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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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ACTION MCT-04

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-05 SS-00 CIAE-00 NSCE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7147
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY QUITO
USAFSO HOWARD AFB PM
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
DIA WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE		IS/FPC/CDR	Date: 9/22/84
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELEASE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DECLASSIFY	MR Cases Only:	
<input type="checkbox"/> E.O. 11652	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLASSIFY	EO Citations:	
<input type="checkbox"/> DENY	III PART		
<input type="checkbox"/> DELETE Non-Responsive Info			TS authority to:
FOIA Exemptions		<input type="checkbox"/> CLASSIFY as	<input type="checkbox"/> S or <input type="checkbox"/> C OADR
PA Exemptions		<input type="checkbox"/> DOWNGRADE TS to	<input type="checkbox"/> S or <input type="checkbox"/> C OADR

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TERREP

DIA FOR IR BRANCH; PANAMA FOR ADS

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, PGOV, SHUM, PE
SUBJECT: THIRTY INMATES DIE IN CONFRONTATION AT LURIGANCHO PRISON

1. (C) SUMMARY: APPROXIMATELY 30 PRISONERS DIED AND ABOUT 20 WERE WOUNDED ON OCTOBER 4 WHEN POLICE SEARCHED A SENDERO LUMINOSO CELL BLOCK AT LURIGANCHO PRISON. ALMOST ALL OF THE VICTIMS DIED IN A FIRE WHICH THE GOP CLAIMS WAS STARTED BY PRISONERS, BUT WHICH OTHER PERSONS CLAIM WAS A GOP COVER-UP OF A MASSACRE. NO U.S. PRISONERS WERE INVOLVED. ALTHOUGH FACTS MAY BE AS
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STATED BY THE GOP, THE GOP'S CREDIBILITY HAS BEEN]

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STRAINED LATELY BY REVELATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN THE AYACUCHO EMERGENCY ZONE AND EXCESSIVE VIOLENCE USED AGAINST LIMA SQUATTERS LAST WEEK. OPPOSITION FORCES, PRIMARILY THE MARXIST LEFT, WILL EXPLOIT THIS SITUATION FULLY. REPRISAL BY TERRORISTS IS ALSO REAL POSSIBILITY.] END SUMMARY.

2. (U) ON OCTOBER 4, PERUVIAN POLICE (GUARDIA REPUBLICANA) CARRIED OUT SEARCHES OF LURIGANCHO PRISON CELL BLOCKS. SEARCH WENT SMOOTHLY UNT CAME TO CELL BLOCK HOUSING ALLEGED MEMBERS OF SENDAS LUMINOSO (SL), WHERE POLICE INTELLIGENCE REPORTEDLY INDICATED THAT PRISONERS WERE MAKING WEAPONS IN PREPARATION FOR AN ESCAPE. PRISONERS BARRICADED THE ENTRANCES WITH CEMENT BLOCKS, BURNED MATTRESSES, AND FIRED ARROWS AND STONES AT POLICE, WOUNDING ONE OFFICER. POLICE THEN USED EXPLOSIVE CHARGES AND A BULLDOZER TO ENTER THE BUILDING AND SUBDUCE THE PRISONERS. POLICE CLAIM THEY FOUND THE CHARRED BODIES OF 28 PRISONERS IN A ROOM ON THE SECOND FLOOR, AND SPECULATED THAT THEY HAD BEEN MURDERED BY OTHER SL INMATES. POLICE FOUND AND DISPLAYED AN ARRAY OF SL WEAPONS, INCLUDING BOMBS AND ARROWS, SLINGS, LANCES, HOMEMADE "FLAMETHROWERS," AND QUANTITIES OF KEROSENE.

3. (U) SEVERAL PERSONS, MOSTLY FROM THE UNITED LEFT (IU), CLAIMED THAT THE POLICE HAD KILLED THE VICTIMS AND THEN BURNED THEIR BODIES TO HIDE THE FACT. GOP SKEPTICS CITE THE ABSENCE FROM THE SCENE OF SEVERAL IMPORTANT AUTHORITIES, INCLUDING THE PRISON DIRECTOR, THE STATE PROSECUTOR, AND A JUDGE, WHO WERE PRESENT EARLIER IN THE DAY. THEY ALSO POINTED TO THE REFUSAL

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OF PRISON AUTHORITY TO RECEIVE MEMBERS OF THE PEACE COMMISSION ON OCTOBER 4, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE THE AUTHORITY DESIRED TO AVOID EARLY SCRUTINY OF THE CELL BLOCK (THE PEACE COMMISSION WAS ALLOWED TO VISIT THE CELL BLOCK ON OCTOBER 8).

4. (C) COMMENT: [GOP ACCOUNT OF EVENTS AT LURIGANCHO IS PLAUSIBLE; SL HAS REPUTATION FOR DEMANDING ABSOLUTE ALLEGIANCE AND IS QUITE CAPABLE OF EXECUTING MEMBERS IN DISGRACE. HOWEVER, GOP'S CREDIBILITY ON]

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THIS ISSUE HAS DETERIORATED FOLLOWING ADMISSIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY MILITARY IN AUGUST IN THE EMERGENCY ZONE, AND THE POLICE'S EXCESSIVE USE OF FORCE ON OCTOBER 3 TO EVICT 5000 SQUATTERS (SEPTEL). MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS OF THE BODIES MAY REVEAL MORE INFORMATION.

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5. (C) WE BELIEVE THAT THE IU, WHICH ALREADY HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT IT BELIEVES IT CAN USE THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE ADVANTAGEOUSLY AGAINST APRA, WILL NOW REDOUBLE ITS EFFORTS. MORE RADICAL ELEMENTS OF THE IU MEMBER PARTIES MAY SEEK TO CONFRONT THE GOP BY ORGANIZING DEMONSTRATIONS THAT COULD LEAD TO FURTHER VIOLENCE. COMING WEEKS COULD PROVE TO BE A MAJOR TEST OF THE GOP'S ABILITY TO MAINTAIN AUTHORITY WITHOUT LAPSING INTO EXCESS.

6. (C) [LURIGANCHO INCIDENT ALSO ILLUSTRATED VIRTUAL ABANDONMENT OF PRISON CELL BLOCKS TO INMATES, AND LAX NATURE OF CONTROLS THAT PERMITTED SL MEMBERS TO FABRICATE SO MANY WEAPONS. VAGUELY REMINISCENT OF CHINESE POW'S IN KOREA, SL HAS FLOURISHED IN THE GOP'S PRISON INSTITUTIONS.] FINALLY, WE BELIEVE THERE IS A

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**STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT SE WILL ATTEMPT TO CARRY OUT
A REPRISAL FOR THE OCTOBER 4 EVENTS. JORDAN**

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