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ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-07 SS-00 CIAE-00 M
NSAE-00 L-03 TRSE-00 PM-10 PA-01 INM-07 INRE-0C
USIE-00 JUSE-00 DEAE-00 SP-02 M-01 DS-01 SCT-02
P-02 T-01 /037 W
-----125413 190052Z /70 37

P 190005Z MAY 89
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8533
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
USAFSD HOWARD AFB PM
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
DIA WASHDC

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPC/CDR *WFB* Date: *9/3/96*

RELEASE DECLASSIFY
 EXCISE DECLASSIFY
 DENY IN PART
 DELETE Non-Responsive Info
FOIA Exemptions _____
PA Exemptions _____

MR Cases Only:
EO Citations _____
_____ TS authority to
 CLASSIFY as S or
 DOWNGRADE TS to S or

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

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD JOHN YOULE

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: ASEC, PTER, ALOW, PE
SUBJECT: THE SL ANNIVERSARY: A BLOODY CELEBRATION

REF: LIMA 7267

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY: SENDERO LUMINOSO DOES NOT CLOSELY OBSERVE THE CALENDAR IN COMMEMORATING ITS IMPORTANT ANNIVERSARIES, BUT THE NINTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BEGINNING OF SL'S ARMED STRUGGLE (MAY 17, 1989) WAS MARKED BY THE KILLING OF AN INFLUENTIAL

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SOVIET-EDUCATED UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR. IT IS POSSIBLE

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DR. ABELARDO LUDENA MAY NOT HAVE BEEN KILLED BY SENDERO. OTHER TERRORIST INCIDENTS IN THE UHV AND IN THE ANDEAN SIERRA APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN MOTIVATED BY SPECIFIC FACTORS OTHER THAN AN ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION. END SUMMARY.

3. THE TRUTH IS THERE WAS NO PARTICULAR EFFORT BY SENDERO LUMINOSO TO COMMEMORATE THE NINTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BEGINNING OF ITS ARMED STRUGGLE AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF PERU (MAY 17, 1980). SL MILITARY TACTICIANS DO NOT HAVE A HISTORY OF EXECUTING EXTRAORDINARY "CELEBRATIONS" ON IMPORTANT DATES. RATHER THEY PLAN MAJOR BUT INTEGRATED MILITARY ACTIONS IN THE PERIOD OF TIME AROUND THE DATES. THUS THE MAY 17 ANNIVERSARY IS BEST UNDERSTOOD IN THE CONTEXT OF THE THREE DAY ARMED STRIKE IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLAND (MAY 10-12), THE WEEK-LONG BROWN OUT IN LIMA (MAY 10-17), AND ANY OTHER MAJOR INCIDENTS WHICH MAY OCCUR IN THE NEXT WEEK OR SO.

4. TERRORISTS KILL A LEFTIST PROFESSOR:

BUT THE DAY ITSELF, MAY 17, WAS PUNCTUATED BY THE BRUTAL KILLING OF ABELARDO LUDENA LUQUE, AN ENGINEERING PROFESSOR AT THE NATIONAL ENGINEERING UNIVERSITY (UNI). AT APPROXIMATELY 0810 FOUR UNMASKED GUNMEN, THREE MEN AND A WOMAN, APPROACHED LUDENA'S VEHICLE AS HE WAS PREPARING TO DRIVE TO THE UNIVERSITY. THEY OPENED FIRE, WOUNDING HIM. LUDENA STRUGGLED FROM HIS CAR AND ATTEMPTED TO FLEE INTO HIS HOUSE. HE

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WAS SHOT AGAIN, IN THE BACK, AND FELL TO THE PAVEMENT NEAR HIS DOORSTEP. THE GUNMEN APPROACHED THE BODY AND FIRED AT LEAST ONE ADDITIONAL ROUND INTO THE BACK OF HIS HEAD.

5. THE FOUR KILLERS THEN FLED ON FOOT. THEY WERE SEEN BY A NUMBER OF WITNESSES, INCLUDING BY LUDENA'S WIFE WHO RUSHED FROM THE HOUSE AT THE SOUND OF THE GUNFIRE. ACCORDING TO THESE WITNESSES QUOTED IN THE PRESS, TWO OF THE ASSASSINS,

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INCLUDING THE WOMAN, WERE ORIENTAL. A HAND PRINTED POSTER WAS FOUND ON THE PROFESSOR'S BACK. IT READ, "THUS DIE THE SERVANTS OF SOCIAL IMPERIALISM."

6. LUDENA WAS AN IMPORTANT FIGURE, FOR SEVERAL REASONS. HE WAS A SENIOR PROFESSOR AT THE PRESTIGIOUS (AND RADICAL LEFTIST) ENGINEERING SCHOOL. HE STUDIED IN THE SOVIET UNION IN THE 60'S, RECEIVING DOCTORATE DEGREES IN ENGINEERING AND PHILOSOPHY FROM PATRICE LUMUMBA UNIVERSITY. HE HAD ALSO RETURNED SEVERAL TIMES TO THE USSR ON SCHOLARSHIP OR GRANT PROGRAMS. HIS WIFE IS A SOVIET CITIZEN WHOM HE MET AND MARRIED WHILE IN THE UNIVERSITY.

7. LUDENA WAS A MEMBER OF THE PCP. IT WAS INCORRECTLY REPORTED IN ONE PAPER THAT HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE SOCIALIST ACCORD. A SOCIALIST ACCORD DEPUTY TOLD US THAT LUDENA WAS A PCP MODERATE, ONE OF THOSE URGING PCP PRESIDENT DEL PRADO TO SUPPORT THE BARRANTES PRESIDENTIAL BID. HIS HOME, THE SITE OF THE KILLING, IS SEVERAL BLOCKS FROM THE HOME OF ALFONSO BARRANTES.

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8. WHO KILLED HIM?:
THE LIMA PRESS, AND LOCAL POLITICAL FIGURES,
ARE ALREADY CHOOSING SIDES ON THE ARGUMENT OF
WHICH GROUP IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KILLING;
SENDERO OR RODRIGO FRANCO COMMAND (CRF).
AS IN THE RECENT DEATHS OF THE TWO DEPUTIES,
CULPABILITY CANNOT BE CLEARLY ASCRIBED. IT IS
POSSIBLE THE CRF USED THE SL ANNIVERSARY

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DATE AND THE POSTER, TO CAST BLAME ON SENDERO.
AS A FACULTY MEMBER AT UNI, AND A MEMBER OF THE

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PCP, LUDENA COULD CERTAINLY BE CONSIDERED A POSSIBLE VIGILANTE TARGET.

9. BUT HE COULD ALSO HAVE BEEN AN SL TARGET. AS THE DEATH POSTER CORRECTLY STATED, LUDENA WAS A "REVISIONIST". WE PERSIST IN THE VIEW THAT SL EFFORTS TO SABOTAGE THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS WILL INCLUDE TARGETING OF IU OR OTHER LEFTIST CANDIDATES. A LEFTIST IN THE PALACIO DE PIZARRO IS THE LAST THING THE SL WANTS. ABSENT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, WE VIEW THE SL AS THE MOST LIKELY PERPETRATORS.

10. THE FRUSTRATION WE FEEL IN THESE CONSTANT SPECULATIONS AS TO WHO PULLED THE TRIGGER AND WHY IS MIRRORED IN A GROWING SENSE OF DESPAIR AMONG MANY PERUVIANS. OUR FRUSTRATION IS AN ACADEMIC ONE; WE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT THESE THINGS. THE PERUVIANS' CONCERN IS PRACTICAL.

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11. OTHER INCIDENTS:
THE SL WAS ALSO ACTIVE OUTSIDE LIMA. FOLLOWING THE SUCCESSFUL THREE DAY STRIKE IN HUANUCO, PASCO AND JUNIN DEPARTMENTS, THE SL CALLED A SIMILARLY SUCCESSFUL STRIKE MAY 16-18 IN HUANCVELICA DEPARTMENT. POLICE SOURCES TOLD US THE STRIKE WAS ALMOST TOTALLY OBSERVED. THE PRESS REPORTS BOMBINGS, BURNED VEHICLES, AND SEVERAL KILLINGS IN THIS SIERRA DEPARTMENT BETWEEN JUNIN AND AYACUCHO DEPARTMENTS.

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12. WE REPORTED SEPTTEL (LIMA 7267) THE DEATHS OF AT LEAST NINE POLICEMEN IN TWO SEPARATE AMBUSHES IN THE UPPER HUALLAGA VALLEY. WE BELIEVE THESE INCIDENTS ARE UNRELATED TO THE SL ANNIVERSARY, BUT RESULTED FROM ON-GOING SL/TRAFFICKER BICKERING WITH THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS POLICE (DOES) IN THE UHV OVER THE PAYMENT OF PROTECTION MONEY. A POLICE SOURCE TOLD US THAT ALLEGEDLY SOME DOES ELEMENTS IN THE VALLEY HAD BROKEN A TRUCE ON NON-INTERFERENCE WITH TRAFFICKERS, AND THE SL

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RETALIATED. ONE DOES UNIT HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY CONDUCTING COUNTERNARCOTICS OPERATIONS AROUND THE TULUMAYO AREA DURING THE LAST 6-7 WEEKS.

13. TWO LIMA CAR BOMBS, ONE SUCCESSFUL AND ONE NOT, WERE THE APPARENT WORK OF THE MRTA. ONE CAR BOMB EXPLODED ON MAY 14 NEAR THE GOVERNMENT PALACE. THERE WERE NO REPORTED INJURIES. A SECOND BOMB WAS DISCOVERED AND DEACTIVATED BY POLICE ON MAY 16 NEAR THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION.

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