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***** LIMA 06788 *****

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<TOR> 890508205123
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ACTION SCT-02
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NSCE-00 ARA-00 NSAE-00 COME-00 SSO-00 L-03 AMAD-01
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INRE-00 CA-02 CG-00 USSS-00 USIE-00 JUSE-00 FBIE-00
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RELEASED IN FULL

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<TO>
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USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
DIA WASHDC

Peru
SL
MRTA

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DIA FOR OA-5/OS-1D/DB-602/JSI-48/DB-3C1
USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD JOHN YOULE
E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

<TAGS>
TAGS: ASEC, PTER, PE, ALOW

<SUBJ>
SUBJECT: TWO CAR BOMBS; OTHER TERRORIST INCIDENTS

<TEXT>
1. (U) SUMMARY. IN SEPARATE ATTACKS, THE
MRTA EXPLODED A CAR BOMB IN LIMA ON MAY 6 AND
THE SL A SMALLER CAR BOMB IN ICA ON MAY 7.
THERE WERE DYNAMITE ATTACKS AGAINST FIVE
POLICE AND MILITARY TARGETS THE SAME TWO DAYS.

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ON MAY 5 AN MRTA COLUMN OF 150 ATTACKED
AND OCCUPIED A TOWN IN THE LORETO DEPARTMENT,
NORTH OF THE SAN MARTIN DEPARTMENT BORDER.
THE LORETO ATTACK MARKS AN EXTENSION OF
TERRORIST OPERATIONS IN THE AMAZON BASIN.
END SUMMARY.

2. CAR BOMBS IN LIMA AND ICA:

(U) THE DEATH OF APRA DEPUTY LI ORMENO (SEPTEL)
WAS ONE OF A NUMBER OF VIOLENT ACTS, STRETCHING

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FROM LORETO DEPARTMENT IN THE NORTHEAST, TO ICA IN THE COASTAL SOUTH.

ON FRIDAY NIGHT, MAY 6, A POWERFUL CAR BOMB EXPLODED IN THE LIMA SUBURB OF SAN ISIDRO. THE BOMB WAS APPARENTLY TARGETED FOR A SMALL MILITARY POST IN THE AREA BUT DID MORE DAMAGE TO NEAR-BY BUILDINGS. FOUR PERSONS WERE WOUNDED IN THE BLAST. ONE REMAINS IN CRITICAL CONDITION.

3. (U) THE BOMB WAS THE WORK OF THE MRTA. ACCORDING TO POLICE SOURCES WE HAVE SPOKEN WITH, THE TERRORISTS APPROACHED THE MILITARY POST IN ANISSAN PICK-UP. THREE SUSPECTED TERRORISTS ABANDONED THE VEHICLE ON THE STREET AS IF IT WERE SUFFERING MECHANICAL DIFFICULTIES. THE THREE THEN BEGAN HANDING OUT SUBVERSIVE LITERATURE, WARNED PEDESTRIANS THAT A BOMB WAS ABOUT TO GO OFF IN THE AREA, RETURNED TO THE PICK-UP, AND PUSHED IT FURTHER DOWN THE STREET IN THE DIRECTION OF THE POST. THE BOMB, ESTIMATED AT 20 KILOS OF DYNAMITE, WENT OFF MOMENTS LATER.

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4. (U) ON SATURDAY, MAY 7, A SMALL CAR BOMB EXPLODED SEVERAL BLOCKS FROM THE CENTRAL PLAZA IN ICA CITY, 250 KILOMETERS SOUTH OF LIMA. THE BOMB CAUSED MODERATE DAMAGE AND WOUNDED ONE PASSER-BY. DUE TO ITS LOCATION AND THE ABSENCE OF MRTA LITERATURE, POLICE SOURCES BELIEVE THE SECOND BLAST WAS THE WORK OF SENDERO LUMINOSO.

5. OTHER WEEKEND ATTACKS:

(U) A POWERFUL DYNAMITE BLAST DESTROYED THE OFFICE OF MILITARY RECRUITING IN THE NORTHERN CITY OF TRUJILLO. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS THIS IS THE THIRD ATTACK ON THIS SAME OFFICE IN THE PAST EIGHT MONTHS. POLICE SOURCES TELL US THE TRUJILLO BOMBING WAS ONE OF FIVE ATTACKS OVER THE WEEKEND AGAINST MILITARY AND POLICE TARGETS.

6. (U) THERE WERE ALSO DYNAMITE ATTACKS AGAINST POLICE STATIONS IN AYACUCHO AND HUANCAYO. OUR SOURCES WERE ABLE TO GIVE US NO FURTHER DETAILS. SUSPECTED SL TERRORISTS ALSO KILLED TWO POLICE OFFICERS IN HUANUCO AND THREE ELECTED OFFICIALS IN HUACHO, 120 KILOMETERS NORTH OF LIMA. THE LATTER WERE KILLED IN THEIR HOMES BY TERRORISTS. TWO SOLDIERS REPORTEDLY DIED IN A CLASH WITH SL NEAR CUSCO. THE DEAD AND SEVERAL WOUNDED WERE BROUGHT TO LIMA ON MAY 7.

7. MRTA SEIZES A TOWN:

(U) ALSO ON FRIDAY A COLUMN OF 150 UNIFORMED SUBVERSIVES ATTACKED AND OCCUPIED THE VILLAGE OF PELEJE, IN LORETO DEPARTMENT ALONG THE HUALLAGA

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RIVER JUST NORTH OF THE SAN MARTIN DEPARTMENT BORDER. THE SUBVERSIVES FIRST ATTACKED THE POLICE STATION THERE. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE 8

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POLICE ABANDONED THEIR POST AND FLED INTO THE JUNGLE LEAVING THEIR WEAPONS BEHIND, INCLUDING SIX MACHINE PISTOLS, TEN REVOLVERS, A DOZEN HAND GRENADES, AND 2,000 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION. AFTER TAKING THE POLICE STATION THE TERRORISTS SACKED A NEAR-BY SLUM TOWN.

8. (C) COMMENT: THE MAY 5 ATTACK IN PELEJE ADDS TO THE NUMBER OF RECENT INCIDENTS OF POLICE ABANDONING THEIR POSTS AND THEIR AMMUNITION TO ATTACKING TERRORISTS. POLICE SOURCES TELL US THAT THESE INCIDENTS ARE IN PART MOTIVATED BY THE UUCHIZA FIASCO (LIMA 4664) AND WILL INCREASE IN RREGULARITY UNLESS POLICE COMMANDERS TAKE SEVERE DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST THEIR DESERTING PERSONNEL.

- BUT ONE FORMER PIP COLONEL TOLD US THAT THERE IS LITTLE MOTIVATION TO PUNISH THEIR MEN SINCE THE POLICE LEADERSHIP LAYS THE BLAME FOR THE CURRENT SORRY STATE OF POLICE PREPAREDNESS, INCLUDING ARMS AND SUPPORT ELEMENTS, AT THE FEET OF ELECTED POLITICIANS. END COMMENT.

9. (C) DESPITE THE SL MODUS, POLICE AND PRESS SOURCES ARE ATTRIBUTING THE PELEJE ATTACK TO THE MRTA. THAT IS POSSIBLE. THE AREA NORTH OF TARAPOTO HAS BEEN LARGELY FREE OF TERRORIST ACTIVITY, BUT THE HUALLAGA VALLEY FROM TARAPOTO SOUTH TO JUANJUI HAS BEEN AN AREA OF MRTA

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INFLUENCE. WE NOTE WITH CONCERN THE EVIDENCE OF EXTENDING TERRORIST INFLUENCE IN THE UPPER AMAZON BASIN JUNGLE VALLEYS. WE ALSO NOTE RECENT REPORTS FROM CREDITABLE SOURCES OF POSSIBLE COOPERATION BETWEEN SL AND MRTA ELEMENTS IN THESE NORTHEASTERN JUNGLE PROVINCES. PRESS SOURCES ARE REPORTING SL DEAD AMONG THE 62 KILLED IN THE APRIL 28 JAUJA CLASH (LIMA 6471).
THOUGH THIS ALLEGED COOPERATION APPEARS AN IMPROBABLE MIXTURE OF IDEOLOGICAL REPELLANTS, IT IS AN ISSUE WE WILL BE CLOSELY WATCHING IN COMING MONTHS.
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