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ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-07 SS-00 CIAE-00 H-01 NSCE-00
NSAE-00 SSO-00 HA-09 L-03 TRSE-00 PM-10 PA-01
OMB-01 INRE-00 ACDA-12 USIE-00 SP-02 SNP-01 PRS-01
DS-01 SCT-03 P-02 T-01 /055 W
-----215130 271745Z /49 38

O 271732Z OCT 89
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2956
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
USAFSD HOWARD AFB PM
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM
DIA WASHDC

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPC/CDR *M J* Date: *4/21/95*

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 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 16194

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

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

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: ASEC, PTER, PGOV, PE
SUBJECT: SENDERO THREATENS VOTERS

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT

2. SUMMARY. SENDERO LUMINOSO IS THREATENING TO KILL ANY VOTER WHOSE VOTER REGISTRATION CARD (THE ID DOCUMENT MOST PERUVIANS CARRY) SHOWS A STAMP FOR HAVING VOTED. THIS THREAT COULD REDUCE VOTER TURN-OUT, SIGNIFICANTLY IF THE SL MAKES A MAJOR PROPAGANDA EFFORT. THE GOVERNMENT HAS DESIGNATED FOUR ADDITIONAL LIMA DEPARTMENT PROVINCES AS
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EMERGENCY ZONES, AND HAS RENEWED THE LAPSED EZ STATUS

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FOR LIMA AND CALLAO CITIES. END SUMMARY.

3. THE OUTLOOK FOR SUCCESSFUL ELECTIONS IN PERU SUFFERED A MINOR, BUT POTENTIALLY SERIOUS, SETBACK ON OCTOBER 23. IT WAS AN INCIDENT NOT REPORTED IN SEVERAL LOCAL PAPERS, BUT WITH NATIONWIDE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE NOVEMBER 12 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS AND THE APRIL 8 PRESIDENTIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY VOTING.

4. ON OCTOBER 23, TERRORISTS ATTACKED AND BURNED AT LEAST EIGHT PUBLIC BUSES IN LIMA. THE TERRORISTS WERE RIDERS. ALMOST SIMULTANEOUSLY, BETWEEN 2045 AND 2100 HOURS, THE TERRORISTS, EACH A GROUP OF FOUR OR FIVE INDIVIDUALS, BRANDISHED WEAPONS, COMMANDEERED THE BUSES, EVACUATED THE PASSENGERS, AND FIREBOMBED THE VEHICLES. AS USUAL, THE TERRORISTS REVIEWED THE IDENTITY DOCUMENTS OF ALL PASSENGERS. THE SL USES THIS TECHNIQUE TO PICK OUT POLICE OFFICERS AND OFF-DUTY MILITARY WHO ARE USUALLY THEN ASSASSINATED.

5. THE IDENTITY CARD CARRIED BY ALMOST ALL PERUVIANS, WHICH THEY MUST CARRY BY LAW, IS THEIR VOTER REGISTRATION CARD (LIBRETA ELECTORAL). RELEASED PASSENGERS ON TWO OF THE BUSES STATED THAT AS THEIR DOCUMENTS WERE REVIEWED THEY WERE TOLD THAT THE SL WOULD BE MAKING SIMILAR ID CHECKS AFTER THE ELECTIONS.

6. THE THREAT IS CLEAR. AFTER VOTING, EACH REGISTRATION CARD IS STAMPED WITH AN OFFICIAL SEAL. IT WOULD BE A SIMPLE MATTER FOR THE SL TO KNOW WHO VOTED AND WHO DID NOT, SIMPLY BY GLANCING AT THE
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CARDS. SUFFRAGE IS REQUIRED BY LAW, BUT THE FINE FOR ABSTENTIONISM IS MINOR. IF THE SL CHOOSES TO CARRY OUT THE OCTOBER 23 THREAT, THE PENALTY FOR VOTING WILL BE DEATH.

7. AS A DRESS REHEARSAL FOR ITS EXPECTED BOYCOTT OF THE APRIL ELECTIONS, THE SL WOULD ONLY HAVE TO ASSASSINATE A FEW HUNDRED VOTERS IN KEY AREAS NATIONWIDE FOLLOWING THE MUNICIPAL BALLOTING. THE MESSAGE WOULD SPREAD. AS THEY HAVE AFTER ARMED

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STRIKES, SL DOESN'T HAVE TO KILL ALL STRIKE BREAKERS, JUST A FEW, FOR THE NEXT STRIKE TO BE EVEN MORE SUCCESSFUL.

8. THE PROBLEM IS COMPLICATED BY THE FACT THAT VOTERS FROM AREAS OUTSIDE LIMA, NOW LIVING IN LIMA, OR ANYONE ELSE WHO HAS MOVED TO A NEW CITY AND HAS NOT BOTHERED TO OFFICIALLY CHANGE HIS ADDRESSES, MUST RETURN TO THEIR "HOME TOWNS" TO VOTE. THIS MEANS THAT THOUSANDS OF PERUVIANS WILL BE TRAVELING BY BUS PRIOR TO AND AFTER THE ELECTIONS, TO CAST BALLOTS IN THEIR CITY OF LEGAL RESIDENCE. ALL OF THOSE RETURN TRIPS PRESENT A RISK FOR A VOTER.

9. WE ARE NOT CONVINCED THAT THE SL IS PREPARED TO RISK THE PUBLIC RELATIONS BACKLASH BY CARRYING OUT SUCH A THREAT. BUT THE THREAT, ESPECIALLY IF IT RECEIVES WIDER DISSEMINATION IN COMING WEEKS, WILL CERTAINLY CUT INTO VOTER TURN-OUT. ONE MORE PROBLEM FOR THE GOP TO GRAPPLE WITH AS NOVEMBER 12 DRAWS NEARER.

10. WE WILL BE DISCUSSING WITH OUR GOP CONTACTS IN

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THE NEXT FEW DAYS WHAT RESPONSE, IF ANY, THE
GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING. THE THREAT COULD BE REDUCED
IF THE GOP DID NOT STAMP THE REGISTRATION CARDS. BUT
THAT OPENS UP THE SYSTEM TO POSSIBLE VOTER FRAUD
SINCE THE STAMPED CARD IS A BARRIER TO A VOTER VOTING
MORE THAN ONCE. KNOWING THAT THE CARDS WILL NOT BE
STAMPED COULD ALSO REDUCE VOTER TURN-OUT.

11. IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ELECTIONS, THE
GOVERNMENT HAS DESIGNATED FOUR NEW EMERGENCY ZONES IN
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LIMA DEPARTMENT'S FOUR NORTHERNMOST PROVINCES. IT
HAS ALSO RENEWED EZ STATUS FOR LIMA AND CALLAO

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CITIES. BOTH CITIES HAVE BEEN EZS FOR MOST OF 1989,
BUT THE DESIGNATION WAS ALLOWED TO TEMPORARILY LAPSE
AT THE END OF JULY.
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