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E.O. 12356: N/A  
TAGS: PE, PINS  
SUBJ: TERRORISM IN PERU: WAVE OF VIOLENCE IN AYACUCHO  
SETS STAGE FOR MORE VIGOROUS GOP ACTIONS

REF: LIMA 12600

1. IN THE WAKE OF ITS UNSUCCESSFUL DECEMBER 11 ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON THE MAYOR OF AYACUCHO CITY (SEPTEL), PERU'S SENDERO LUMINOSO (SL) TERRORIST ORGANIZATION HAS CARRIED OUT ALMOST DAILY ATTACKS AND ASSASSINATIONS IN AYACUCHO DEPARTMENT, AS WELL AS ISOLATED ATTACKS IN OTHER AREAS. WITHIN NINE DAYS OF THE FIRST ATTEMPT, ON DECEMBER 20, THE SUB-PREFECT FOR HUANGA PROVINCE WAS SERIOUSLY WOUNDED WHEN TWO ASSAILANTS FIRED ON HIM AS HE WALKED DOWN AN AYACUCHO STREET. THE ATTACK OCCURRED ONLY TWO BLOCKS FROM A CIVIL GUARD (GC) POST AND THE ATTACKERS ESCAPED. THE FOLLOWING DAY, IN THE MEN'S MOST AUDACIOUS AND SEEMINGLY SENSELESS ATTACK, TWO ARMED MEN BURST INTO THE AYACUCHO OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL CULTURAL INSTITUTE (INCI) AND MORTALLY WOUNDED ITS DIRECTOR, AYACUCHO ANTHROPOLOGIST WALTER WONG GUTIERREZ. WONG'S BROTHER, CESAR, WAS ALSO WOUNDED IN THE MID-MORNING ATTACK. THE ASSASSINS, WHO WERE NOT WEARING MASKS (SL MEMBERS GENERALLY WEAR BLACK SKI MASKS DURING ATTACKS) REPORTEDLY WALKED AWAY FROM THE SCENE.

2. IT WAS REPORTEDLY THE WONG ASSASSINATION WHICH CAUSED PRESIDENT BELAUNDE TO ANNOUNCE "IMMEDIATE AND DRASTIC" ACTIONS AGAINST THE SL, DISPATCHING ADDITIONAL ARMY UNITS TO AYACUCHO TO TAKE AN INCREASED ROLE IN MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER (SEPTEL). NEVERTHELESS, THE SL CONTINUED ITS ATTACKS THROUGH THE CHRISTMAS WEEKEND THOUGH STEERING CLEAR OF THE CITY ITSELF, FOR THE MOST PART.

3. SUMMARY OF TERRORIST ACTIONS FROM DECEMBER 13:  
DECEMBER 14: A FOOD DISTRIBUTOR'S WAREHOUSE IN AYACUCHO WAS DYNAMITED AND BURNED WHILE THREE HIGH-TENSION ELECTRICAL TOWERS WERE KNOCKED OUT IN NEIGHBORING HAUNCAVELICA DEPARTMENT. OUTSIDE OF AYACUCHO CITY, PASSERSBY DISCOVERED THE BODY OF A YOUTH, KILLED BY GUNSHOTS, WITH A NOTE ATTACHED SAYING HE HAD BEEN EXECUTED "FOR FRAUDULATING THE PEOPLE AND MISUSING THE NAME OF THE PERUVIAN COMMUNIST PARTY."; IN NEARBY CANGALLO PROVINCE, SL TERRORISTS REPORTEDLY PULLED TWO OFF-DUTY CIVIL GUARDS OFF A BUS AND CONDUCTED A "PEOPLE'S TRIAL," EXECUTING ONE AND "PARDONING" THE OTHER.

DECEMBER 16: A BOMB EXPLODED AT AN AYACUCHO AUTO

DEALERSHIP CAUSING EXTENSIVE DAMAGE.

DECEMBER 19: TERRORISTS DESTROYED A SMALL ELECTROPERU HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT AT YUSITAS, IN AYACUCHO DEPARTMENT, AND BURNED THE WORK CAMP. THE SL ALSO EXECUTED AN EX-CIVIL GUARD IN THE DEPARTMENT FOR "FARMING MORE THAN (THE) TWO HECTARES OF LAND" ALLOWED BY SL EDICT.

DECEMBER 20: ATTEMPT OF SUB-PREFECT IN AYACUCHO.

DECEMBER 21: ASSASSINATION OF AYACUCHO INC DIRECTOR.

DECEMBER 23: SIX ARMED MEN ASSAULTED THE COLOUI MINES IN HUANCABELICA AND TOOK 1,500 STICKS OF DYNAMITE.

DECEMBER 24: AYACUCHO WAS RELATIVELY QUIET AFTER THE ARRIVAL OF ARMY REINFORCEMENTS BUT "SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS" SET FIRE TO A BLOCKADE OF TIRES ON ONE OF THE CITY'S BRIDGES AND SET OFF SEVEN DYNAMITE EXPLOSIONS IN THE VICINITY OF THE "LOS CABITOS" ARMY BARRACKS.

DECEMBER 25: AYACUCHO AND OTHER MAJOR CITIES WERE UNDER TIGHT HOLIDAY SECURITY BUT SOMEONE SET OFF A BOMB AT THE CIVIC CENTER IN HUANCAYO, 220 KILOMETERS EAST OF LIMA IN JUNIN DEPARTMENT, AND UNKNOWN ASSAILANTS TOSSED A STICK OF DYNAMITE INTO A SCHOOLYARD IN URUBAMBA, IN CUSCO DEPARTMENT. BOTH EXPLOSIONS CAUSED ONLY LIGHT DAMAGE.

4. ON DECEMBER 25, THE ASSASSINATIONS BEGAN ANEW WITH THE MURDER OF THE MAYOR OF MACHENTE, IN LA MAR PROVINCE. FIVE MEN, ARMED WITH SUBMACHINE GUNS AND PISTOLS TOOK THE MAYOR OF THE VILLAGE (150 KILOMETERS FROM AYACUCHO CITY) OUT OF A RESTAURANT AND SHOT HIM IN THE HEAD IN FRONT OF ONLOOKERS. THEY LEFT A NOTE SAYING "THIS IS THE WAY BELAUNDE'S STOOL PIGEON'S DIE." THE FOLLOWING DAY, SL TERRORISTS DRAGGED A 22-YEAR-OLD YOUTH OUT OF HIS HOME IN VISTA ALEGRE, FIVE KILOMETERS SOUTH OF AYACUCHO, AND SHOT HIM THROUGH THE HEAD AFTER A SUMMARY TRIAL IN THE TOWN PLAZA. THE YOUTH, APPARENTLY A MEMBER OR FORMER MEMBER OF THE SL, WAS KILLED FOR "USING THE NAME OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY TO CARRY OUT CRIMINAL ACTS." ORTIZ

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