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AN: D881043-0785

EXCISE

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ACTION SCT-02

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-07	SS-00	CIAE-00	EB-00
NSCE-00	ARA-00	NSAE-00	COME-00	SSD-00	L-03	NRCE-00	
TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-01	FAAE-00	CCO-00	INM-07	INRE-00	
CA-02	USSS-00	USIE-00	JUSE-00	FBIE-00	OC-02	DOEE-00	
M-01	FAIM-01	DS-01	P-02	T-01	/040 W		

0 282050Z NOV 88

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3671

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY QUITO

USAFSD HOWARD AFB PM

USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM

DIA WASHDC

DEAHQS WASHDC

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS, FPC/CDR *MJM* Date *4/21/95*

() RELEASE () DECLASSIFY
 EXCISE DECLASSIFY
() DENY IN PART
() DELETE Non-Responsive Info
FOiA Exemptions b1, c3, c5
PA Exemptions _____

MR Cases Only: _____
EO Citations _____
_____ TS authority to
() CLASSIFY as () S or () C OADR
() DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () C OADR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LIMA 16229

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

DEA FOR OF, PS, OC, OI

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, PHUM, ASEC, PE
SUBJECT: MORE SENDERO ATTACKS

1. (C) SUMMARY: AN SL ATTACK ON AN ARMY CONVOY IN THE UHV HAS LEFT 22 SOLDIERS DEAD WITH NO FIRM EVIDENCE OF ANY SL LOSSES. THE DEATH OF A JOURNALIST NEAR AYACUCHO MAY HAVE BEEN THE WORK OF THE SL, BUT RELIABLE SOURCES ADVISE US THAT THE REPORTER HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN THREATENED BY MILITARY AUTHORITIES. THESE AND OTHER INCIDENTS HAVE MADE NOVEMBER AND 1988 THE BLOODIEST

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MONTH AND YEAR IN PERU'S EIGHT YEAR WAR WITH

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SUBVERSION. END SUMMARY.

2. ARMY ROUTED IN THE UHV:

(U) ON NOVEMBER 22 A LARGE NUMBER OF SENDERO TERRORISTS AMBUSHED AN ARMY PATROL OPERATING ALONG THE MAIN HIGHWAY RUNNING NORTHWARD FROM TINGO MARIA IN THE UPPER HUALLAGA VALLEY. THE ATTACKERS SET OFF AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF ELECTRONICALLY CONTROLLED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES, DESTROYING TWO TRUCKS CARRYING TROOPS. IN THE EXPLOSIONS AND THE ENSUING SHOOT-OUT, AT LEAST 22 SOLDIERS, AND POSSIBLY SOME CIVILIANS WHO WERE HITCH-HIKING WITH THE TROOPS, WERE KILLED. THERE WERE A NUMBER OF WOUNDED. THE SL ATTACKERS ESCAPED WITH ALL OF THE ARMS AND AMMUNITION CARRIED BY THE SOLDIERS.

3. (C) 3. INITIAL REPORTS FROM THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE INDICATED THAT AS MANY AS 100 SL TROOPS WERE KILLED. USMISSION PERSONNEL IN TINGO MARIA AT THE TIME OF THE ATTACK HAVE REPORTED THAT THERE IS NO FIRM EVIDENCE THAT ANY SL DIED IN THE ATTACK. ACCORDING TO RELIABLE ACCOUNTS, THE MILITARY WHO RELIEVED THE BESEIGED CONVOY FOUND BLOOD AND OTHER EVIDENCE THAT SOME OF THE ATTACKERS HAD SUFFERED CASUALTIES.

ON POLOFF THE AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 25 TO REPORT THAT HE HAD RECEIVED WORD THAT THE BODIES OF A NUMBER OF PEASANTS FROM THE UHV VILLAGES OF AUCAYACU AND CANJITO WERE AMONG THE ALLEGED SL
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CORPSES.

4. (C) THAT THE CIVILIANS WERE KILLED IN A MILITARY SWEEP OF THE AREA FOLLOWING THE AMBUSH, AND THEIR BODIES USED AS EVIDENCE OF SENDERO LOSSES. WHILE THIS SCENARIO IS POSSIBLE

WE ARE INCLINED TO ACCEPT A SIMPLER EXPLANATION. WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED THE SL'S INCREASED TENDENCY

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IN THE UHV TO USE PEASANTS AS A KIND OF BUFFER DURING SL ATTACKS ON GOP TARGETS. IF THERE WERE PEASANTS IN THE GROUP OF ATTACKING SENDERISTAS, IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT THESE UNTRAINED CAMPESINOS MAY REPRESENT A DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE OF ANY CORPSES FOUND AT THE BATTLE SITE.

5. (C) THE AMBUSH OF NOVEMBER 22 RECONFIRMS OUR PREVIOUSLY REPORTED VIEW OF THE GROWING STRENGTH AND BRAZENNESS OF THE SL IN THE UHV. THE SL APPEARS SO CONFIDENT OF THAT STRENGTH THAT IS APPEARS WILLING TO TACKLE THE ARMY DIRECTLY AND, AT LEAST ON OCCASION, BATTLE NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS AS WELL.

6. SOME NEWSPAPERS ALSO REPORTED A SEPARATE ATTACK ON THE TINGO MARIA AIRPORT BY AN ALLEGED SENDERO COLUMN THE EVENING OF NOVEMBER 24. U.S. MISSION PERSONNEL PRESENT AT THE SITE DURING THE ENTIRE DAY REPORT THAT NO SUCH INCIDENT OCCURED. WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO TRACE THE SOURCE OF THE NEWSPAPER ACCOUNT.

7. JOURNALIST KILLED IN AYACUCHO:

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INFO LDG-00 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-07 SS-00 CIAE-00 EB-00
NSCE-00 ARA-00 NSAE-00 COME-00 SSO-00 L-03 NRCE-00
TRSE-00 PM-10 PA-01 FAAE-00 CCD-00 INM-07 INRE-00
CA-02 USSS-00 USIE-00 JUSE-00 FBIE-00 DC-02 DOEE-00
M-01 FAIM-01 DS-01 P-02 T-01 /040 W
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O 282050Z NOV 88
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3672
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
USAFSO HOWARD AFB PM
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM
DIA WASHDC
DEAHQS WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LIMA 16229

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

DEA FOR OF, PS, OC, OI

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, PHUM, ASEC, PE
SUBJECT: MORE SENDERO ATTACKS
(U) ON NOVEMBER 24 ALLEGED SL SUBVERSIVES SHOT
AND KILLED A JOURNALIST WORKING FOR "CARETAS"
MAGAZINE, AND BADLY WOUNDED ANOTHER WORKING FOR
THE NEWSPAPER "ACTUALIDAD." INITIAL PRESS REPORTS
INDICATED THAT THE TWO HAD ACCIDENTLY MET A GROUP
OF 8 SUBVERSIVES WHILE TRAVELING IN THE COUNTRYSIDE
NEAR AYACUCHO. AFTER A BRIEF ARGUMENT, THE TERRORISTS
SHOT TO DEATH HUGO BUSTIOS SAAVEDRA, AND THEN
SERIOUSLY WOUNDED EDUARDO ROJAS ARCE AS HE
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ATTEMPTED TO FLEE.

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8. (C) THERE ARE INDICATIONS, HOWEVER, THAT THE JOURNALIST MAY NOT HAVE BEEN KILLED BY THE SL. ACCORDING TO A HUMAN RIGHTS SOURCE, AND CONFIRMED BY

BOTH BUSTIOS AND ROJAS HAD REPEATEDLY BEEN THREATENED BY MILITARY AUTHORITIES FOR THEIR COVERAGE OF CAYARA MASSACRE.

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9. INITIAL PRESS ACCOUNTS IDENTIFIED THE ATTACKERS AS SENDERO TERRORISTS. THE VILLAGE OF HUANTA IS IN THE MIDDLE OF AN AYACUCHO DEPARTMENT RED ZONE (AN AREA CONSIDERED UNDER VIRTUAL SL CONTROL) AND THE KILLING OCCURED DURING A 7 DAY STRIKE CALLED BY SL. THE SL OFTEN ENFORCES SUCH STRIKES BY KILLING THOSE WHO VIOLATE THEM, INCLUDING TRAVELERS WHO ARE WARNED TO REMAIN IN THEIR HOMES. BUT SURVIVOR ROJAS, IN A NOVEMBER 27 INTERVIEW, EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT HIS ATTACKERS WERE MILITARY OFFICERS. "CARETAS" OF NOVEMBER 28, DESCRIBES IN SOME DETAIL THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AMBUSH, AND CLEARLY IMPLIES THAT ELEMENTS OF THE ARMED FORCES WERE INVOLVED. WE WILL REPORT ADDITIONAL DETAILS OF THIS INCIDENT SEPTEL.

10. OTHER INCIDENTS:

(U) PRESS ACCOUNTS STATE THAT THE MAYOR OF AN AYACUCHO
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DEPARTMENT VILLAGE AND HIS SECRETARY, AND THE EX-GOVERNOR (READ: MAYOR) OF A SMALL AYACUCHO DEPARTMENT REFUGEE CAMP WERE KILLED BY TERRORISTS.

11. (U) ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS A NASCA VILLAGE JUDGE AND TWO MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY WERE ASSASSINATED BY THE SL. THE TERRORISTS REPORTEDLY ENTERED THE TOWN, CONVOKED THE ENTIRE POPULATION IN THE MAIN SQUARE, AND EXECUTED THE THREE OVER THE PROTESTS OF THE TOWNS PEOPLE. THE SL REPORTEDLY WARNED THE CITIZENS AS THEY

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LEFT OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF OPPOSITION TO THE
SL'S ARMED REBELLION.

12. THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER:

(C) THE NEWS OF THESE RECENT SENDERO ATROCITIES
REACHED THE CITY OF LIMA EVEN AS CITIZENS HERE
CONTINUED TO SUFFER THROUGH REPEATED BROWN-OUTS
FOLLOWING THE SL DESTRUCTION OF AT LEAST A DOZEN
HIGH-TENSION POWER PYLONS. WE DO NOT YET
HAVE THE FINAL FIGURES FOR THE NUMBER OF DEATHS
DUE TO POLITICAL VIOLENCE DURING THE MONTH OF
NOVEMBER, BUT OUR UNOFFICIAL TABULATION SHOWS
NEARLY 200 AS OF NOVEMBER 25. IT APPEARS CERTAIN
NOVEMBER WILL BE THE BLOODIEST MONTH OF THE EIGHT
YEAR WAR WITH THE SENDERO LUMINOSO. DISCOUNTING
THE NUMBER OF ALLEGED TERRORISTS KILLED IN 1984,
1988 IS ALREADY THIS DECADE'S BLOODIEST YEAR.

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