



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

August 12, 1986

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MEMORANDUM

TO: S/CT - Ambassador Oakley
FROM: S/CT - Donald D. Casteel
SUBJECT: CT in Peru: Trip Report and Recommendations

The trip was successful. In over twelve hours of intense discussion with The Embassy, and almost four with Peruvian Military and Police officials, we hammered out what I believe can be the first steps toward a coordinated effective CT program in Peru. We do not believe that the GOP could absorb a massive infusion of funds, training, or equipment at this time. Our recommendations have been carefully tailored to what we believe the GOP could effectively use, and can for the most part be accomplished with existing resources.

Discussion with the Embassy. The Embassy is anxious to get a CT program under way, both to improve bi-lateral relations, and -- most importantly -- because the Embassy believes there is a serious growing threat to official Americans. Peruvian terrorist organizations, particularly the MRTA, have shown themselves to be capable of relatively sophisticated attacks. With the abrogation of the "truce" with the Garcia government announced by MRTA last week, selective assassination attempts will doubtless increase. The terrorists may also turn, as Peruvian criminals have, to kidnapping as a means of raising revenue.

The Embassy agrees with our assessment that fragmentation within the GOP makes it difficult to develop an effective program. The anti-American posturing in which President Garcia has from time to time indulged, and Peruvian debt problems do not make it any easier. We agreed that a first step has to be to bring the GOP to clarify and identify its terrorism reaction structure. This subject was central to our discussions with Peruvian authorities (see below). We also agreed that an early offering of the on-site Crisis Management Course would be a useful tool in moving the Peruvians in this direction.

The Embassy also feels that we need to take some actions promptly, without waiting for the Peruvians to take the

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organizational and structural steps required for a longer-range, more complete program. We agreed on several activities which will show the Peruvians that we are serious, and will keep us engaged with them to the remainder of 1986 (see recommendations).

Discussions with GOP. In our discussions with Peruvian military and police officials we stressed the organizational/structural issue. As we expected, The Peruvians had no answers, and the concept of police-military cooperation was foreign to them. We pointed to the Colombian experiences and suggested that they consult with their Colombian counterparts to see whether the Colombian experience might be applicable to their situation.

We suggested to the military that initial steps could be bomb disposal training, particularly booby traps, and a Southcom exercise with an extant Peruvian unit, probably the SEAL, because of their past involvement with U.S. Seal's. For the Police, we concentrated on ATA offerings (see recommendation).

Recommendations

That we move quickly to engage the Peruvians, using existing resources to demonstrate our seriousness. We identified several activities that could be undertaken in the remainder of calendar 1986, with long-term involvement pending Peruvian progress in resolving the organizational and institutional issues. We would expect to bring these issues up with the GOP again in November/December if they have not already approached us.

DOD/Soutcom

Southcom will provide a bomb disposal DFT, probably in September. Southcom is also prepared to mount a full-scale hostage-barricade exercise with a Peruvian unit (probably the Navy SEAL's) in November/December if requested by State. Provided the organizational/institutional problem can be resolved, Southcom will be willing to work with an identified Peruvian unit with the objective of producing a trained and organized HTRF similar to that which exists in Colombia.