

DECLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL *Mc, H, Olson*
Department of State

INCOMING TELEGRAM
RELEASED

X62

PAGE 01 LIMA 13087 272256Z
ACTION ARA-00

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INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-10 CIAE-00 H-01
NSC-01 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 HA-00 L-03 PH-09
PA-01 MCT-02 INRE-00 USIE-00 SP-02 SNP-01 SPRS-01
/056 W

ANTI-SUBVERSION USE. WITHOUT SPECIFYING TYPE OF EQUIPMENT OR PROCUREMENT DATE, HE SAID THE CRAFT WOULD BE FLOWN AND MAINTAINED BY THE AIR FORCE (FAP) UNDER GC CONTROL. COMMENT: PRESUMABLY THESE ARE THE BELL 214 SY'S. END COMMENT.

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O R 272200Z DEC 82
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6365
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USCINCSOUTH
DIA WASHDC

6. (C) BELAUNDE'S PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS DID NOT SHED MUCH LIGHT ON THE MANNER OF ARMY INTERVENTION IN AYACUCHO. ACCORDING TO THE WELL-CONNECTED AND USUALLY VERY RELIABLE "CARETAS" NEWSMAGAZINE, ON DECEMBER 21, PRESIDENT BELAUNDE ORDERED THE INTERIOR VICE-MINISTER TO DRAFT A SUPREME DECREE AUTHORIZING THE MILITARY TO TAKE CONTROL OF INTERNAL ORDER IN THE AFFECTED PROVINCES OF AYACUCHO AND ANDAHUAYLAS. AS YET, THE GOP HAS NOT PUBLISHED THE DECREE: ACCORDING TO "CARETAS", BELAUNDE DOES NOT PLAN TO MAKE IT PUBLIC UNTIL "THE INITIAL PREPARATIONS" ARE MADE.

CONFIDENTIAL LIMA 13087

EO 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PINS PGOV PE
SUBJECT: (U) GOP SENDS ARMY UNITS TO AYACUCHO: THEIR ROLE STILL NOT CLEAR

7. (C) COMMENT: THIS SURGE IN THE BUILDUP OF SECURITY FORCES--POLICE AS WELL AS THE MORE DRAMATIC MILITARY PRESENCE--WILL HAVE THE EFFECT OF GREATLY INCREASING THE POSSIBILITY FOR ARMY-SL CONFRONTATION, EVEN IF THAT IS NOT THE SPECIFIC OPERATIONAL PURPOSE OF THE MOVEMENTS. BELAUNDE WAS DECIDED TO GIVE THE ARMY GREATER AUTHORITY IN THE EMERGENCY AREAS, ALTHOUGH THE DOVETAILING BETWEEN CIVILIAN AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES PROBABLY IS STILL BEING WORKED OUT. END COMMENT.

REF: LIMA 13088

1. (U) APPARENTLY PROVOKED BY THE LATEST SERIES OF SENDERO LUMINOSO (SL) ASSASSINATIONS IN AYACUCHO (REFTEL), PRESIDENT BELAUNDE DISPATCHED MORE THAN 400 PERUVIAN ARMY TROOPS TO THAT CITY ON DECEMBER 23. THE TROOPS BELONG TO THE FIRST AIR-TRANSPORT DIVISION, BASED IN LIMA, AND THE SECOND INFANTRY DIVISION, BASED IN HUANCAYALICA. OSTENSIBLY THEY ARE TO REINFORCE THE "CABITOS" BATTALION GARRISONED IN AYACUCHO.

8 (C) POLICE MORALE IS LOWER THAN EVER. EVEN THE PROMISE OF ADDITIONAL MOBILITY IN THE FORM OF AIR FORCE-OPERATED HELICOPTERS HAS DONE LITTLE TO PERK IT UP. DISCONTENT WITH POLICE PERFORMANCE, SIMILARLY IS ON THE UPSWING. THE MONTH-EARLY RETIREMENT OF THE TOP TWO CIVIL GUARD COMMANDERS DECEMBER 31 MAY HAVE BEEN THEIR IDEA (AS SOME IN THE POLICE ARE SAYING). MOST OBSERVERS ASSUME THAT THEY WERE MOVED OUT IN PART AS SCAPEGOATS AND IN PART TO GIVE THE NEW CABINET AND STILL UNNAMED NEW MINISTER OF INTERIOR A FREER HAND. ORTIZ

2. (U) THE GOP MADE NO OFFICIAL STATEMENTS ABOUT THE ARMY'S JURISDICTION OR ACTIONS IN AYACUCHO UNTIL DECEMBER 27, DURING BELAUNDE'S REGULAR SUNDAY PRESS CONFERENCE (SEPTTEL). BELAUNDE TOLD REPORTERS THAT THE POLICE WOULD BE ABLE TO MORE EFFECTIVELY CARRY OUT OPERATIONS TO CAPTURE "CRIMINALS" WITH THE ASSURANCE THAT THE ARMY "WAS FULLY PROTECTING THE HOUSE" (AYACUCHO CITY).

*First use of Army
against Sendero Luminoso
Guerrillas.*

3. (C) INITIAL REPORTS FROM AYACUCHO INDICATE THAT ARMY TROOPS ARE UNDERTAKING PATROLS BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE CITY TO GUARANTEE SECURITY WHILE POLICE ELEMENTS LAUNCH OPERATIONS AGAINST SUSPECTED SL CADRES. NEWS REPORTS FROM AYACUCHO SUGGEST THEY INCLUDE "RANGERS" OR "COMANDOS" WHO ARE "ARMED TO THE TEETH AND ESPECIALLY TRAINED IN "DIFFICULT OPERATIONS." ON DECEMBER 27, CENTRIST DAILY "CORREO" REPORTED THAT ARMY TROOPS HAD PATROLLED THE STREETS OF AYACUCHO AND SET UP HIGHWAY CHECKPOINTS IN THE COMMUNITIES OF HUANTA, MAYOC, AND CHURCAMP. LIMA OPPOSITION DAILY "EL OBSERVADOR" REPORTED THAT AYACUCHO RESIDENTS NOTICED DETACHMENTS OF TROOPS LEAVING THE BARRACKS ON DECEMBER 24, APPARENTLY TO TAKE UP PATROL DUTIES.

4. (U) IN A PRELUDE TO THE TROOP MOVEMENTS, INTERIOR MINISTER GAGLIARDI, ON DECEMBER 22, SAID THAT POLICE FORCES WOULD TAKE "DRASTIC MEASURES" IN COMBATTING TERRORISM. THE NEXT DAY, UP TO 400 MORE REPUBLICAN AND CIVIL GUARDS WENT OFF TO AYACUCHO, INCLUDING 200 MEN "ESPECIALLY TRAINED IN ANTI-SUBVERSIVE TACTICS."

5. (C) GAGLIARDI HAD ANNOUNCED DECEMBER 19, THAT THE GOP WOULD BUY A FLEET OF HELICOPTERS FOR CIVIL GUARD

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