER ITS FORMER PRESTIGE. RIVALRY BETWEEN SL AND THE MRTA IS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN MRTA ATTACKS. PARTICULARLY WORRISOME IS THE MRTA'S USE OF MORTARS. THE MRTA, SINCE THE POPE WILL BE VISITING THIS WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED BY THE FACT THAT THE POLICE HAD NOT ALREADY SEALED OFF THE CHURCH WHERE THE MRTA ENTERED TODAY, SINCE THIS IS ONE OF THE SITES THE POPE WILL BE VISITING IN THREE DAYS.

7. WE BELIEVE THAT THE MRTA'S INCREASED ACTIVITY GIVES ADDITIONAL CREDENCE TO RECENT REPORTS OF POSSIBLE MRTA ACTIONS AGAINST DIPLOMATS AND BUSINESSES.
(REFTEL).
WATSON

UNCLASSIFIED