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ACTION ARA-16

INFO	OCT-00	ADS-00	AID-07	INR-10	SS-10	OIC-02	CIAE-00
	H-01	IO-15	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	SSO-00	SY-05	HA-06
	L-03	PM-09	PA-02	PC-05	MCT-02	INRE-00	ANAE-00
	ACDA-12	ICAE-00	SYE-00	SP-02	SPRS-02	/109 W	
				-----214140	031833Z	/41	

O R 031715Z MAR 82
 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1316
 INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
 AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
 AMEMBASSY PANAMA
 AMEMBASSY QUITO
 AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
 DIA WASHDC
 USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLAS LIMA 2228

PANA FOR ADS, DIA FOR IR BRANCH

EO 12065: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, ASEC, PE

SUBJ: GOP DECLARES NEW STATE OF EMERGENCY IN AYACUCHO FOLLOWING VIOLENT CLASHES WITH TERRORISTS

REF: LIMA 1126

1. A SERIES OF VIOLENT INCIDENTS IN THE SOUTH-CENTRAL HIGHLANDS DEPARTMENT OF AYACUCHO SHATTERED THE RELATIVE CALM ON THE TERRORIST FRONT WHICH PREVAILED IN THE THREE WEEKS FOLLOWING REFTTEL. A BAND REPORTEDLY NUMBERING 20 ATTACKED A MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION EXPLOSIVES DUMP NEAR THE CITY OF AYACUCHO FEB 25, IN REPELLING THE ASSAULT, THE REPUBLICAN GUARD (GR) KILLED TWO OF THEM. ONE OF THE DEAD WAS IN POSSESSION OF A SUBMACHINE

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GUN WHICH WAS ROBBED IN AN ASSAULT ON A CIVIL GUARD (GC) POST

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IN THE AYACUCHO HINTERLANDS LAST AUGUST.

2. MARCH 1, FIVE PRISONERS (FOUR OF THEM ACCUSED TERRORISTS, THE OTHER IN FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING) DIED IN AN ESCAPE ATTEMPT IN AYACUCHO. THE ATTEMPT HAD OUTSIDE HELP: SHORTLY AFTER A BOMB DAMAGED A POWER PLANT CUTTING OFF ELECTRICITY TO THE AREA WHERE THE PRISON IS LOCATED, ANOTHER BOMB WAS APPARENTLY THROWN AGAINST THE PRISON DOOR FROM THE STREET. THE SAME DAY, TWO WOMEN ACCUSED OF TERRORISM ESCAPED FROM PRISON IN NEIGHBORING AREQUIPA; IN THE PROCESS, ONE GR WAS KILLED, APPARENTLY BY AN OUTSIDE ACCOMPLICE.

3. IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF MARCH 3, A MASSIVE ATTACK ON THE AYACUCHO PRISON REPORTEDLY RESULTED IN THE ESCAPE OF A LARGE NUMBER OF INTERNEES. INCOMING ACCOUNTS ARE STILL CONFUSED AND CONTRADICTORY, BUT IT APPEARS THAT POLICE STATIONS WERE SIMULTANEOUSLY ASSAULTED, WITH A RECORD NUMBER OF DYNAMITE AND MOLOTOV COCKTAIL EXPLOSIONS (ONE CORRESPONDENT ON THE SCENE REPORTED 60 SUCH). EXCHANGES OF MACHINE GUN FIRE WITH POLICE REPORTEDLY OCCURRED IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE CITY. ONE ESTIMATE BEING CIRCULATED PUTS THE DEATH TOLL AS HIGH AS 30. OF THESE, AT LEAST 3 WERE POLICE AND 2 WERE INNOCENT BYSTANDERS, WHILE PERHAPS AS MANY AS 20 WERE PRISONERS. MIGUEL ALVA ORLANDINI, CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL SYSTEM OF SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS, ANNOUNCED THAT THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAD DECLARED A STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR THE ENTIRE DEPARTMENT OF AYACUCHO. (A 60-DAY STATE OF EMERGENCY IN MOST OF THE DEPARTMENT EXPIRED IN MID-DECEMBER, WITH THE GOP CONTENDING THAT THE TERRORIST PROBLEM THERE WAS UNDER CONTROL.)
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