

[REDACTED]
n/a

Case Number: S200200010

PTQ1482

RELEASED IN FULL

[REDACTED]

PTQ1482

PAGE 01 LIMA 10752 181333Z
ACTION DS-00

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-10	ACDE-00	AMAD-01	ARA-01	A-00	CA-01
	CCO-00	OASY-00	EAP-01	FAAE-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-01
	ADS-00	M-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-03	PM-00	P-00
	SCT-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-01	PMB-00	DSCC-00

/019W

-----87B326 181333Z /38

O 181332Z DEC 96 ZFF4
 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4898
 AMEMBASSY QUITO
 AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
 USSOUTHCOM QUARRY HEIGHTS PM//SCJ3//
 AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
 CIA WASHINGTON DC
 JCS WASHINGTON DC
 AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
 DIA WASHDC//DH-5/
 FBI WASHINGTON DC
 AMEMBASSY TOKYO
 USCINCSOUTH QUARRY HEIGHTS PM

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TERREP EXCLUSIVE

MONTEVIDEO PASS TO LEGAT

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PAGE 02 LIMA 10752 181333Z

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/18/01

TAGS: ASEC PTER PE

SUBJECT: HOSTAGE TAKING - JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE LIMA

1. [REDACTED] - ENTIRE TEXT. CLASSIFIED BY DENNIS JETT, AMBASSADOR,
AMERICAN EMBASSY, LIMA REASON: 1.5 (D)

n/a
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
n/a

Case Number: S200200010

2. AT 2020 HOURS ON DECEMBER 17, 1996, A GROUP LATER IDENTIFIED AS MRTA ASSAULTED THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE DURING THE WELL-ATTENDED NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION. THE ASSAULT FOLLOWED THE DETONATION OF A LARGE BOMB OUTSIDE THE RESIDENCE, PROBABLY INTENDED AS A DIVERSION. THE GROUP APPEARS TO NUMBER AROUND TWENTY, IS ARMED WITH AK-47 RIFLES, AND IS COMMUNICATING WITH CELLULAR TELEPHONES. MOST OF THE WOMEN HOSTAGES WERE FREED AND IT IS BELIEVED THAT AS MANY TWO HUNDRED (200) HOSTAGES ARE STILL CAPTIVE. AMONG THESE ARE SEVEN (7) U.S. OFFICIAL MISSION PERSONNEL, MANY HIGH-RANKING PERUVIAN OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PERUVIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FRANCISCO TUDELA, PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT MOISES PANTOJA, FIVE ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME COURT, SIX CONGRESSMEN, AND, IN ADDITION TO JAPANESE AMBASSADOR AOKI, THE CUBAN, FRENCH, GERMAN, COSTA RICAN, HONDURAN, GUATEMALAN, GREEK, BRASILIAN, AND CANADIAN AMBASSADORS. THE TERRORISTS HAVE THREATENED TO KILL HOSTAGES UNLESS MRTA PRISONERS ARE RELEASED. THERE HAS BEEN NO INDICATION THAT ANY OF THE HOSTAGES HAVE BEEN KILLED OR INJURED. THE AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE PERUVIAN NATIONAL POLICE WHO STATED HE WOULD RELAY AN OFFER OF ASSISTANCE. ATTEMPTS TO CONTACT MINISTER OF INTERIOR BRIONES AND PRESIDENT FUJIMORI WERE UNSUCCESSFUL.

3. THE CAPTIVE U.S. MISSION PERSONNEL ARE AS FOLLOWS:

DONALD BOYD -- AID

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PAGE 03 LIMA 10752 181333Z
*JIM WAGNER -- POL
JOHN RIDDLE -- ECON
JOHN CROW -- NAS
MIKE MAXEY -- AID
DAVID BAYER -- AID
KRIS MERSCHOD --AID

4. POST BELIEVES THAT THIS MAY BE A LONG AND DRAWN-OUT CRISIS. FROM A RELEASED POLITICAL OFFICER'S DESCRIPTION OF THE HOSTAGE TAKERS, THEY APPEAR TO BE FROM THE INTERIOR OF THE COUNTRY, CLOSELY RESEMBLING THE MRTA RECRUITS ARRESTED DECEMBER 1, 1995, IN CONNECTION WITH A PLANNED TAKEOVER OF THE PERUVIAN CONGRESS WITH THE SAME GOAL OF SECURING THE RELEASE FROM PERUVIAN PRISONS OF MRTA LEADERS.

5. THE POLICE UNIT CHARGED WITH HANDLING HOSTAGE CRISIS, SUAT, HAS RECEIVED TRAINING IN THE U.S. THROUGH THE ATA PROGRAM AND IN PERU FROM SOUTHCOM ELEMENTS. BASED ON POST'S EXPERIENCE WITH THIS UNIT,

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n/a

[REDACTED]

n/a

Case Number: S200200010

WE DO NOT (REPEAT NOT) FEEL THAT IT WOULD BE COMPETENT TO EFFECT A SAFE HOSTAGE RESCUE.

6. UNDER TREMENDOUS PRESSURE FROM TOKYO AND OTHER QUARTERS, THE GOP IS GRAPPLING WITH THE STILL TENSE HOSTAGE SITUATION. GOP OFFICIALS HAVE NOT YET ISSUED ANY STATEMENTS, BUT THEY HAVE DISPATCHED MORE THAN 1000 POLICEMEN TO THE SCENE. IRONICALLY, THE CHIEF OF PERU'S ANTI-TERRORISM DIRECTORATE (DINCOTE) IS ALSO REPORTED TO BE AMONG THE HOSTAGES.

7. POST IS SETTING UP 24-HOUR COMMAND CENTER WITH A DIRECT LINE, [511] 434-2525 (STU III) AND NON-SECURE [511] 434-3000 EXTENSIONS 2630, 2618, AND 2516. WE WILL CONTINUE A DIALOGUE WITH THE

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PAGE 04 LIMA 10752 181333Z
PERUVIANS AND SUGGEST THEY OPEN AN AVENUE FOR ASSISTANCE IN THIS MATTER.

8. UPON A FURTHER ASSESSMENT OF THIS SITUATION, POST WILL DECIDE WHAT DEPARTMENT ASSISTANCE MAY BE HELPFUL.
JETT

[REDACTED]

NNNN

n/a
[REDACTED]