


Defense Intelligence Reference Series

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Figure 1. (U) Sendero Luminoso Armed Insurgent.



INTRODUCTION



IDEOLOGY AND PROGRAM

(U) The ideological basis of the SL is an eclectic mix of Marxism-Leninism and Maoism adapted to Peruvian conditions by the SL's founder Abimael *Guzman*. Known by his *nom de guerre*, Presidente Gonzalo, he is revered as the Fourth Sword of Marxism by his followers. The "Thoughts of Gonzalo" incorporate Guzman's various written and oral dictates on SL philosophy, strategy, and ideology. These "Thoughts" are the driving force behind the SL's political and military strategy.

(U) The main objective of the SL is to assume power in Peru and establish the Popular Republic of the New Democracy (PRND). The strategy centers on the armed struggle — a guerrilla war emanating from the countryside and culminating in the capital city of Lima. The

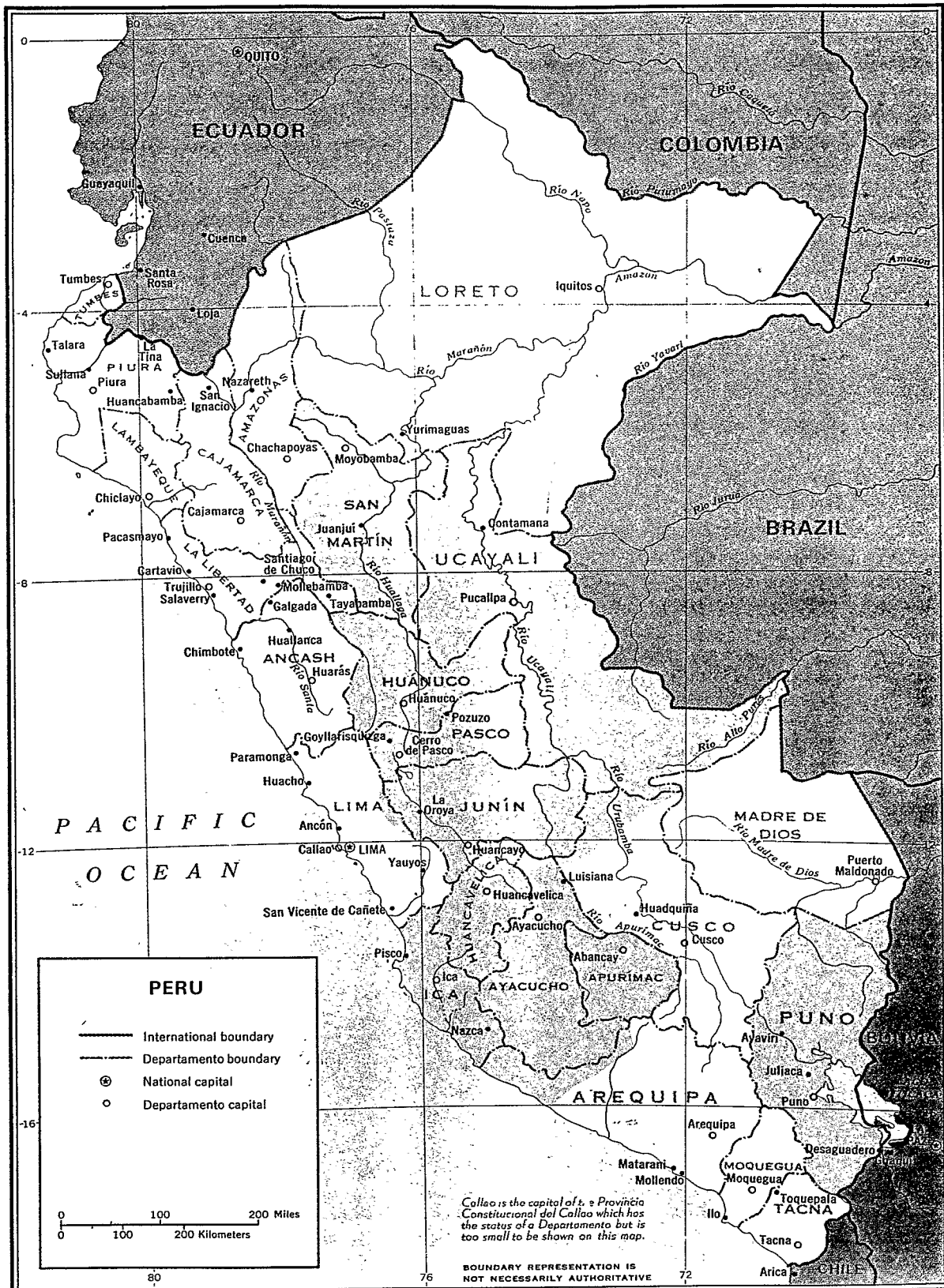


Figure 2. (U) Areas of Peru Under an Official State of Emergency.

long-term objectives are to implement socialism and, through stages (cultural revolutions), arrive at a communist state.

(U) Guzman has combined selected elements of the Marxist-Leninist dialectic with the Maoist concepts of a peasant revolutionary vanguard, a people's army, and a prolonged people's war. Guzman adopted Mao's stages of revolution and "new democratic" form of government to provide structure and objectives for the Peruvian struggle.

(U) Guzman perceives Peru's major problems as the relationship of the peasant to the land and the development of a self-sufficient agriculture-based economy. He proposes to realign the disproportionate allocation of national resources to the urban areas by developing a system that redistributes wealth to the rural areas.

UNCLASSIFIED



Figure 8. (U) Victims of SL Retaliation in Neylamp de Sonorro Executed for Participation in a Self-Defense Force.

