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n/a
Case Number: S200200010

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ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-07 INR-10 SS-10 CIAE-00
DODE-00 H-01 NSC-01 NSAE-00 SY-06 HA-08 L-03
TRSE-00 PM-09 PA-01 MCT-02 SAL-01 ACDA-12 USSS-00
USIE-00 SP-02 SNP-01 PRS-01 /092 W
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R 091512Z FEB 83
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7068

RELEASED IN FULL

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EO 12356: N/A
TAGS: PTER, SHUM, PINS, PE
SUBJECT: (U) A SEMI-OFFICIAL VIEW OF PERU'S "DIRTY WAR"

REF: LIMA 1329

1. REFTEL NOTED COMMENT BY PATRICIO RICKETTS IN FEBRUARY 6 ISSUE OF LIMA DAILY "EL COMERCIO" REBUTTING OPPOSITION CHARGE THAT GOP BEARS BASIC RESPONSIBILITY FOR NEWSMEN'S DEATHS. RICKETTS IS A RESPECTED, WELL PLUGGED-IN ESTABLISHMENT JOURNALIST WHO IS PRESS ADVISOR TO PALACE. SINCE HIS ARTICLE COULD BE A REFLECTION OF THE PRESIDENT'S OWN VIEWS, WE ARE PROVIDING A SLIGHTLY ABRIDGED TRANSLATION THAT PRESERVES THE FLAVOR OF THE ARTICLE.

2. QUOTE. A DIRTY WAR AFTER TWO YEARS OF THE MOST DIFFICULT AND FIRTY WAR THE COUNTRY HAS KNOWN, THERE ARE SOME WHO OMINOUSLY SUGGEST THAT THE "DIRTY WAR" IS ONLY NOW ARRIVING, THAT IT BEGAN WITH THE TRAGIC DEATHS IN UCHURACCAY. AS IF NOTHING HAD HAPPENED BEFORE, AS IF THE EIGHT NEWSMEN WHO DIED THERE AT THE HANDS OF PRIMITIVE AND TERRORIZED PEASANTS WERE THE FIRST SUCH VICTIMS, OR AS IF ONLY

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THEIR DEATHS WERE WORTHY OF NATION WIDE COMMISERATION. FORTUNATELY, THE OPINION OF THE COUNTRY IS OTHERWISE.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM E. LANDFAIR
DATE/CASE ID: 26 JUL 2002 S200200010

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PERUVIANS MAKE NO DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN DEATHS AND DEATHS,
BUT DO KNOW HOW TO FIX BLAME AT THE HANDS OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE.

THE UNFORTUNATE EIGHT, HOPING TO MAKE CONTACT WITH
THE TERRORISTS, DISCOVERED TOO LATE THAT THEY HAD
COMMITTED A MONUMENTAL ERROR. THE SO-CALLED "LIBERATED
ZONES" INTO WHICH THEY VENTURED ARE BEGINNING TO BE
JUST THAT--BUT IN A CONTRARY SENSE FROM THAT MEANT BY
THE TERRORISTS OF "SENDERO LUMINOSO." THESE AREAS ARE
BEGINNING TO LIBERATE THEMSELVES FROM THE TERRORISTS,
FROM THEIR ATROCITIES, FROM THEIR PROHIBITIONS AGAINST
PLANTING THE LAND, FROM THEIR INSENSATE KILLING OFF OF LIVESTOCK,
FROM ALL THAT THESE PERUVIAN DISCIPLES OF MAO TSE-TUNG AND POL
POT HAVE PERPETRATED OVER 2 1/2 YEARS.

IT IS BECUASE ONE OF THESE VILLAGES WHICH LIBERATED
ITSELF FROM TERRORISM COMMITTED THE ERROR OF CONFUSING
THE NEWSMEN WITH SENDERO TORMENTORS THAT THE
CATASTROPHE OF UCHURACCAY OCCURRED, AN EVENT WITH
ASPECTS OF GREEK TRAGEDY AND THE SHOCKING BRUTALITY OF
AN ETCHING BY GOYA.

MUCH HAD TO OCCUR IN THIS DIRTY WAR UNLEASHED BY
THE SENDERISTAS FOR THE VILLAGERS OF UCHURACCAY TO
COMMIT SUCH A MONSTROUS ERROR IN REALIZING THEIR RIGHT
TO SELF-DEFENSE. AND MUCH HAS ACCURRED. IT IS WORTH
THE EFFORT TO RECALL IT. MANY OTHER INNOCENTS PRECEDED
THESE EIGHT JOURNALISTS, NOT A FEW BEING YOUNG PEOPLE
LIKE THEM. THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF MOTHERS, SPOUSES, AND
CHILDREN WHO MOURN THEIR LOSS. LIKE THE RELATIVES OF
THE DEAD JOURNALISTS, THEY KNOW THAT THEIR LOVED ONES

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DID NOT DESERVE TO DIE AS THEY DID.

THE SENDERO HAS KILLED MAYORS, GOVERNORS, PUBLIC
OFFICIALS THROUGHOUT THE REGION OF AYACUCHO. IS IT
NECESSARY TO RECORD HERE THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO HAVE
FALLEN IN THIS DIRTY WAR? I THINK SO, I THINK IT IS
ONLY JUST TO DO SO IN THIS MOMENT. SINCE DECEMBER 1980,
THE FOLLOWING HAVE DIED. (A LIST OF 89 NAMES
OF CIVILIAN DEAD FOLLOWS.)

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IS THE LIST LONG? IT IS. LET US REMEMBER THAT EACH NAME IS A SEPARATE DRAMA, THAT EACH OF THESE 89 CIVILIAN VICTIMS, TO WHICH WE MUST ADD THE 39 MEMBERS OF THE POLICE AND ARMED FORCES, MERITS OUR RESPECT.

THE POLICE AND ARMED FORCES ARE IN AYACUCHO IN ORDER THAT THIS LIST GROW NO LONGER, IN ORDER THAT TOWNS AND COMMUNITIES NOT FIND THEMSELVES OBLIGED TO DEFEND THEMSELVES IN SUCH A MISTAKEN MANNER AS DID THE ILLITERATE FOLK OF UCHURACCAY. THEY DO NOT SEEK REVENGE. THEY SEEK ONLY TO REESTABLISH ORDER, COME WHAT MAY. THEY ARE GOING TO PERMIT JUSTICE TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE MORE THAN A MERE WORD OR A LINE ITEM IN A BUDGET. THEY ARE GOING TO PUT AN END TO THE DIRTY WAR AGAINST THE COUNTRY. AND THEY ARE GOING TO REESTABLISH, IN THE BRIEFEST TIME POSSIBLE, PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE ENTIRETY OF THE REPUBLIC.

END TEXT.
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