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ACTION SCT-03

INFO LOG-00 COR-01 AMAD-01 ARA-01 CA-02 CIAE-00 SJK-01
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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - P A R A 4 . I S C O R R E C T A S S E N T .
D R A F T E R C O N F I R M E D T H A T P A R A S H O U L D E N D A S I S .

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: CASC, PTER, ASEC, PREL, PE
SUBJECT: PROPOSED TRAVEL ADVISORY --
PERU -- WARNING

REF: STATE 234255

1. POST ACCEPTS THRUST OF DEPARTMENT'S PROPOSED TRAVEL ADVISORY, BUT SUGGESTS IT ONLY REMAIN IN FORCE UNTIL AUGUST 31. AN ADVISORY WHICH CALLS FOR DEFERRING ALL TRAVEL UNTIL FEBRUARY 1993 IS TOO OPEN ENDED. THE PERIOD IMMEDIATELY AHEAD IS ASSOCIATED WITH AN ARMED STRIKE, INTENDED TO DISRUPT ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND EMBARRASS THE

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PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT AROUND THE JULY 28 NATIONAL DAY. "ARMED STRIKES" SHOULD BE EXPLAINED MORE FULLY. THE NAME GIVES THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE ARE ARMED TERRORISTS CONTROLLING THE STREETS. THIS DOES NOT OCCUR. A BETTER CHOICE OF WORDS WOULD BE TO CALL THE SITUATION A TRANSPORT STOPPAGE ENFORCED THROUGH PRIOR INTIMIDATION, AVOIDING THE TERM ARMED STRIKE ALTOGETHER.

2. IN THE PST, HIGH LEVELS OF VIOLENCE HAVE COME IN WAVES, OFTEN WITH ANTICIPATION, AND THEN HAVE SUBSIDED. GIVEN THE PEAKS AND VALLEYS IN THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE WE SUGGEST THAT THIS AND FUTURE ADVISORIES ENCOURAGE TRAVELERS TO CHECK WITH THE CONSULATE IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO TRAVEL.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM E. LANDFAIR
DATE/CASE ID: 19 FEB 2002 200104460

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3. THE REFERENCE TO MIRAFLORES AND SAN ISIDRO APPEARS TO BE VALID ONLY IN THE SHORT TERM. THREATS ASSOCIATED WITH PARTICULAR AREAS MOVE AND IT WOULD BE MISLEADING IN THE LONG TERM TO HIGHLIGHT THIS PARTICULAR THREAT.

4. POST PROPOSES THAT FOLLOWING BE SUBSTITUTED FOR OPENING SENTENCES OF DEPARTMENT'S DRAFT:
"THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WARNS AMERICAN CITIZENS THAT AN UPSURGE IN TERRORIST VIOLENCE IN PERU HAS SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED DANGER TO TRAVELERS. ALL TRAVEL SHOULD BE DEFERRED UNTIL AUGUST 1. THIS IS THE THIRD MAJOR UPSURGE OF URBAN VIOLENCE THIS YEAR. OTHERS CAN BE EXPECTED TO OCCUR IN THE COMING MONTHS. U.S CITIZENS WHO
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MUST TRAVEL TO PERU DESPITE THIS WARNING SHOULD CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE OR THE U.S EMBASSY IN LIMA FOR CURRENT INFORMATION. TRAVELERS SHOULD BE AWARE THAT MANY PARTS OF THE COUNTRY...

IN FIRST PARAGRAPH ADVISORY REFERS TO "FOREIGN AID AND RELIGIOUS WORKERS" AS TARGETS. THIS IS NOT CURRENT INFORMATION, BUT HARKS BACK TO CIRCUMSTANCES IN 1991. EMBASSY WOULD SUGGEST THAT THOSE WORDS BE REPLACED BY, "...AS WELL AS EMBASSIES OF OTHER COUNTRIES." IN THIRD PARAGRAPH, ADVISORY QUOTES IN FULL A MISSION SECURITY ALERT NOTICE. WHILE THAT NOTICE WAS CORRECT AND APPROPRIATE AT THE TIME OF ITS RELEASE, IT WAS RELATED TO SPECIFIC INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT THE TIME. FOR A DOCUMENT HAVING VALIDITY TO FEBRUARY 1993, IT WOULD BE MISLEADING. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT QUOTATION OF THIS NOTICE BE SUBSTITUTED AS FOLLOWS: "A CAR BOMB EXPLODED ON JULY 16 IN THE CROWDED MIRAFLORES AREA, KILLING 20 PERSONS AND SERIOUSLY INJURING OVER 150 BYSTANDERS. SUCH BOMBINGS COULD OCCUR IN WIDE AREAS OF THE CITY OF LIMA."

7. IF DEPARTMENT DECIDES TO RETAIN THE TEXT AS PROVIDED IN REFTTEL, REVIEW DATE SHOULD BE CHANGED TO AUGUST 31, 1992. SENDERO DOES NOT HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO SUSTAIN A CAMPAIGN OF

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BOMBINGS SUCH AS IS NOW TAKING PLACE OVER A SIX
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MONTH PERIOD AND WARNING U.S. CITIZENS TO DEFER
ALL TRAVEL FOR SUCH A TIME WOULD BE A SERIOUS
OVERREACTION.
QUAINTON##

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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