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EXCISE

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ACTION SCT-03

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 CTME-00 ZOVD-00
DOEE-00 DS-01 EB-01 FARE-00 FBIE-00 IMMC-01 INRE-00
INR-02 INSE-00 IO-05 JUSE-00 L-02 M-01 NRCE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIS-01 PA-01 PM-01 P-02 SSD-00
SS-01 TRSE-00 USIE-00 USSS-00 /033W
-----41BCC3 132207Z /66

P 132158Z FEB 91
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5271
INFO RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPC/CDR 21976 Date: 4/21/95

AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 2405
USMISSION GENEVA 1607
USAFSG HOWARD AFB PM
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM
DIA WASHDC

() RELEASE () DECLASSIFY
(X) EXCISE (X) DECLASSIFY
() DENY IN PART
() DELETE Non-Responsive Info
FOIA Exemptions 6125
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 01994

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

TERREP

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, PINS, ASEC, ALOW, PE, XF
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SUBJECT: SENDERO BOMBS BANKS, AS THE SEARCH FOR
"PRESIDENTE GONZALO" CONTINUES

REF: LIMA 1820

1. (U) SUMMARY: SENDERO LUMINOSO TERRORISTS BOMBED
AT LEAST SEVENTEEN BANKS IN AND AROUND LIMA AND

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BURNED FIVE BUSES DURING THE EVENING OF FEBRUARY 12, BUT FEW INJURIES RESULTED. SENDERO ALSO THREATENED THE LIFE OF UN SECRETARY GENERAL JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR. MEANWHILE, COUNTER-TERRORISM POLICE ANNOUNCED THE CAPTURE OF A NUMBER OF NATIONAL LEADERS OF THE TERRORIST GROUP. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) SENDERO LUMINOSO TERRORISTS BOMBED AT LEAST SEVENTEEN BANKS IN AND AROUND METROPOLITAN LIMA DURING THE EARLY EVENING HOURS OF TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12. IN A SERIES OF WELL-COORDINATED, SYNCHRONIZED ACTIONS BEGINNING AT APPROXIMATELY 1945 HOURS (LOCAL), TERRORISTS LOBBED DYNAMITE STICKS OR AMMONIUM GASOLINE BOMBS AT THE STOREFRONTS OF A VARIETY OF DOMESTIC BANKING CHAINS. THE BRANCH OFFICES WERE WIDELY DISPERSED ACROSS THIS SPRAWLING CITY, SOME LOCATED IN OUTLYING, "MARGINAL" AREAS, OTHERS IN FASHIONABLE "UPSCALE" DISTRICTS. SOME OF THE BANKS SUFFERED SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE; OTHERS CAN NOW BOAST OF ONE LESS AUTOMATIC TELLER MACHINE. SEVERAL BYSTANDERS REPORTEDLY WERE INJURED BY FLYING GLASS. RED FLAGS BEARING YELLOW HAMMERS AND SICKLES (THE TELLTALE SIGNATURE OF SENDERO LUMINOSO) WERE FOUND AT A NUMBER OF LOCATIONS. EARLIER IN THE DAY, SEVERAL

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"SENDERISTAS" SEIZED A CLEANING SUPPLIES TRUCK IN THE EL AGUSTINO "PUEBLO JOVEN," AND DISTRIBUTED THE GOODS TO THE POOR PEOPLE LIVING IN THE AREA. THERE WERE NO INJURIES IN THAT INCIDENT.

3. (U) SENDERO'S FIRST PUBLIC ATTACKS IN URBAN LIMA SINCE THE START OF THE PERSIAN GULF WAR (AND THE RECENT WAVE OF TERRORIST ACTIONS BY THE RIVAL MRTA ORGANIZATION) WAS THE FEBRUARY 9-10 WEEKEND FIREBOMBINGS OF EIGHT STATE-OWNED "ENATRU" BUSES IN CALLAO. ONE BUS DRIVER LATER DIED FROM GUNSHOT WOUNDS. ANOTHER FIVE ENATRU BUSES WERE BURNED LATE FEBRUARY 12 AFTER THE BANK BOMBINGS.

4. (LOU) A PURPORTED SENDERO SPOKESMAN, IN A SERIES OF TELEPHONE CALLS FEBRUARY 12 TO MEDIA OUTLETS IN LIMA, PUBLICLY THREATENED THE LIFE OF UN SECRETARY GENERAL (AND PERUVIAN NATIONAL) JAVIER PEREZ DE

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CUELLAR FOR HIS ROLE IN THE GULF WAR. THE CALLER ALSO DECLARED THAT "U.S. IMPERIALISM" WOULD BE DEFEATED BY SADDAM HUSSEIN. ALTHOUGH SENDERO GRAFFITI CALLING FOR AN END TO "YANKEE AGGRESSION" IN THE GULF HAS BEEN SPROUTING IN AND AROUND LIMA FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, NONE OF THESE LATEST ARMED SL ACTIONS IS KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN EXPLICITLY LINKED TO THE GULF WAR.

THE SEARCH FOR SL'S LEADERSHIP

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5. (C) THE "DIRCOTE" COUNTER-TERRORISM POLICE, MEANWHILE, HAVE BEEN SCOURING THE CAPITAL CITY FOR ABIMAEI GUZMAN, AKA "PRESIDENTE GONZALO." FOLLOWING THE RELEASE LAST WEEK OF A VIDEO SHOWING GUZMAN DANCING THE SARTAKI (THE DANCE MADE FAMOUS BY ANTHONY QUINN IN "ZORBA THE GREEK" - REFTEL), LIMA HAS BEEN AWASH WITH UNFOUNDED "SIGHTINGS" OF GUZMAN, INCLUDING RUMORS THAT HE WAS INJURED IN A POLICE SHOOTOUT. DIRCOTE SQUADS SURROUNDED THE "CLINICA SAN FELIPE" IN THE JESUS MARIA DISTRICT ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, FOLLOWING REPORTS THAT SENDERO'S SUPREME LEADER WAS THERE UNDERGOING TREATMENT FOR GUNSHOT WOUNDS.

6. (U) DIRCOTE OFFICIALS PUBLICLY REPORT THE BUSTING

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INFO LOG-00 ACDA-05 ADS-00 AID-01 ARA-01 A-01 CA-02
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INR-02 INSE-00 ID-05 JUSE-00 L-02 M-01 NRCE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIS-01 PA-01 PM-01 P-02 SSO-00
SS-01 TRSE-00 USIE-00 USSS-00 /033W
-----41RCEB 132209Z /66

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AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 2406
USMISSION GENEVA 1608
USAFSO HOWARD AFB PM
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LIMA 01994

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PAGE 02 LIMA 01994 02 OF 02 132200Z
SUBJECT: SENDERO BOMBS BANKS, AS THE SEARCH FOR

OF A STRING OF URBAN "SAFEHOUSES" AND THE CAPTURE OF
AT LEAST SEVENTEEN SENDERO LEADERS DURING THE PAST
TWO WEEKS, INCLUDING A NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS WHO HAD
APPEARED ON VIDEO WITH GUZMAN. AMONG THE DETAINEES
ARE A SOCIOLOGIST, A TEACHER, A MEDICAL DOCTOR, A
DIESEL MECHANIC AND A FORMER JOURNALIST FOR LIMA'S

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"LA REPUBLICA" NEWSPAPER. POLICE ARE QUICK TO NOTE THAT A NUMBER OF THE PEOPLE RECENTLY DETAINED OR SHOWN ON THE CAPTURED VIDEOS HAD BEEN ARRESTED PREVIOUSLY ON TERRORISM CHARGES, ONLY TO BE RELEASED DUE TO "LACK OF EVIDENCE."

7. (C) MEANWHILE, SEVERAL TELEVISION AND RADIO STATIONS REPORT HAVING RECEIVED PHONE CALLS FEBRUARY 12 FROM THE SENDERO FRONT GROUP, "SOCORRO POPULAR". THE CALLS REPORTEDLY ANNOUNCE THAT GUZMAN HAS DIED (THE RECENTLY CAPTURED VIDEOS APPARENTLY DATE FROM 1987-1989) AND THAT SENDERO'S NEW LEADER IS "JOSE FIESTAS JIMENEZ." FIESTAS IS THE PSEUDONYM OF JULIO CESAR MEZZICH, AKA "DOCTORCITO", A WELL-KNOWN SENDERO MILITARY COMMANDER WHO REPORTEDLY HAS HAD HIS SHARE OF DIFFERENCES WITH GUZMAN'S STRATEGY. (NOTE: WE NOTE, PERHAPS COINCIDENTALLY, THAT JULIO CESAR MEZZICH IS NOTABLY ABSENT FROM THE RECENTLY CAPTURED VIDEOS OF GUZMAN AND WHAT MANY OFFICIALS ARE CALLING SL'S "CENTRAL COMMITTEE". AT THIS POINT WE CANNOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THESE CALLS WERE PART OF A _____ CAMPAIGN DESIGNED TO SPLIT SENDERO ALLEGIANCES AFTER THE EMBARRASSING RELEASE OF

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THE VIDEO OF "PRESIDENTE GONZALO," ASCETIC-TURNED-PARTY-ANIMAL. END NOTE.)

COMMENT

8. (C) THE POLICE APPARENTLY HAVE HAD SOME RECENT SUCCESSES AGAINST THE SENDERO LEADERSHIP. SOME OF THE SAFEHOUSE RAIDS ARE SAID TO HAVE REVEALED "TREASURE TROVES" OF DOCUMENTS RELATING TO PARTY ORGANIZATION AND COMMAND STRUCTURE. DIRCOTE OFFICIALS PROMISE MORE CAPTURES ARE IMMINENT. WITH ALL THE ATTENTION CURRENTLY BEING FOCUSED IN LIMA ON HUNTING DOWN CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS, WE FEEL OBLIGED, HOWEVER, TO OFFER A PESSIMISTIC, CAUTIONARY NOTE. EVEN IF EVERY MEMBER OF SENDERO'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE WERE CAPTURED TODAY, WE BELIEVE THE MOVEMENT - AND ITS TERRORISM - WOULD CONTINUE. ITS

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SOCIAL ROOTS HAVE GROWN SO DEEP, ITS STRUCTURE SO
INSTITUTIONALIZED, THAT IT WILL TAKE MORE THAN GOOD
POLICEWORK TO DELIVER A KNOCKOUT BLOW. BUT IT WOULD
BE A GOOD START.

QUINTON

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