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INCOMING
TELEGRAM

P.E. X48

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PAGE 01
ACTION ARA-00

LIMA 01506 31 1989

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-07	SS-00	CIAE-00	DDDE-00	H-01
	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	HA-09	L-03	AMAD-01	TRSE-00	PM-10
	PA-01	OMB-01	INRE-00	USIE-00	SP-02	SNP-01	C-01
	PRS-01	DS-00	SCT-02	P-02	T-01	/044 W	

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5543

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

E. O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: ASEC, PTER, PE
SUBJECT: CORRECTED NAMES OF ASSASSINATED MAYORS

REF: LIMA 1337

1. WE NOTE TWO ERRORS IN REFTEL IN REFERENCE TO RECENT SENDERO ATTACKS AGAINST RURAL MAYORS. IN PARA FIVE, THE MAYOR OF PUNO IS INCORRECTLY NAMED AS LUIS DUENAS. LUIS DUENAS WAS THE FORMER MAYOR OF PUNO ASSASSINATED BY SENDERO IN JUNE. THE PRESS INCORRECTLY REPORTED HIS NAME IN CONNECTION WITH THE JANUARY 23, 1989 INCIDENT, AND WE REPEATED THE ERROR. PUNO'S MAYOR IS JULIAN BARRA.

2. IN ATTEMPTING TO CLARIFY THE PRESS VERSION OF THE PUNO INCIDENT, POLOFF SPOKE WITH THE SUB-PREFECT OF PUNO WHO PROVIDED HIM THE NAME OF THE CURRENT MAYOR, BUT ADDED THAT THE INCIDENT AGAINST MAYOR BARRA OCCURRED NOT IN THE MUNICIPALITY AS THE PRESS STORY REPORTED, BUT IN THE MAYOR'S BUSINESS OFFICE. MAYOR BARRA IS AN AGRONOMIST AND HAS A CONSULTING FIRM IN PUNO. POLOFF LATER SPOKE WITH THE DIRECTOR OF RADIO ONDA AZUL, A CATHOLIC-OWNED STATION IN PUNO. THIS SOURCE STATED THAT THERE WAS INDEED AN ATTEMPT AGAINST A PUNO DEPARTMENT MAYOR BUT THAT IT WAS NOT THE MAYOR OF PUNO BUT THE MAYOR OF YUNGUYO, A TOWN 100 KILOMETERS FROM PUNO. THIS SOURCE FURTHER ADDED THAT THE MAYOR OF YUNGUYO, SEBASTIAN BENAVIDEZ, CLAIMED THAT THE ATTEMPT ON HIS LIFE WAS NOT SENDERO, BUT RODRIGO FRANCO. THE ORIGINAL PRESS ACCOUNT OF THE ATTEMPT (AGAINST A MAYOR SIX MONTHS DEAD) STATED THAT THE TERRORISTS LEFT SL LITERATURE AT THE SCENE. FROM THESE THREE CONFLICTING ACCOUNTS WE HAVE CONCLUDED: A GROUP OF TERRORISTS, EITHER FAR-RIGHT OR FAR-LEFT, ATTEMPTED TO KILL SOME MAYOR IN SOME PUNO DEPARTMENT TOWN, EITHER IN HIS PRIVATE FIRM OR IN HIS MUNICIPAL OFFICE, AND THAT THE ATTEMPT FAILED. WE REHEARSE THIS EXERCISE WHICH CONSUMED THE BETTER PART OF ONE MORNING AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES WHICH WOULD BE REQUIRED TO DO A MORE THOROUGH JOB ON INSURGENCY REPORTING IN PERU.

3. ALSO IN PARA FIVE, THE MAYOR OF SATIPO IS INCORRECTLY LISTED AS LUIS DUENAS. THE ASSASSINATED MAYOR OF SATIPO WAS FIDEL JUARAZ TORRES. WATSON

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United States Department of State
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