

n/a
Case Number: S200200010

RELEASED IN FULL

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ACTION SCT-02

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| INFO | LOG-00 | ADS-00 | AID-00 | INR-07 | SS-00 | CIAE-00 | EB-00 |
| | NSCE-00 | ARA-00 | NSAE-00 | COME-00 | SSO-00 | L-03 | AMAD-01 |
| | CTME-00 | NRCE-00 | TRSE-00 | PM-10 | PA-01 | FAAE-00 | CCO-00 |
| | INM-07 | INRE-00 | CA-02 | CG-00 | USSS-00 | USIE-00 | JUSE-00 |
| | FBIE-00 | OC-02 | DOEE-00 | M-01 | FAIM-01 | TB-01 | DS-01 |
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P 292327Z MAR 89
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7154
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
USAFSO HOWARD AFB PM
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
DEAHQS WASHDC
DIA WASHDC

SECTION 01 OF 03 LIMA 04664

DIA FOR OA-5/OS-1D/DB-6D2/JSI-4B/DB-3C1

DEA FOR A, AO, DO, OC, OF

SECDEF FOR GENERAL OLMSTEAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: ASEC, PTER, SNAR, PE
SUBJECT: FURTHER ON UCHIZA SHOOT-OUT

REF: (A) LIMA 4526

1. [REDACTED] - ENTIRE TEXT

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2. SUMMARY. THE MARCH 27 ATTACK ON THE UCHIZA

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POLICE STATION WAS CERTAINLY THE WORK OF THE SL. IT WAS THE POLICE COMMANDER IN UCHIZA WHO REPORTED THAT THE ATTACKERS WERE MRTA AS HE PLED BY RADIO FOR HELP. HEAVY RAINS AND DARKNESS PREVENTED AIR RELIEF. COMMON SENSE PREVENTED AN OVERLAND NIGHTTIME RESCUE ATTEMPT THROUGH JUNGLE INVESTED WITH SL. WHEN THEIR AMMUNITION RAN OUT AT 2100 HOURS THE POST COMMANDER, TWO OF HIS OFFICERS, AND A WOMAN WHO WAS TENDING THE WOUNDED, WERE TAKEN BY THE TERRORISTS TO THE UCHIZA SQUARE AND EXECUTED. THIS SUMMARY EXECUTION, AND THE LOCATION OF THE ATTACK IN AN AREA TOTALLY CONTROLLED BY THE SL, POINT TO SL, NOT MRTA CULPABILITY.
END SUMMARY.

3. THE MARCH 27 ATTACK ON THE POLICE STATION AT UCHIZA, SAN MARTIN DEPARTMENT, UPPER HUALLAGA VALLEY, (REFTEL) APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN THE WORK OF SENDERO LUMINOSO AND NOT THE MRTA AS ORIGINALLY REPORTED. REPORTS FROM UCHIZA WITNESSES AND FROM POLICE SURVIVORS OF THE ATTACK ARE AT TIMES SKETCHY OR CONTRADICTORY, BUT WE HAVE PIECED TOGETHER WHAT WE BELIEVE TO BE A RELIABLE CHRONOLOGY OF THE EVENTS OF MARCH 27 WHICH LEFT 10 POLICE AND AT LEAST THREE CIVILIANS DEAD, AND AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF POLICE AND CIVILIAN WOUNDED.

4. THE ATTACK BEGAN AT APPROXIMATELY 1700 HOURS. AT LEAST FOUR TRUCKS (OPEN
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BED RAILED VEHICLES) CARRYING APPROXIMATELY 200 ARMED TERRORISTS (SOME REPORTS SAY AS MANY AS 400) ARRIVED IN UCHIZA FROM AN UNKNOWN POINT OF ORIGIN. THE TERRORISTS DEPLOYED IN SEVERAL ATTACK COLUMNS. ONE UCHIZA CIVILIAN STATED THAT A NUMBER OF TOWNSPEOPLE WERE ROUNDED UP AND FORCED TO JOIN THE ATTACKERS. THE TERRORISTS OPENED FIRE ON THE 40-MAN POLICE STATION, A

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CONVERTED BILLIARD PARLOR IN THE CENTER OF TOWN FACING THE MAIN TOWN SQUARE.

5. PHONES TO UCHIZA WERE DOWN. POLICE SOURCES SUSPECT THEY WERE CUT BY THE TERRORISTS. THE POLICE MAJOR IN CHARGE OF THE DETAIL WAS ABLE TO GET A RADIO WORKING AND CALLED FOR HELP AS THE ATTACK PROGRESSED. HIS DESPERATE PLEA WAS MONITORED LIVE AT THE LIMA MINISTRY OF INTERIOR SWITCHBOARD. MAJOR FARFAN DESCRIBED THE ATTACK IN SOME DETAIL AND THE HOPELESS SITUATION HE AND HIS MEN FACED. SEVERAL HAD ALREADY BEEN KILLED OR WOUNDED IN THE INITIAL ATTACK. FARFAN OPINED THAT THE ATTACKERS WERE MRTA. THIS WAS THE SOURCE OF THE ORIGINAL REPORT OF MRTA. HE BASED HIS JUDGEMENT ON THE UNIFORMS (JUNGLE FATIGUES WITH RUBBER BOOTS) AND THE TACTICS OF THE ATTACKERS.

6. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS WOULD CLEARLY POINT TO SENDERO LUMINOSO. THE TERRORISTS WERE FIRING AUTOMATIC RIFLES, GRENADES, AND HOMEMADE FIREBOMBS AT THE POST. ONE SOURCE OPINED THAT THE INEXPERIENCED AND LARGELY

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P 292327Z MAR 89
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7155
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
USAFSO HOWARD AFB PM
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
DEAHQS WASHDC
DIA WASHDC

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DIA FOR OA-5/OS-1D/DB-6D2/JSI-4B/DB-3C1

DEA FOR A, AO, DO, OC, OF

SECDEF FOR GENERAL OLMSTEAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: ASEC, PTER, SNAR, PE
SUBJECT: FURTHER ON UCHIZA SHOOT-OUT

YOUNG POLICE FIRED INDISCRIMINATELY AT
CONCEALED AND UNSEEN TARGETS. THE POLICE
QUICKLY BEGAN TO EXHAUST THEIR SUPPLY OF
AMMUNITION.

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7. THE FIGHT LASTED SEVERAL HOURS. EVEN
AS HIS MEN RAN OUT OF BULLETS, MAJOR FARFAN
CONTINUED TO BEG FOR RELIEF. HIS RADIO
REPORTS WERE MONITORED AT A POLICE STATION
IN TOCACHE (40 KM NORTH), AT THE 64TH
COMMANDANCIA AND THE MILITARY GARRISON IN
TINGO MARIA. A COMBINATION OF RAINY
WEATHER AND FALLING DARKNESS PRECLUDED AN
AIR RELIEF OF THE BESEIGED POST. POLICE
AND MILITARY OFFICIALS CORRECTLY JUDGED THAT

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AN OVERLAND RESCUE IN THE DARK ACROSS THE CARRETERA MARGINAL, WITH ITS BLOWN BRIDGES AND THROUGH JUNGLE ENTIRELY CONTROLLED BY SENDERO, WAS AN INVITATION TO FURTHER DISASTER.

8. AT APPROXIMATELY 2100 HOURS, THE BULLETS RAN OUT. BY THAT TIME A NUMBER OF HIS MEN HAD DESERTED, FLEEING INTO THE SURROUNDING BUILDINGS UNDER THE COVER OF DARKNESS. MAJOR FARFAN SURRENDED. HE AND TWO OTHER POLICE OFFICERS, AND A FEMALE CIVILIAN WHO HAD BEEN TENDING THE WOUNDED DURING THE FIGHT, WERE TAKEN ACROSS THE STREET INTO THE PLAZA. THERE A BRIEF TRIAL WAS HELD AND THE FOUR WERE EXECUTED. EMBOFFS WHO ATTENDED THE LIMA VIEWING ON MARCH 29 STATED THAT THE CORPSES WERE SO BADLY MUTILATED THAT THEIR FACES WERE COVERED BY HANDKERCHIEFS IN THE OPEN COFFINS TO PROTECT THE SENSIBILITIES OF THE VIEWERS. THE FORENSICS REPORT INDICATED THAT FARFAN HAD TAKEN 17 ROUNDS. FROM THE CONDITION OF

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OTHER CORPSES, EMBOFFS ALSO CONCLUDED THAT THE SL EXECUTED SOME OF THE WOUNDED FOUND ALIVE IN THE STATION AT THE TIME OF THE SURRENDER. IN ALL, 13 CORPSES WERE EVACUATED TO LIMA -- 10 POLICE AND THREE CIVILIANS.

9. THERE IS NO RELIABLE REPORT ON THE NUMBER OF WOUNDED, BUT BETWEEN POLICE AND CIVILIANS AT LEAST 30 WERE SHOT AND EVACUATED TO LIMA. SOME OF THOSE WOUNDED MAY BE SL ATTACKERS. A POLICE SURVIVOR INTERVIEWED IN A LIMA HOSPITAL OPINED THAT HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES KILLED AT LEAST 50 OF THE ATTACKERS. WE WHOLLY DISCOUNT THAT REPORT. WE DOUBT THAT THE 40 BESIEGED POLICE, FIRING FROM WITHIN THE POOR TACTICAL POSITION OF THE BILLIARD PARLOR, KILLED EVEN A TENTH OF THAT NUMBER. OTHER THAN THOSE POSSIBLY AMONG THE UNIDENTIFIED CIVILIANS EVACUATED TO LIMA, THERE

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ARE NO CONFIRMED DEAD OR WOUNDED SL.

10. BY THE TIME POLICE AND MILITARY RELIEF HELICOPTERED INTO UCHIZA AT 0600 HOURS, MARCH 28, THE ATTACK WAS OVER. THERE WAS NO TRACE OF THE SL, AND THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT TO DO BUT ATTEND TO THE FALLEN. PRIME AND INTERIOR MINISTER ARMANDO VILLANUEVA WAS AMONG THE FIRST TO REACH UCHIZA. HE WAS FLOWN FROM TINGO MARIA ON U.S. HELICOPTERS. A NUMBER OF THE DEAD AND WOUNDED WERE ALSO EVACUATED ON U.S. EQUIPMENT. U.S. PERSONNEL REPORTED THAT THE FIGHTING WAS LONG OVER AND THE CITY WAS QUIET. 5 GUARDIA CIVIL WHO HAD BEEN IN HIDING, WALKED OUT UNSCATHED AS THE RELIEF FORCES LANDED. THERE ARE REPORTEDLY SEVERAL POLICE STILL MISSING.

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| INFO | LOG-00 | ADS-00 | AID-00 | INR-07 | SS-00 | CIAE-00 | EB-00 |
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| | FBIE-00 | OC-02 | DOEE-00 | M-01 | FAIM-01 | TB-01 | DS-01 |
| | P-02 | T-01 | /042 W | | | | |

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P 292327Z MAR 89
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7156
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
USAFSO HOWARD AFB PM
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM

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n/a

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AMEMBASSY CARACAS
DEAHQS WASHDC
DIA WASHDC

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DIA FOR OA-5/OS-1D/DB-6D2/JSI-4B/DB-3C1

DEA FOR A, AO, DO, OC, OF

SECDEF FOR GENERAL OLMSTEAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: ASEC, PTER, SNAR, PE
SUBJECT: FURTHER ON UCHIZA SHOOT-OUT

IT IS NOT KNOWN IF THEY ARE IN HIDING, HAVE
BEEN TAKEN HOSTAGE BY THE TERRORISTS, OR
HAVE DESERTED.

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11. AS THE POLICE AND SOLDIERS COMBED THE
TOWN THEY ALSO FOUND THAT THE TERRORISTS HAD
BROKEN INTO AND ROBBED SEVERAL BANKS AND
LOCAL BUSINESSES. MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
SOURCES TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE SL MUST HAVE
HAD SPECIAL TOOLS TO PRY OPEN SAFETY DEPOSIT
BOXES AND STEAL THEIR CONTENTS. WE WOULD
ASSUME THAT THE OWNERS OF UCHIZA SAFETY
DEPOSIT BOXES WOULD BE LOCAL BUSINESSMEN,
BOTH LEGITIMATE AND THOSE WITH DIRECT OR
INDIRECT CONNECTIONS TO THE COCA BUSINESS
WHICH IS CENTERED IN THE UCHIZA AREA.

12. PRESS COVERAGE OF THE EVENT HAS BEEN
EXTENSIVE AND OCCASIONALLY SENSATIONALISTIC.
THE MEDIA REPORTED THE PRESENCE OF COLOMBIAN
TRAFFICKERS AMONG THE ATTACKERS. WHILE THAT
IS POSSIBLE WE CANNOT YET CONFIRM THE REPORT
FROM RELIABLE SOURCES. THE OFFICIAL MINISTRY
OF INTERIOR COMMUNIQUE QUOTED IN THE PRESS
STATED THAT SPENT SHELLS FOUND AT THE SITE

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INDICATE THAT FOREIGN PURCHASED WEAPONS WERE USED IN THE ATTACK. WE ARE SKEPTICAL OF THAT CLAIM. ONE PAPER NAMES THE TWO SL LEADERS WHO LED THE ATTACK. WE DO NOT HAVE INDEPENDENT CORROBORATION OF THAT INFORMATION. THE PRESS ALSO SPECULATED THAT THE ATTACK WAS IN RETALIATION FOR RECENT POLICE SUCCESSES AGAINST NARCOTRAFFICKERS IN THE AREA. WE WILL CONSIDER THIS ISSUE IN A SUBSEQUENT REPORT.

13. IT IS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT THE ATTACKERS WERE SL. THE PRESS AND THE GOP HAVE CLAIMED SEVERAL

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RECENT MRTA ATTACKS IN LARGE COLUMNS AGAINST POLICE STATIONS IN THE EASTERN JUNGLE PROVINCES OF JUNIN DEPARTMENT. WE HAVE QUESTIONED THE EVIDENCE THAT THESE ATTACKS WERE MRTA. IN THE CASE OF UCHIZA, THE SIZE OF THE ATTACKING FORCE AND THE TRIAL AND SUMMARY EXECUTIONS IN FRONT OF TOWNSPEOPLE BOTH POINT TO THE SL.

14. BUT THE MOST PERSUASIVE EVIDENCE OF SL IS THE LOCATION OF THE ATTACK. THE MRTA HAS DISPUTED SL INFLUENCE IN AREAS OF THE UPPER HUALLAGA FURTHER NORTH. WE HAVE NO RECENT REPORTS OF SIGNIFICANT MRTA ACTIVITY IN THE UCHIZA AREA. TO THE CONTRARY, THE UCHIZA/ TOCACHE AREA IS KNOWN TO BE UNDER SL CONTROL. NO COLUMN OF 200 - 400 ARMED MEN, TRANSPORTED IN OPEN BED TRUCKS OVER THE ROADS IN THE UCHIZA AREA, COULD HAVE MOVED WITHOUT SL KNOWLEDGE AND PERMISSION.

WATSON

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