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PAGE 01 LIMA 01434 00 OF 04 021646Z

ACTION DS-01								
INFO LOG-00	ACDA-05	ADS-00	AID-01	ARA-01	A-01	CA-02		
CCO-00	CG-00	CIAE-00	SJK-01	COME-00	AMAC-01	CTME-00		
ZOVD-00	DOEE-00	EB-01	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	IMMC-01	INRE-00		
INR-05	JUSE-00	L-02	M-01	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00		
OIS-01	PA-01	PM-01	P-02	SCT-03	SSO-00	SS-01		
TRSE-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	/032W					

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<PREC> P
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021643Z FEB 91
<FM>

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
<TO>
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4945
INFO RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
MSGBN QUANTICO VA
USOFFICE MRC MIAMI 1144
USAFSO HOWARD AFB PM
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM
DIA WASHDC
<CLAS>

Jan 25, 1991
Attack
or
Emb. Lima

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TERREP
DEPT FOR DS/I/CT, DS/OP/ARA, DS/TAD
USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD
MONTEVIDEO FOR LEGATT

MRTA

PAGE 02 LIMA 01434 00 OF 04 021646Z

MSGBN FOR PERSO
MIAMI FOR COMPANY D
E.O. 12356: N/A
<TAGS>

TAGS: ASEC, PTER, ALOW, CASC, PE
<SUBJ>
SUBJECT: FOLLOW-UP, EMBASSY LIMA RPG ATTACK OF 01/25/91
CT03-0191-338-0135
REFERENCE: LIMA 01125, STATE 027698

<TEXT>

1. EMBASSY LIMA WAS HIT BY AN RPG-7 HIGH EXPLOSIVE ANTI-TANK ROCKET PROPELLED GRENADE AND SMALL ARMS FIRE AT 1351 HOURS (LOCAL) ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 1991.
2. RSO HAS DEVELOPED SEVERAL WITNESSES WHO PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING SEQUENCE OF EVENTS CONCERNING THE ATTACK: A WHITE NISSAN, FOUR-DOOR, TWO-SEAT PICKUP TRUCK WITH BLUE STRIPING AND POLARIZED GLASS PASSED IN FRONT OF THE EMBASSY N/B ON AVE. GARCILAZO DE LA VEGA, TURNED RIGHT AT THE N/E CORNER OF THE EMBASSY ON AVE. ESPANA AND TRAVELLED UNDER THE PEDESTRIAN OVERPASS BETWEEN THE SHERATON HOTEL AND THE PARK. IT THEN TURNED RIGHT ON AVE. PASEO DE LA REPUBLICA AND STOPPED BETWEEN THE

*** INRISS *****
LIMA 01434
***** INRISS ***

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February 2, 1991

2

WCHIPMAN

*** INRISS LIMA 01434 INRISS ***

CORNER AND THE ITALIAN ART MUSEUM. (THE EXACT LOCATION WHERE THE VEHICLE STOPPED AND THE ATTACKERS FIRED DIFFERS AMONG WITNESSES BUT ALL PLACE THE LOCATION WITHIN 5 METERS OF THE CORNER.) THIS PLACES THE VEHICLE APPROXIMATELY 210 METERS FROM THE EMBASSY. SIX MEN OCCUPIED THE CAR (NFI). THE DRIVER, ARMED WITH A HANDGUN, PARTIALLY EXITED THE VEHICLE AND ENGAGED POLICE GUARDING THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE ACROSS THE STREET. THE LEFT REAR OCCUPANT, ARMED WITH A 9MM SUBMACHINE GUN,

PAGE 03 LIMA 01434 00 OF 04 021646Z ALSO ENGAGED THE POLICE AT THE M.O.J. THE CENTER REAR, ARMED WITH A FABRIQUE NATIONAL FAL 7.62 BATTLE RIFLE (FAL), EXITED THE VEHICLE ON THE RIGHT SIDE AND FIRED ACROSS THE PARK IN THE DIRECTION OF THE EMBASSY. THE RIGHT REAR PASSENGER, ARMED WITH THE RPG-7, FIRED AT THE EMBASSY. THE REAR PASSENGER, RIDING IN THE BED OF THE TRUCK, WAS ALSO ARMED WITH A FAL AND FIRED ACROSS THE PARK TOWARD THE EMBASSY. THE RIGHT FRONT OCCUPANT WAS ARMED WITH A SUBMACHINE GUN AND FIRED ACROSS THE PARK IN THE DIRECTION OF THE EMBASSY. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE ATTACK, ALL OCCUPANTS REENTERED THE TRUCK AND CONTINUED IN A S/B DIRECTION TOWARD THE VIA EXPRESA. THE INDIVIDUAL RIDING IN THE BED OF THE PICKUP CONTINUED FIRING THE FAL TO PROVIDE COVER FOR THEIR ESCAPE. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT A POLICE CAR GAVE CHASE FOR A SHORT PERIOD BUT TERMINATED PURSUIT WHEN TAKEN UNDER FIRE BY THE MAN RIDING IN THE BED OF THE TRUCK.

3. POLICE HAVE REPORTED THAT THE NISSAN TRUCK WAS RECOVERED A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY FROM THE EMBASSY AT APPROXIMATELY 1600 HOURS THE SAME AFTERNOON OF THE ATTACK.

THE VEHICLE HAD SUSTAINED BULLET IMPACTS ABOVE THE REAR WINDOW (ONE) AND IN THE LEFT REAR DOOR (THREE) INDICATING THAT RETURN FIRE FROM THE POLICE GUARDING THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE TOOK EFFECT. THE ABANDONED VEHICLE IS REPORTED TO HAVE CONTAINED SPENT SHELL CASINGS, A HAND GRENADE AND MRTA LITERATURE PERTAINING TO BOTH THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN PERU AND THE U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE PERSIAN GULF WAR. POLICE REPORTED THAT THE VEHICLE WAS STOLEN EARLIER THE MORNING OF THE ATTACK.

PAGE 04 LIMA 01434 00 OF 04 021646Z 4. THE RPG WAS LAUNCHED FIRST, FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY BY THE RIFLE AND SUBMACHINE GUN FIRE. THE SOUND OF THE ROCKET LAUNCH WAS HEARD WITHIN THE EMBASSY AND WAS FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY BY THE NOISE OF THE IMPACT AND DETONATION OF THE GRENADE AGAINST THE BUILDING. THESE SOUNDS WERE QUICKLY FOLLOWED BY GUNFIRE. A SMOKE TRAIL LEADING BACK FROM THE POINT OF IMPACT TO THE LAUNCH SITE WAS OBSERVED. POLICE GUARDING THE EMBASSY AND ADDITIONAL POLICE RIDING IN A TRUCK PASSING IN FRONT OF THE EMBASSY AT THE TIME OF THE ATTACK RESPONDED BY FIRING THEIR WEAPONS IN THE AIR.

5. THE GRENADE, BELIEVED TO BE A PG-7M HEAT ROCKET, IMPACTED ON THE LATTICE BRICKWORK ON THE ROOF WHICH HOUSES THE BUILDING'S VENTILATION SYSTEM AND THE ELEVATOR MACHINERY. THE GRENADE DETONATED AGAINST THE BRICKWORK, SPREADING SHRAPNEL FROM THE GRENADE HOUSING OVER A 5 METER RADIUS. THE SHAPED CHARGE PUNCHED A

*** INRISS LIMA 01434 INRISS ***

37

February 2, 1991

3

WCHIPMAN

*** INRISS ***** LIMA 01434 ***** INRISS ***

THREE AND ONE-HALF INCH HOLE IN THE VENTILATOR HOUSING WHICH IS CONSTRUCTED OF ONE-EIGHTH INCH STEEL. THE GRENADE'S GAS JET CONTINUED THROUGH BOTH ENDS OF THE FAN SHROUD AND THROUGH THE FAN ITSELF (BOTH THE FAN AND THE FAN SHROUD ARE CONSTRUCTED OF THREE-EIGHTH INCH STEEL). THE ROCKET MOTOR, PROPELLANT HOUSING, SHAFT, FINS, AND PARTS OF THE WARHEAD HOUSING FOLLOWED THE GAS JET THROUGH THE BRICKWORK, VENTILATOR HOUSING AND THE FRONT SIDE OF THE FAN SHROUD. THEY THEN CONTACTED THE TURNING FAN AND WERE SWEEPED OUT THE VENTED SIDE OF THE FAN. THE GAS JET CONTINUED OUT THE FAR SIDE OF THE VENTILATOR

PAGE 05 LIMA 01434 00 OF 04 021646Z HOUSING LEAVING A NEAT PENCIL-SIZED HOLE AND EXPENDED ITSELF. THE GAS JET TRAVELLED A DISTANCE OF APPROXIMATELY 5 METERS. THE ROCKET MOTOR CONTINUED TO BURN AFTER THE IMPACT AND FILLED THE FOURTH FLOOR WITH THE SMELL OF BURNT PROPELLANT.

6. THREE BULLET IMPACTS WERE DISCOVERED IN THE VENTILATOR HOUSING. ONE SPENT 9MM BULLET WAS FOUND LODGED IN THE METAL. THE OTHER TWO IMPACTS WERE APPARENTLY CAUSED BY RIFLE ROUNDS. THE BULLETS WERE NOT RECOVERED. AN ADDITIONAL RIFLE BULLET IMPACTED IN THE WHITE MARBLE ORNAMENTATION OVER THE OFFICES OCCUPIED BY DAO. A 7.62MM (NATO) ROUND PENETRATED THE BALCONY DOOR OF AN OCCUPIED OFFICE ON THE FOURTH FLOOR AND STRUCK THE OPPOSITE WALL. THE EMPLOYEE OCCUPYING THIS OFFICE WAS KNOCKED TO THE FLOOR WHEN THE RPG IMPACTED ON THE ROOF. THE BULLET PASSED OVER HIS HEAD. THE ABOVE DESCRIPTION ACCOUNTS FOR FIVE CONFIRMED BULLET IMPACTS ON THE EMBASSY DURING THE ATTACK. AN ADDITIONAL FIVE IMPACTS ON THE SAME SIDE OF THE BUILDING EXTERIOR WERE OBSERVED, BUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THEY PRECEDED THIS ATTACK COULD NOT BE RULED OUT. ALL THE RECOVERED BULLETS WERE FIRED BY THE (MRTA) ATTACKERS VICE THE POLICE AS THE POLICE ALL FIRED AKM RIFLES UTILIZING THE 7.62MM (SHORT) ROUND. 7. RSO RECOVERED THE ROCKET MOTOR, PROPELLANT HOUSING, SHAFT (COMPLETE WITH TAIL FINS) AND PIECES OF THE WARHEAD HOUSING. THE SHAFT HAS THE NUMBER 63-29-65 FOLLOWED BY THE CYRILLIC LETTER "D" PRINTED ON IT. (THIS NUMBER WOULD BE COVERED BY THE CARDBOARD COVER CONTAINING THE PROPELLANT CHARGE AND SHAFT.) IT APPEARS

PAGE 06 LIMA 01434 00 OF 04 021646Z THAT OTHER NUMBERS ON THE CYLINDER THAT HOUSES THE PROPELLANT CHARGE HAD BEEN SCRAPED AND GROUND OFF. IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO CHEMICALLY RAISE THE STAMPED NUMBER ON THE CYLINDER. UDE (LOCAL POLICE EQB) BELIEVE THAT THIS ROCKET WAS MANUFACTURED IN NORTH KOREA. RSO HAS REQUESTED THAT CONTACTS WITH THE PERUVIAN MILITARY BE INITIATED TO DETERMINE IF THIS WEAPON ENTERED PERU THROUGH LEGITIMATE MILITARY CHANNELS AND, IF SO, THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF ITS DIVERSION.

North Korea

8. RSO COMMENT: THE CHANCERY HAS BEEN AT A HEIGHTENED LEVEL OF SECURITY ALERT SINCE THE EVENING OF THE OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES IN THE PERSIAN GULF. BOTH UNIFORMED AND PLAIN-CLOTHES POLICE HAVE SUPPLEMENTED THE RSO'S COUNTER SURVEILLANCE TEAMS ON DUTY IN THE PARK ACROSS THE STREET. UDE HAS BEEN STATIONED IN MARKED VEHICLES BOTH IN THE PARK AND ON AVE. ESPANA ON THE SIDE

*** INRISS ***** LIMA 01434 ***** INRISS ***

38

February 2, 1991

4

WCHIPMAN

*** INRISS ***** LIMA 01434 ***** INRISS ***

OF THE EMBASSY. THE POLICE ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIER WAS STATIONED AT THE CORNER OF THE EMBASSY ON AVE. ESPANA FACING THE SITE OF THE ATTACK. THERE HAVE BEEN PERIODIC POLICE SWEEPS OF THE PARK RESULTING IN THE ROUNDUP AND REMOVAL OF ALL PRESENT FOR IDENTITY CHECKS. IN ADDITION TO THE SECURITY ORIENTED TOWARD THE PROTECTION OF THE EMBASSY, THE SITING OF THE ATTACK WAS IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO HEAVILY ARMED POLICE GUARDING THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, LIGHTLY ARMED (PISTOLS) TRAFFIC POLICE, A POLICEMAN GUARDING THE ADJACENT ITALIAN ART MUSEUM, AND ARMED GUARDS IN FRONT OF THE SHERATON HOTEL. THIS ATTACK WAS CONDUCTED UNDER CONDITIONS OF HEIGHTENED RISK TO THE MRTA GUERRILLAS WITH THE APPARENT INTENT OF INFLECTING CASUALTIES ON EMBASSY EMPLOYEES.

PAGE 07 LIMA 01434 00 OF 04 021646Z THE FOLLOWING REASONING SUPPORTS THIS CONCLUSION: (1). THIS ATTACK WAS CONDUCTED DURING DAYLIGHT WHEN THE BUILDING WAS FULLY OCCUPIED. THE RPG-7 LAUNCHER IS EQUIPPED WITH AN IMAGE INTENSIFIER NIGHT SIGHT PERMITTING NIGHT USE WHICH WOULD HAVE PROVIDED GREATER SAFETY TO THE ATTACKERS. IF THE ATTACK WAS INTENDED TO CONVEY A MESSAGE RATHER THAN TO CAUSE CASUALTIES THE ATTACKERS WOULD HAVE BEEN GREATLY ADVANTAGED BY ATTACKING AT NIGHT WHEN THE BUILDING WAS UNOCCUPIED. (2). THE MRTA NIGHTTIME ROCKET ATTACK ON THE UNOCCUPIED CONSULATE ON NOVEMBER 4, 1990 UTILIZED AN OBSOLETE RPG-2 ACCORDING TO "JANE'S INFANTRY WEAPONS", THE RPG-7 IS A SOPHISTICATED WEAPON STILL IN ACTIVE USE IN THE SOVIET ARMY. THIS IS THE FIRST USE OF THE RPG-7 BY ANY GUERRILLA FORCE IN PERU THAT THE MISSION CAN RECALL. IT IS A REASONABLE ASSUMPTION, THEREFORE, THAT THE ASSAULT TEAM OPERATING THE ROCKET LAUNCHER HAD LITTLE OR NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE IN LIVE FIRING THIS WEAPON. CONVERSELY, MRTA HAS EXTENSIVE PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THE SPANISH MADE INSTALAZA RIFLE GRENADE WHICH, AT A RANGE OF 200 METERS, REQUIRES THAT IT BE FIRED INDIRECTLY AT THE TARGET (MUZZLE ELEVATED TO ARC THE PROJECTILE ON TARGET). THE RPG-7 ROCKET CONTINUES TO FIRE FOR 500 METERS AFTER LAUNCH AND WOULD CONTINUE TO FLY STRAIGHT TO THE POINT OF AIM AT THE DISTANCE IT WAS USED RATHER THAN ARCING DOWN AS EXPECTED. THE DECISION TO USE AN RPG-7 IN THE ATTACK VICE THE MORE COMMONLY AVAILABLE INSTALAZA RIFLE GRENADE WAS PROBABLY MADE TO INSURE THAT THE PROJECTILE WOULD PUNCH A HOLE IN THE EMBASSY EVEN IF IT STRUCK THE WALL OF THE BUILDING. (3). A FAIRLY TALL TREE STANDS

1) 1st use of RPG-7
11

PAGE 08 LIMA 01434 00 OF 04 021646Z APPROXIMATELY MIDWAY BETWEEN THE EMBASSY AND THE LOCATION WHERE THE ROCKET WAS FIRED. AT THIS LOCATION, THE TREE CONCEALS THE CHANCERY BELOW THE FOURTH FLOOR. GIVEN THE PROBABLE UNFAMILIARITY WITH THE WEAPON, THE NECESSARILY ELEVATED AIMING POINT, AND THE STRESS OF BEING UNDER FIRE, AN IMPACT ON THE ROOF OF THE CHANCERY RATHER THAN AN INTENDED HIT ON THE FOURTH FLOOR OR LOWER IS NOT UNREALISTIC. THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE ROOF OF THE BUILDING WAS THE INTENDED TARGET OF THE ROCKET IS DISCOUNTED. THE OPINION OF THE RSO IS THAT AT LEAST A FACTION OF THE MRTA MADE A CONSCIOUS DECISION TO INFLECT

*** INRISS ***** LIMA 01434 ***** INRISS ***

39

February 2, 1991

5

WCHIPMAN

*** INRISS *****
[REDACTED] LIMA 01434
***** INRISS ***

CASUALTIES ON U.S. PERSONNEL. THIS CONCLUSION FITS WITH THEIR STRATEGY IN THE IMMEDIATE TWO PREVIOUS ATTACKS AND POINTS TO A CLEAR DEPARTURE FROM PAST MRTA ACTIONS. THE CAR BOMBING OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR ON JANUARY 14, 1991, AND THE CAR BOMBING OF THE LIMA AIRPORT JUST ONE HOUR PRIOR TO THE ATTACK ON THE EMBASSY INDICATES THAT THE MRTA HAS THE CAPACITY AND WILL TO TARGET WELL-PROTECTED FACILITIES AND IS NO LONGER CONCERNED ABOUT INFLECTING INDISCRIMINATE CASUALTIES. THE POST NOTES HOWEVER THAT MORE RECENT EVENTS HAVE REVERTED TO THEIR PRE-JANUARY 25 PATTERN OF NIGHTTIME ATTACKS. POST BELIEVES THAT MRTA TARGETING OF U.S. MISSION FACILITIES HAS BEEN ELEVATED TO A HIGHER LEVEL. AN ADDITIONAL DANGER MAY NOW EXIST BECAUSE, FOLLOWING PAST EXPERIENCE, SENDERO LUMINOSO MAY NOW FEEL COMPELLED TO INITIATE ACTIONS OF ITS OWN INTENDED TO TARGET MISSION FACILITIES.
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PAGE 09 LIMA 01434 00 OF 04 021646Z
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***** INRISS ***