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ROME PASS TO VATICAN

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TEXT

TAGS: PTER, ASEC, PHUM, SCUL, PGOV, PE
COMBINE: COMPLETE

SUBJECT: SL KILLS TWO POLISH PRIESTS; OTHER INCIDENTS

REF: A) LIMA 10531, B) LIMA 5381

1. (U) SUMMARY. ON AUGUST 9 SENDERO LUMINOSO
TERRORISTS KILLED TWO POLISH PRIESTS WORKING IN A
REMOTE AREA OF ANCASH DEPARTMENT. THE TWO WERE SHOT
TO DEATH ALONG WITH TWO VILLAGE OFFICIALS. FIVE
FOREIGNERS CONNECTED WITH RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS HAVE
BEEN KILLED BY SL THIS YEAR. SL ATTACKED A POLICE
STATION IN AYACUCHO DEPARTMENT ON AUGUST 10 KILLING
11 POLICE AND AMBUSHED A MILITARY PATROL NEAR
TARAPOTO ON AUGUST 7 KILLING EIGHT. AN ARMY

Dept. of State, RDS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
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OFFENSIVE AGAINST SL IN THE UPPER MOYOBAMBA VALLEY IN HUANUCO DEPARTMENT HAS RESULTED IN 67 TERRORIST DEATHS. THERE ARE NO REPORTS OF MILITARY EXCESSES IN CONNECTION WITH THIS AUGUST 2-6 OFFENSIVE. FOUR LAY WORKERS WITH "WORLD VISION" HAVE DISAPPEARED SL IS BELIEVED RESPONSIBLE. SL KILLED TWO "WORLD VISION" FOREIGN VIPS ON MAY 17. END SUMMARY.

TWO PRIESTS DIE IN ANCASH

2. (U) TWO FRANCISCAN PRIESTS WERE KILLED BY SENDERO LUMINOSO TERRORISTS ON AUGUST 9. THE TWO, ZBIGNIEW STRZALKOWSKI AND MICHAEL TOMASZEK, WERE POLISH NATIONALS WHO HAD BEEN WORKING IN PERU SINCE 1989. A HEAVILY ARMED SENDERO COLUMN ENTERED THE LOCAL PARISH IN THE ANCASH DEPARTMENT VILLAGE OF PARIACOTO LATE IN THE EVENING OF AUGUST 8. THE TERRORISTS TOOK THE TWO PRIESTS, A PERUVIAN SISTER, AND TWO TOWN OFFICIALS. AFTER BEING DRIVEN TO A REMOTE MOUNTAIN LOCATION, THE FOUR MEN WERE SHOT TO DEATH. THE NUN ESCAPED UNHARMED IN CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH ARE NOT YET CLEAR.

3. (U) NEWS OF THE KILLINGS DID NOT REACH LIMA UNTIL AUGUST 10. BOTH PRIESTS WILL BE BURIED AUGUST 13 IN PARIACOTO. ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL POLICE, THE TERRORISTS ALSO DYNAMITED A NUMBER OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN PARIACOTO, AS WELL AS VEHICLES AND BUILDINGS ASSOCIATED WITH THE CATHOLIC PARISH.

4. (C) THE TWO PRIESTS BRING TO NINE THE NUMBER OF FOREIGNERS KILLED BY SENDERO LUMINOSO IN 1991. FIVE OF THE NINE WERE PROTESTANT OR CATHOLIC CHURCH WORKERS. 27 FOREIGNERS HAVE BEEN ASSASSINATED BY SL SINCE 1986. (NOTE: THERE ARE SEVERAL OTHER CASES OF POSSIBLE SL CULPABILITY WHICH WE ARE NOT INCLUDING IN THESE TOTALS. WE WILL REPORT SEPTTEL A SUMMARY OF FOREIGN DEATHS IN POSSIBLE OR PROBABLE TERRORIST ACTS AND OUR ESTIMATION OF WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE.)

INCIDENTS IN THE SOUTH

5. (U) ON AUGUST 10 AN SL COLUMN ATTACKED A POLICE STATION IN LARAMATE, AYACUCHO DEPARTMENT, KILLING 11 POLICE. SIX POLICE WERE TAKEN HOSTAGE BY THE ATTACKING COLUMN AND HAVE NOT YET BEEN FOUND. THE POLICE STATION NEAR AYACUCHO DEPARTMENT'S WESTERN BORDER WITH ICA DEPARTMENT WAS MANNED BY 26 POLICEMEN AT THE TIME OF THE ATTACK. SIX TERRORISTS WERE REPORTEDLY KILLED AND A NUMBER WOUNDED. THE TERRORISTS, THEIR WOUNDED AND THEIR HOSTAGES FLED IN SEVERAL VEHICLES AFTER OVERRUNNING THE POLICE STATION AND BOMBING THE LARAMATE MUNICIPALITY.

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6. (U) SL ALSO CONTINUED ITS ATTACKS AGAINST AYACUCHO VILLAGES PARTICIPATING IN THE ARMY SPONSORED RONDAS CAMPESINAS PROGRAM. AT LEAST THREE RONDEROS WERE KILLED BY SL IN A VILLAGE NEAR AYACUCHO ON AUGUST 10. THE LIMA PRESS REPORTED THAT ANOTHER 150 SHOTGUNS HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO RONDAS IN THE JAUJA PROVINCE OF JUNIN DEPARTMENT.

7. (U) WE EXPECT SL ATTACKS AGAINST LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS TO INCREASE BEFORE AND AFTER THE AUGUST 18 SUPPLEMENTAL MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS. IN ADDITION TO THE KILLINGS IN PARIACOTO, A MAYOR AND HIS SECRETARY WERE KILLED IN HUAURA (NORTH LIMA DEPARTMENT) ON AUGUST 10. THE NATIONAL POLICE AND MOST PRESS REPORT THIS AS AN SL ASSASSINATION. LEFTIST/SENSATIONALIST "LA REPUBLICA," HOWEVER, REPORTS THAT THE KILLERS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN "PARAMILITARY."

CLASHES IN THE NORTH

8. (U) THERE HAVE BEEN THREE MAJOR CLASHES REPORTED BETWEEN SL OR MRTA AND SECURITY FORCES IN SAN MARTIN AND HUANUCO DEPARTMENTS. FOLLOWING A SERIES OF SL JULY 26-28 ATTACKS AGAINST VILLAGES ALONG THE UPPER REACHES OF THE MOYOBAMBA VALLEY (REFTEL), THE ARMY MOBILIZED FORCES TO THIS MOUNTAINOUS AREA OF HUANUCO DEPARTMENT IN SEARCH OF ACTIVE SL COLUMNS.

9. (U) THE ARMY REPORTS THAT AS MANY AS 67 SUBVERSIVES WERE KILLED IN THE SUBSEQUENT OPERATIONS IN THE HUAMALIES PROVINCE OF HUANUCO. AT LEAST FOUR SOLDIERS ALSO DIED. LIMA TELEVISION CREWS ACCOMPANIED THE ARMY IN SOME OF THE OPERATIONS. AUGUST 11, SUNDAY MORNING NEWS PROGRAMS SHOWED FOOTAGE OF DEAD TERRORISTS LAID OUT SIDE BY SIDE, ALONG WITH FILM OF SIGNIFICANT WEAPONS AND MUNITIONS RECOVERED FROM THE SL COLUMN.

10. (C) COMMENT: FROM THE PRESS COVERAGE AND OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH MILITARY CONTACTS IT IS NOT CLEAR IF THE ARMY CAUGHT UP WITH THE SAME COLUMN THAT BRIEFLY HELD THE ITALIAN DCM DURING HIS TRIP TO HUANUCO (REFTEL). WE WERE INITIALLY SKEPTICAL OF THE PROBABILITY THAT SUCH A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF VICTIMS WOULD NOT INCLUDE A NUMBER OF CIVILIANS, EITHER FORCE MULTIPLIERS USED BY THE TERRORISTS OR RESIDENTS OF VILLAGES OCCUPIED BY SL AT THE TIME OF MILITARY ATTACKS. BUT NONE OF THE TV OR PRESS COVERAGE OF THIS MILITARY OFFENSIVE IN WESTERN HUANUCO HAS INCLUDED ALLEGATIONS OF MILITARY EXCESSES. THE CLASH APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A VERY SUCCESSFUL ANTI-TERRORIST OPERATION, WITH HELICOPTER SUPPORT, RUN IN AN AREA THAT HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN RELATIVELY TERRORISM FREE.

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11. (C) MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN LIMA SUBSEQUENTLY ALLEGED THAT A PRESUMED TERRORIST, SEVERELY WOUNDED IN THE HUANUCO OFFENSIVE, HAD BEEN MEDICALLY EVACUATED TO EUROPE BY THE ICRC WITHOUT MILITARY PERMISSION. ICRC LATER CLARIFIED THAT THE INDIVIDUAL HAD NOT YET BEEN MOVED AT ALL, BUT WOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO A LIMA (NOT EUROPEAN) HOSPITAL FOR TREATMENT. ICRC FURTHER NOTED THAT THE INJURY WAS NOT REPORTED TO THEM AS AN ARMED CONFLICT INJURY, BUT RATHER A CIVILIAN ACCIDENT, WHICH ICRC AGREED TO ACCEPT ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS. THE CASE REVEALS THE EXTREME SUSPICION WITH WHICH THE MILITARY VIEWS ICRC ACTIVITIES IN THE EMERGENCY ZONES. IT ALSO SUGGESTS, HOWEVER, THAT CIVILIAN HOSPITAL AUTHORITIES MAY NOT BE ACCURATELY REPORTING CONFLICT INJURIES IN ORDER TO AVOID REPORTING OBLIGATIONS AND POSSIBLE OBSTACLES TO ICRC TREATMENT OF INJURED. END COMMENT.

12. (U) IN ADDITION TO THE HUANUCO CLASHES, SIX POLICE REPORTEDLY WERE KILLED IN AN AUGUST 8 MRTA AMBUSH ON A POLICE PATROL NEAR MOYOBAMBA IN NORTHERN SAN MARTIN DEPARTMENT. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, SENDERO LUMINOSO AMBUSHED AN ARMY PATROL ON AUGUST 7, KILLING EIGHT TROOPS. THE ATTACK REPORTEDLY OCCURRED SOUTH OF TARAPOTO.

DEVELOPMENTS IN OLD CASES

13. (C) WE LEARNED ON AUGUST 9 OF THE DISAPPEARANCE OF FOUR PERUVIAN OFFICIALS OF "WORLD VISION," A PROTESTANT SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAM WITH PROJECTS IN PERU. THE FOUR HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN MISSING SINCE MID-JULY. IT IS BELIEVED THEY WERE KIDNAPPED IN AYACUCHO DEPARTMENT NEAR PUQUIO. TWO WORLD VISION VIPS, A COLOMBIAN AND A CANADIAN, WERE KILLED BY SENDERO LUMINOSO IN LIMA ON MAY 17, 1991. THE AYACUCHO SIERRA NEAR PUQUIO WAS ALSO THE SITE OF THE KILLING OF FOUR FOREIGN TOURISTS IN MAY AND NOVEMBER 1989.

14. (C) POLOFF MET WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE AGRICULTURAL PROJECT IN HUARAL IN WHICH THREE JAPANESE SCIENTISTS WERE KILLED ON JULY 12. ENGINEER QUINTANILLA CONFIRMED THAT THE SL COLUMN ASKED FOR HIM BY NAME BEFORE SEPARATING AND KILLING THE THREE JAPANESE. WE WERE SURPRISED TO LEARN FROM QUINTANILLA THAT THE HUARAL STATION WAS NOT A JAPANESE AID PROJECT, BUT A NATIONAL AGRICULTURE AND CATTLE INSTITUTE (INIAA) PROJECT SUPPORTED BY THE JAPANESE. THE INIAA HAS BEEN THE TARGET OF PREVIOUS ATTACKS, INCLUDING THE APRIL 22 ASSASSINATION OF AN INIAA PROJECT DIRECTOR ON THE CAMPUS OF THE AGRARIAN

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UNIVERSITY IN LA MOLINA (REF B). THE INIAA RECEIVES FUNDING FOR AGRICULTURE RELATED RESEARCH FROM A NUMBER OF FOREIGN NATIONS, INCLUDING THE U.S.

15. (C) ANTI-TERRORISM POLICE HAVE ARRESTED TWO SUSPECTED TERRORISTS WITH IMPORTANT POSITIONS IN THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT. F

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ACCORDING TO DIRCOTE CHIEF JHON CARO, THE TWO ARE MEMBERS OF THE LIMA CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF SL. QUANTON

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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