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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  
EB-08 DODE-00 H-01 NSC-01 NSAE-00 SY-06 HA-08  
L-03 PM-08 PA-01 MCT-02 SAL-01 ACDA-12 USIE-00  
SP-02 SNP-01 PRS-01 /099 W

-----116266 150524Z /12

R 142200Z JUN 83  
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9317  
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
USCINCSOUTH QUARRY HTS PN

RELEASED IN FULL

LIMA 6146

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PTER, PGOV, SHUM, PINS, PE  
SUBJ: (U) PERU'S PRESIDENT BELAUNDE MAKES SURPRISE VISIT  
TO EMERGENCY ZONE

1. (U) PRESIDENT BELAUNDE PAID A 3-HOUR SURPRISE VISIT TO THE CITY OF AYACUCHO ON JUNE 12. THE PRESIDENT WAS ACCOMPAINED BY THE MINISTERS OF THE INTERIOR AND OF ENERGY AND MINES, AS WELL AS ALL THREE SERVICE MINISTERS AND THE COMMANDING GENERALS OF PERU'S THREE NATIONAL POLICE FORCES. THE VISIT LAID EMPHASIS ON PUBLIC CEREMONY: THE PRESIDENT REVIEWED A MILITARY HONOR GUARD AT THE AIRPORT, PRESIDED OVER A DOWNTOWN PARADE BY MILITARY AND POLICE UNITS STATIONED IN THE CITY, AND PARTICIPATED IN A FLAG RAISING CEREMONY WHERE HE PAID TRIBUTE TO THE SECURITY FORCES ENGAGED IN COUNTERING SENDERO LUMINOSO (SL) TERRORISM.

2. (U) THE AYACUCHO VISIT PRECEDED A PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED

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ONE TO JAUJA (DEPARTMENT OF JUNIN), WHERE BELAUNDE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM E. LANDFAIR  
DATE/CASE ID: 2 AUG 2002 S200200010

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INAUGURATED A NEWLY CONSTRUCTED ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION LINE THAT WILL SERVE 65 COMMUNITIES BETWEEN JAUJA AND THE DEPARTMENTAL CAPITAL OF HUANCAYO. IN BOTH VISITS, THE PRESIDENT COMPARED HIS GOVERNMENT'S ROLE (AS WELL AS THAT OF HIS FIRST ADMINISTRATION) IN PROMOTING RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AND CONSTRUCTING ROADS AND OTHER PUBLIC WORKS TO THE DESTRUCTION BY TERRORISM. BELAUNDE REFERRED TO PERU'S 5,000 SOME HIGH TENSION TOWERS AND THE 50 DOWNED BY TERRORISTS AND REASSERTED HIS PROMISE TO BUILD "100 TOWERS" FOR EACH ONE THAT SENDERO DESTROYS.

3. (U) THE PRESIDENT ALSO ASSOCIATED SYMBOLISM AND CEREMONY WITH SUPPORT FOR THE ROLE PLAYED BY THE ARMED FORCES IN REPRESSING TERRORISM IN THE EMERGENCY ZONE, PRAISING THE ZONE'S POLITICAL-MILITARY COMMANDER, GENERAL CLEMENTE NOEL, AND ENDING HIS AYACUCHO VISIT BY CALLING AT THE CITY'S "LOS CABITOS" MILITARY BARRACKS.

4. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE PRESIDENT'S AYACUCHO VISIT WAS INTENDED TO DEMONSTRATE A UNITED CIVILIAN-MILITARY FRONT IN THE FACE OF TERRORIST CHALLENGE IN AYACUCHO AND CONTINUING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN LIMA. INTERIOR MINISTER PERCOVICH FOLLOWED UP THE VISIT WITH AN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE GOP PLANS TO INVEST, BY YEAR'S END, OVER 6 BILLION SOLES (APPROXIMATELY \$4 MILLION AT CURRENT EXCHANGE RATES) IN VARIOUS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN AYACUCHO. BUT OPPOSITION FIGURES AND PRESS ARE LOOKING INSTEAD AT BELAUNDE'S ENDORSEMENT, BY ASSOCIATION, OF THE MILITARY'S ANTI-TERRORIST TACTICS. GREETED IN AYACUCHO BY PRESS INQUIRIES CONCERNING THE FATE OF "HUNDREDS" OF PERSONS REPORTEDLY DETAINED IN LOS CABITOS, BELAUNDE DECLINED TO  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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RESPOND, PROFESSING TO KNOW NOTHING OF THE MATTER SINCE HE HAD JUST ARRIVED. HIS PUBLIC PRAISE OF GENERAL NOEL, COMPLEMENTED BY THE CALL AT LOS CABITOS, DID NOT GO UNNOTICED.

5. [REDACTED] BY COINCIDENCE, THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP COINCIDED WITH PUBLICATION IN LIMA'S WIDEST CIRCULATING DAILY ON JUNE 12 OF AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "WHAT IS HUMAN LIFE WORTH IN PERU?". THE EDITORIAL REFERRED TO DEATHS IN AYACUCHO AND THE LIMITED ACCESS WHICH THE POLITICAL-

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MILITARY COMMAND ALLOWS JOURNALISTS TO INFORMATION ABOUT THEM.  
THE EDITORIAL CHARGES THAT ON THE FEW OCCASIONS WHEN MILITARY  
AUTHORITIES FACILITATED THE NEWS GATHERING PROCESS, DEATHS REPORTED ON WERE ATTRI  
BUTED TO SENDERO TERRORISM.

BUT WHERE

DEAD SENDERISTAS ARE CONCERNED, "OR ALLEGED SENDERISTAS,"  
NEWSMEN FACE A STONE WALL. THE EDITORIAL CONDEMNED THOSE WHO  
ENGAGE IN CONSPIRATORIAL SILENCE ABOUT THE MATTER,  
AS WELL AS PRESIDENT BELAUNDE'S CRITICISM OF PRESS  
"SENSATIONALISM" WHEN REPORTING THESE DEVELOPMENTS. THE  
EDITORIAL NOTED THAT THE POLITICAL-MILITARY COMMAND'S OWN C  
COMMUNIQUES SPEAK CONSISTENTLY OF SL DEAD,  
BUT NOT OF SENDERISTAS CAPTURED OR WOUNDED.  
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