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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PE PINS PGOV
SUBJ: PERUVIAN PRESIDENT URGES TERRORISTS TO SURRENDER
WITHIN 72 HOURS

REF: (A) LIMA 13080, (B) LIMA 13097

1. THAT REPORTERS BORE IN ON THE TERRORIST PROBLEM DURING PRESIDENT BELAUNDE'S HABITUAL SUNDAY PRESS CONFERENCE DECEMBER 26 WAS HARDLY SURPRISING GIVEN CONTINUING VIOLENCE (REF A) AND POLICE AND TROOP MOVEMENTS TO AYACUCHO (REF B). PRESS GOT THEIR HEADLINE WHEN BELAUNDE CALLED UPON TERRORISTS TO SURRENDER TO AUTHORITIES WITHIN 72 HOURS TO AVOID BLOODSHED AND RECEIVE A FULL AND FAIR TRIAL.

2. BELAUNDE NEVER SPELLED OUT THE "OR ELSE" IMPLICIT IN HIS REMARKS. HE ASSERTED THAT THE GOP HAD DEVELOPED A PLAN THAT WOULD ELIMINATE TERRORISM, BUT DECLINED TO GIVE DETAILS. HE SAID THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN POLICE AND MILITARY WERE NOT BEING JEOPARDIZED BY INCREASING THE MILITARY PRESENCE SINCE POLICE WERE AWARE THAT THEY NEEDED ADDITIONAL FLEXIBILITY SO THEY COULD SEEK OUT THE TERRORISTS. BELAUNDE -- IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT GRANTING THE MILITARY FULL AUTHORITY IN THE EMERGENCY ZONE -- MADE CLEAR THAT THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDED HIM LEGAL AUTHORITY TO PERMIT THE ARMY TO TAKE CHARGE. (COMMENT: ART 231 (A) OF THE 1979 CONSTITUTION ENABLES THE PRESIDENT TO DECREE THE CONTROL OF INTERNAL ORDER BY THE ARMED FORCES IN AREAS DECLARED UNDER A STATE OF EMERGENCY. END COMMENT.) BUT HE INDICATED THAT HE HAD NOT YET AVAILED HIMSELF OF THIS AUTHORITY.

3. BELAUNDE ALSO STRESSED HIS CONTENTION THAT THE "DELINQUENTS" AND "TERRORISTS" HAD BETRAYED PERU BY RELYING UPON "FOREIGN IDOLS NO LONGER RESPECTED IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY" (READ MAO) AND FLYING THE ALIEN HAMMER AND SICKLE INSTEAD OF THE PERUVIAN COLORS. BELAUNDE RIDICULED THE SUGGESTION OF A DIALOGUE WITH THE TERRORISTS, DESCRIBING THEM AS KILLERS, NOT LEADERS OF A POLITICAL PARTY. BELAUNDE ASSURED THE PRESS THAT THOSE WHO SURRENDERED TO POLICE WOULD RECEIVE A FAIR TRIAL BUT WOULD HAVE TO FACE JUSTICE.

4. BELAUNDE WAS ESPECIALLY HARSH TOWARDS UNSPECIFIED EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS WHO SEND HIM VOLUMINOUS MAIL COMPLAINING THAT TERRORISTS RIGHTS ARE BEING

VIOLATED WHEN IN FACT IT IS THE TERRORIST WHO VIOLATE THE CITIZENRY'S RIGHTS. IN FRUSTRATION HE SAID HE CONSIDERED SUCH CORRESPONDENCE TO HIS WASTEPAPER BASKET.

RELEASED

5. FIRST VICE PRESIDENT SCHWALB, THE NEW PRIME MINISTER, ALSO HAD TIGHT WORDS FOR TERRORISTS UPON HIS ARRIVAL IN LIMA DECEMBER 26. SCHWALB SAID THAT TERRORISTS KNEW ONLY THE LANGUAGE OF BULLETS AND HE WAS PREPARED TO CONDUCT THE DIALOGUE WITH THEM ON THAT LEVEL IF NEED BE.
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