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ACTION SCT-03

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	ZOVD-00	DOEE-00	DS-00	EB-01	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	IMMC-01
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	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIS-01	PA-01	PM-01	P-02	SSO-00
	SS-01	TRSE-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	/027W		

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P 182228Z MAR 91
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6178
INFO RHLBAAA/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 06 LIMA 03474

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

TERREP

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, ASEC, PHUM, PE
SUBJECT: SENDERO VICTORIES AND VULNERABILITIES:
- REVISITING THE MANTARO VALLEY

REF: A) LIMA 717, B) 90 LIMA 17789, C) LIMA 3319

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

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2. SUMMARY: POLOFFS REVISITED THE MANTARO RIVER VALLEY AND HUANCAYO CITY EN ROUTE TO HUANCVELICA DEPARTMENT (REF A). THE VISIT INCLUDED A HALF-DAY TOUR OF SITES RECENTLY ATTACKED BY SENDERO LUMINOSO. MOST WERE DAYTIME ATTACKS, MANY IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO DOWNTOWN HUANCAYO. POLICE AND ELECTED OFFICIALS HAVE WITHDRAWN FROM DOZENS OF LOCATIONS NEAR HUANCAYO. BUT SL OPERATIVES HAVE NOT EFFECTIVELY ORGANIZED THE AREAS FROM WHICH NOMINAL GOP AUTHORITY HAS WITHDRAWN. THE TERRORISTS ARE UNDERGROUND, NOT IN

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: APPEALS REVIEW PANEL
APPEAL ACTION: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELEASED
REASON(S): B6, B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ALAN H FLANIGAN
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D) DATE/CASE ID: 14 APR 2010 200605004
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 17 MAR 2016
DATE/CASE ID: 19 MAY 2008 200605004

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OPEN CONTROL. BUT THE GOP'S PRESENCE IS INTERMITTENT AND LARGELY INEFFECTIVE. IN THE NORTH END OF THE VALLEY, THE POLICE AND MILITARY TOLD POLOFFS THAT TERRORISM WAS DOWN IN 1990, IN PART DUE TO RONDAS CAMPESINAS SUPPORTED BY THE ARMY.

3. A PROFESSOR AND STUDENTS FROM THE NATIONAL CENTRAL UNIVERSITY (UNCP) TOLD POLOFFS THAT THE NUMBER OF TERRORISTS ON CAMPUS IS EXAGGERATED, BUT THE TERRORISTS' CONTROL OF THE UNIVERSITY IS NOT. THEY PLACE SENDERO AND MRTA STRENGTH AT 20 PERCENT OF THE PROFESSORS (I.E., 150) AND TEN PERCENT OF THE STUDENTS (1,250). POLOFFS ALSO VISITED THE REGIONAL PRISON, THE HOSPITAL AND THE MORGUE. THE MORGUE DIRECTOR TOLD POLOFFS THAT SECURITY FORCES ARE KILLING AN AVERAGE OF TEN SUSPECTED TERRORISTS A NIGHT. ONE POLICE OFFICIAL TOLD POLOFFS OF ANTI-TERRORISM TRAINING FROM VISITING ARGENTINE MILITARY. THIS VISIT CONFIRMED OUR IMPRESSION THAT SL IS BEARABLE. SL IS CREATING SECURITY VACUUMS BUT NOT LIBERATED ZONES. DESPITE SL'S LACK OF POPULAR

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SUPPORT, THE GOP DOES NOT YET HAVE A COHERENT OR EFFECTIVE STRATEGY FOR WINNING THIS WAR.

END SUMMARY.

4. POLCOUNS AND POLOFF RETURNED FOR A SECOND VISIT TO HUANCAYO AND THE MANTARO RIVER VALLEY ON JANUARY 5-6 EN ROUTE TO THE MORE DISTANT HUANCVELICA CITY AND DEPARTMENT (REF A). REVISITING THE VALLEY AND ITS LEADERS PROVIDED AN INVALUABLE OPPORTUNITY TO STRENGTHEN FRIENDSHIPS IN THIS STRATEGICALLY CRITICAL AREA OF PERU. THE VISIT ALSO OFFERED AN IMPORTANT PERSPECTIVE TO POLOFFS' FIRST VISIT IN NOVEMBER 1990 (REF B AND PREVIOUS).

VISITING THE SITES OF SL VIOLENCE

5. [REDACTED] ACCOMPANIED POLOFFS ON A MORNING TOUR OF SITES IN THE GREATER HUANCAYO AREA WHICH HAVE SUFFERED SL ATTACKS IN THE PAST YEAR. IN PUCARA, 15 KILOMETERS FROM HUANCAYO, SL MURDERED THE MAYOR, THE DEPUTY MAYOR AND THE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE IN THE TOWN PLAZA IN THE EARLY

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AFTERNOON. IN THE SUBURB OF CHILCA, 15 BLOCKS FROM THE CITY CENTER, SL ATTACKED A POLICE STATION, KILLING ONE. THE STATION IS STILL CLOSED. IN CHUCRUZ, JUST NORTH OF HUANCAYO, 50 SL LAID SIEGE TO THE FOUR-MAN POLICE UNIT AT NIGHT, KILLING TWO (INCLUDING A MAJOR IN THE RELIEF COLUMN), BUT FAILING TO OVERRUN THE STATION.

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6. [REDACTED] POINTED OUT THE TUPAC AMARU HIGH SCHOOL WHICH HE SAID IS RUN BY SL. EVERY OPEN SURFACE IN THE SCHOOL WAS COVERED WITH SL SLOGANS. THE PREVIOUS AFTERNOON POLOFFS DROVE BY A GRADE SCHOOL IN CHUPACA SIMILARLY RUN BY THE TERRORISTS. [REDACTED] CLAIMED THAT [REDACTED] HAD EXECUTED ONE OF THE TEACHERS ON THE TUPAC AMARU STAFF.

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7. POLOFFS DROVE WITH [REDACTED] ALONG THE HUANCAYO TO LA OROYA HIGHWAY ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE MANTARO RIVER. [REDACTED] STATED THAT THERE IS NOW NO POLICE STATION ALONG THE 160 KILOMETERS BETWEEN THE TWO

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	ZOVD-00	DOEE-00	DS-00	EB-01	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	IMMC-01
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	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIS-01	PA-01	PM-01	P-02	SSO-00

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INFO RHLBAAA/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM
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~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 02 OF 06 LIMA 03474

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

TERREP

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, ASEC, PHUM, PE
SUBJECT: SENDERO VICTORIES AND VULNERABILITIES:
CITIES. THE GROUP STOPPED IN MITO. TWO COPS DIED
THERE IN OCTOBER WHEN FOUR YOUNG SL, DISGUISED AS
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, ENTERED THE STATION AND SHOT
THE POLICE AT POINT-BLANK RANGE. [REDACTED] HOPES TO
REOPEN THE STATION BUT NEEDS MONEY FROM THE
GOVERNMENT TO REPAIR THE DESTRUCTION DONE BY THE

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TERRORISTS.

SENDERO CREATES VACUUMS NOT ALTERNATIVE GOVERNMENTS

8. DESPITE THE EVIDENT SIGNS OF SL PRESENCE AND THE
LINGERING ODOR OF VIOLENCE, POLOFFS AND [REDACTED] (WITH
ARMED GUARDS) WALKED OPENLY AND WITH LITTLE APPARENT
RISK IN THE AREAS OF THESE ATTACKS. THERE IS NOW NO
POLICE STATION IN MITO, BUT A LOCAL RESIDENT
APPROACHED POLCOUNS AND ASKED HOPEFULLY IF THE
STATION WAS GOING TO BE REOPENED. IN CHUCRUZ POLOFF
WATCHED A MODERATELY WELL-ATTENDED SUNDAY MASS IN A
CHURCH ON A PLAZA IN WHICH TWO MONTHS BEFORE AS MANY
AS 80 TERRORISTS HAD MASED TO ATTACK THE POLICE
STATION 50 METERS FROM THE CHURCH.

9. [REDACTED] TOLD POLOFFS OVER
DINNER THAT HE CAN AND DOES VISIT EVERY TOWN IN HIS

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PROVINCE, SO LONG AS IT IS DURING THE DAY, INCLUDING LOCATIONS MORE CLEARLY UNDER SL CONTROL THAN EVEN THOSE POLOFFS VISITED. THOUGH 24 OF THE PROVINCE'S 35 DISTRICTS NOW HAVE NO GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, NEITHER HAS SL SET UP ALTERNATIVE GOVERNMENTS IN THESE PLACES, HE STATED.

10. IN FACT, THOUGH SL, AND OCCASIONALLY THE POLICE, CALL THESE AREAS "LIBERATED ZONES", THEY ARE NOT, AT LEAST NOT IN THE ACCEPTED MILITARY SENSE OF THE

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PHRASE. [REDACTED] THE ANTI-TERRORISM POLICE (DIRCOTE) TOLD US THAT SL HAS SUPPORT CELLS IN ALL OF THESE AREAS. BUT EVERYONE POLOFFS SPOKE WITH AGREED THAT IN THE MANTARO SL MAKES NO ATTEMPT TO SUPPLANT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. SL'S CURRENT GOAL IS ONLY TO ELIMINATE THEM.

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11. NOR DOES SL SET UP DEFENSIVE PERIMETERS TO KEEP THE STATE OUT OF AREAS WHICH HAVE BEEN "LIBERATED." IF 24 DISTRICTS HAVE NO POLITICAL LEADERS, AND IF 83 TOWNS HAVE NO POLICE STATIONS, IT IS NOT BECAUSE ARMED TERRORISTS ARE BLOCKING THE WAY FOR THE STATE'S RETURN. THE ONLY BARRIER IN PLACE IS THE FEAR OF NEW ASSASSINATIONS, AND THE LACK OF POLICE MANPOWER AND RESOURCES TO RESTORE THAT WHICH THE TERRORISTS HAVE TAKEN AWAY.

SL AND SECURITY FORCES NUMBERS

12. [REDACTED] ESTIMATED SL'S TOTAL REGIONAL STRENGTH AT 1,500. HE ADMITTED THIS WAS A SHAKY FIGURE. BY CONTRAST, HE HAD 3,000 MEN UNDER HIS COMMAND. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] LATER TOLD ARMATT THAT THERE ARE 4,000 SOLDIERS IN THE MILITARY FRONT (JUNIN AND PASCO DEPARTMENTS ONLY - REF C). [REDACTED] FURTHER ESTIMATED THAT SL GUNMEN IN THE MANTARO VALLEY HAD NO MORE THAN 100

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RIFLES/SHOT GUNS AND A LARGER NUMBER OF HANDGUNS.

13. THE REGION S/
MENTIONED IN PASSING THAT HE HAD RECEIVED
SOME TRAINING FROM THE ARGENTINE MILITARY, INCLUDING
CAUTIONARY ADVICE ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS.

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USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

TERREP

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
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CITIES. THE GROUP STOPPED IN MITO. TWO COPS DIED

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COUNTING THE BODIES

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14. [REDACTED] REPEATED HIS EARLIER CLAIM THAT [REDACTED] IS GETTING ABOUT "TWO OR THREE" TERRORISTS A NIGHT. [REDACTED] BY CONTRAST, HE SAID THAT SL HAS KILLING ABOUT 10 A WEEK.

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15. POLOFFS VISITED THE PROVINCE'S ONLY MORGUE AND RECEIVED A DISTURBING CONFIRMATION THAT THE NUMBER OF VICTIMS OF THE TERRORISTS AND SECURITY FORCES IS HIGH. ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] THE PROVINCE OF HUANCAYO IS AVERAGING 12 VIOLENT DEATHS A DAY. SOME ARE SUICIDES, MURDERS, AND VEHICLE ACCIDENTS. MOST, 10 A DAY ON AN AVERAGE, HE GUESSED, ARE SUSPECTED TERRORISTS KILLED BY THE POLICE OR ARMY.

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16. HOW DOES HE KNOW THESE CORPSES ARE TERRORISTS KILLED BY SECURITY FORCES? THERE ARE TWO KEY INDICATORS. FIRST, MOST OF THE BODIES ARE REGULARLY FOUND IN TWO LOCATIONS. ONE OF THE SITES IS ON THE MANTARO RIVER JUST OUTSIDE HUANCAYO (SEE REF B ON [REDACTED] NOVEMBER STATEMENT, "THE ONES IN THE RIVER ARE MINE.") SECOND, THE VAST MAJORITY OF THESE CADAVERS ARE NEVER IDENTIFIED OR CLAIMED BY NEXT OF KIN. THE MORGUE PUBLISHES NAMES WHEN THERE ARE DOCUMENTS FOUND, AND PHYSICAL DESCRIPTIONS WHEN THERE ARE NONE. STILL, VERY FEW OF THESE ANONYMOUS DEAD ARE EVER CLAIMED. [REDACTED] ARGUES PERSUASIVELY THAT THIS BEHAVIOR IS MORE LIKELY IF THE DEAD IS THE

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VICTIM OF THE POLICE RATHER THAN THE VICTIM OF A
TERRORIST.

17. COMMENT: [REDACTED] "TEN A DAY" MAY BE HIGH. WHEN
POLOFFS VISITED THE MORGUE ON SUNDAY THERE WAS ONE
CORPSE ON AN EXAMINING TABLE, A RECENT DROWNING
VICTIM. THE CADAVER HAS SIX DAYS DEAD AND HAD BEEN
ON THE TABLE FOR 24 HOURS. THE UNCLOTHED CORPSE WAS
PARTIALLY COVERED BY A PIECE OF CARDBOARD. THE
DAUGHTER OF THE MORGUE ATTENDANT TOLD POLOFFS THAT
THE SIX DRAWER REFRIGERATOR WAS FULL. IT HAS NOT
CLEAR IF ANY OR ALL OF THE DRAWERS CONTAINED MORE
THAN ONE CADAVER. THE MORGUE REFRIGERATOR HAS NOT
WORKED FOR MORE THAN A YEAR AND A HALF. BODIES ARE
STILL STORED IN THE SEALED DRAWERS, LARGELY TO KEEP
FLIES AND INSECTS AWAY. THE UNCLAIMED DECEASED ARE
DUMPED IN A COMMON PAUPERS' GRAVE IF NOT IDENTIFIED
WITHIN 72 HOURS.

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18. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO SUBSTANTIATE THE TEN A DAY
FIGURE. IF ACCURATE, THE GOP IS OUTDISTANCING ITS
COMPETITION BY ABOUT FIVE TO ONE IN THE BODY COUNT.
ONCE AGAIN, NO ONE WE TALKED TO, FROM THE RIGHT TO
THE LEFT, SUGGESTED THAT THE VICTIMS WERE ANYTHING
OTHER THAN CLAIMED, PEOPLE INVOLVED IN ONE SIDE OR
THE OTHER OF A NASTY WAR IN THE SHADOWS. END COMMENT.

VIOLENCE IN THE NORTH MANTARO

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19. THE POLICE AND THE MAYOR IN HUANCAYO (ALONG WITH
MOST OF THOSE POLOFFS MET DURING THEIR-NOVEMBER
VISIT) BELIEVE SL IS WINNING THIS LOW INTENSITY WAR.
OTHERS DISAGREE. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] TOLD POLOFFS THAT TERRORISM
IN JUNIN IS DOWN IN 1990. HE SPECIFICALLY POINTED TO
THE NORTH END OF THE VALLEY AROUND JAUJA, AND THE

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PROVINCE OF CONCEPCION EAST OF THE MANTARO RIVER.
WITH THE HELP OF NEWLY-ORGANIZED AND ARMY-SUPPORTED
RONDAS CAMPESINAS, [REDACTED] CLAIMED THAT THE EASTERN
SIERRA HAS LESS TERRORISM NOW THAN AT ANY TIME SINCE
1985.

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USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

TERREP

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
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CITIES. THE GROUP STOPPED IN MITO. TWO COPS DIED

20. SURPRISINGLY, THE EXPERIENCED BUT YOUNG COLONEL

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INSISTED THAT THE WAR WOULD NOT BE WON BY REGULAR GOP FORCES. THERE NEVER WILL BE ENOUGH ARMY OR POLICE TO COVER THE ENTIRE COUNTRY, HE ARGUED. INSTEAD, HE

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FINGERED THE RONDAS AS THE KEY. THE SIDE THAT FIRST ARMS AND MOBILIZES THE PEOPLE WILL WIN. FOR THAT REASON THIS ARMY OFFICER URGED THAT USG ASSISTANCE GO FIRST AND FOREMOST TO THE RONDAS.

21. [REDACTED] AGREED WITH THE COLONEL'S ASSESSMENT OF SL WEAKNESS IN THE NORTH MANTARO. HE STATED THAT HIS TOWN IS LARGELY INCIDENT-FREE. UNLIKE HUANCAYO PROVINCE, POLOFFS OBSERVED VERY LITTLE SL GRAFFITI IN JAUJA.

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A SECOND LOOK AT HUANCAYO'S UNIVERSITY

22. AS IN THEIR NOVEMBER VISIT, MOST INTERLOCUTORS TOLD POLOFFS THAT THE NATIONAL CENTRAL UNIVERSITY (UNCP) IS THE CENTER OF TERRORIST ACTIVITY IN HUANCAYO AND THE MANTARO. POLOFFS INVITED A UNCP PROFESSOR AND THREE CURRENT OR FORMER STUDENTS TO DINNER TO HEAR THEIR VIEWS ON TERRORISM AT THE UNCP.

23. [REDACTED] ADMITTED THAT SL AND MRTA PRESENCE ON CAMPUS IS HIGH. HE ESTIMATED THAT 150 OF THE UNIVERSITY'S 800 FACULTY AND 10 PERCENT OF THE STUDENT BODY (1,250 OF 12,500) ARE SL OR MRTA SYMPATHIZERS. [REDACTED] STATED THAT THE NUMBERS OF SYMPATHIZERS OFTEN SEEM HIGHER BECAUSE MOST STUDENT AND FACULTY ARE AFRAID TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST THE TERRORISTS. THIS SILENCE IS OFTEN VIEWED BY THE POLICE AS ACQUIESCENCE TO THE TERRORISTS.

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24. [REDACTED] HIMSELF HAS BEEN GIVEN A DEADLINE BY SL TO TAKE A SIDE OR TO GET OUT. HE HAS DECIDED TO GET OUT. HE DESCRIBED ARMED SHOOT-OUTS ON CAMPUS BETWEEN SL AND MRTA GROUPS. HE STATED THAT ARMED SL GROUPS

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WILL OFTEN BREAK INTO CLASSROOMS, ROUGH UP PROFESSORS, AND GIVE LECTURES ON SL MILITANCY TO THE "CAPTIVE" STUDENTS. [REDACTED] AND THE THREE STUDENTS AGREED WITH EARLIER POLICE ASSESSMENTS: IT IS NOT SAFE FOR AN OUTSIDER TO ENTER THE UNCP.

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25. ALL FOUR OF POLOFFS' DINNER GUESTS AGREED WITHOUT HESITATION THAT UNCP VICE RECTOR JAIME CERRON, KIDNAPPED AND ASSASSINATED BY SECURITY FORCES IN JULY 1990, WAS SL. THESE FOUR FURTHER OPINED THAT THE POLICE AND ARMY WERE INVARIABLY ACCURATE IN THEIR TARGETING OF SUSPECTED TERRORISTS FOR EXTRA-JUDICIAL ASSASSINATION. THE FOUR DID NOT APPLAUD THE KILLINGS, BUT ALL AGREED THAT THOSE WHO ARE DYING ARE TRULY TERRORISTS.

A VISIT TO THE PRISON AND THE HOSPITAL

26. DIRCOTE POLICE OFFICIALS INVITED POLOFFS TO BRIEFLY TOUR THE DEPARTMENT'S PENITENTIARY (CRAS). THE RELATIVELY NEW FACILITY IS EXTRAORDINARILY CLEAN BY PERUVIAN STANDARDS, THOUGH THE ONLY AREA POLOFFS SAW WITH FUNCTIONING LIGHT BULBS WAS INSIDE THE SL WING. NOR HAS THE PRISON WATER SYSTEM WORKING. BUT THERE WAS PLENTY OF FRESH WATER, HAULED A HUNDRED YARDS OR SO FROM A FLOWING WELL.

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27. THE HUANCAYO CRAS HAS 325 PRISONERS. IT HAS BUILT TO HOLD 500. THREE OF THE CURRENT DETAINEES HAVE BEEN FOUND GUILTY AND SENTENCED. THE REMAINDER ARE UNDERGOING OR AWAITING TRIAL. 13 PRISONERS ARE WOMEN. 40 OF THE TOTAL ARE ACCUSED TERRORISTS. ONE ACCUSED TERRORIST HAS BEEN CONVICTED. BOTH MEN AND WOMEN ARE PERMITTED CONJUGAL VISITS IN PRIVATE ROOMS, FURNISHED WITH COTS, JUST OFF THE CENTRAL RECEPTION AREA.

28. AS IS THE PERUVIAN NORM, THE SL WING WAS

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P 182228Z MAR 91
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6182
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~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 05 OF 06 LIMA 03474

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

TERREP

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
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CITIES. THE GROUP STOPPED IN MITO. TWO COPS DIED
SPOTLESS, ITS WALLS PAINTED WITH SL SLOGANS. ONE
FULL WALL FEATURED A REMARKABLE SIX-FOOT HIGH
LIKENESS OF THE FACE OF SL FOUNDER ABIMAEEL GUZMAN.
THE SL DELEGATE IN THE TERRORIST WING APPROACHED THE
BARS AND SEEMED INTERESTED IN MEETING AND TALKING TO

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POLOFFS. HE HAD BEEN IN PRISON THREE YEARS BUT HAS

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YET TO GO TO TRIAL.

29. POLOFFS ALSO VISITED ONE OF HUANCAYO'S TWO HOSPITALS AND SPOKE WITH DOCTORS WHO DESCRIBED SL ATTACKS AGAINST RURAL HEALTH POSTS IN THE MOUNTAINS TO THE EAST AND WEST OF THE VALLEY. NURSES AND HEALTH TECHNICIANS HAVE DISAPPEARED. OTHERS HAVE BEEN THREATENED BY SL OR BY THE ARMY. ONE DOCTOR HINTED THAT SL HAS INFILTRATED THE HOSPITAL. SHE EXPLAINED THAT AFTER THE RECENT DEATH OF AN INJURED TERRORIST, THE HOSPITAL STAFF HAD MET AND SECRETLY, BUT FORMALLY, AGREED THAT ALL WOUNDED -- POLICE, MILITARY, AND SUSPECTED TERRORISTS -- WOULD BE TREATED EQUALLY.

COMMENTS AND CONCLUSIONS

30. POLOFFS RETURNED FROM THIS SECOND TRIP TO THE MANTARO WITH THE CONFIRMED IMPRESSION THAT SENDERO LUMINOSO IS FAR FROM AN UNBEATABLE FOE. SL IS NOT TEN FEET TALL. THOUGH THE GOVERNMENT IS ON THE RUN, SL HAS NEITHER THE INFRASTRUCTURE NOR THE POPULAR SUPPORT TO BUILD POPULAR GOVERNMENTS IN THE REAL GOVERNMENT'S ABSENCE. "PEOPLE'S COMMITTEES" MAY GOVERN "LIBERATED" TOWNS IN THE UPPER HUALLAGA VALLEY. THEY DO NOT IN THE MANTARO VALLEY.

31. NOR HAS SL BEEN ABLE TO MUSTER THE FORCES TO RUN
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ANY REAL MILITARY OPERATION IN THE VALLEY. FIFTY TERRORISTS COULDN'T TAKE A FOUR-MAN POLICE STATION IN CHUCRUZ. SL IS GOOD AT KILLING UNARMED POLITICIANS AND AMBUSHING ILL-PREPARED MOBILE POLICE PATROLS. IT HAS YET TO SHOW IN THE MANTARO THAT IT CAN RUN A DECENT MILITARY OPERATION, EVEN AGAINST SERIOUSLY OUTMANNED TARGETS.

32. UNFORTUNATELY, THE GOP IS DOING SURPRISING LITTLE TO WIN THIS WAR. THE ARMY HAS ONE RUNNING HELICOPTER FOR THE ENTIRE VALLEY, INCLUDING THE TWO RIDGES. THAT HELICOPTER SEATS SIX, INCLUDING PILOT AND COPILOT. OF THE 3,000 POLICE IN THE REGION, ONLY [REDACTED] 42-MAN SPECIAL UNIT IN HUANCAYO AND THE

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POLICE BASE AT MAZAMARI ARE ACTUALLY INVOLVED IN ANTI-TERRORIST OPERATIONS. THE REST ARE STATIC FORCES: POORLY TRAINED MEN STANDING AROUND IN SIX TO 15-MAN OUTPOSTS, WAITING FOR SL TO ATTACK. EVEN THE ANTI-TERRORISM POLICE ADMITTED THAT THEY RUN A TOTAL OF ONLY FOUR NIGHTTIME OPERATIONS PER MONTH.

33. IN HUANCAYO THE 42 POLICE WHO ARE FIGHTING APPEAR TO BE SCORING HEAVILY AGAINST SL. [REDACTED] TOLD US THAT 90 PERCENT OF THOSE THEY CAPTURE "SING" BEFORE THEY ARE EXECUTED. THE INFORMATION GAINED ONE NIGHT LEADS TO TARGETS THE NEXT NIGHT. BUT [REDACTED] WAS TRANSFERRED BACK TO LIMA, ALONG WITH MOST OF THE SENIOR POLICE AND MILITARY STAFF IN ALL OF THE EMERGENCY ZONES ALL OVER PERU. ONCE AGAIN, AS HAPPENS EVERY YEAR HERE, THE GOP SENT OUT A NEW BATCH OF FIGHTERS WITH LITTLE CONTINUITY OF COMMAND OR POLICY. THE ARMY COMMANDER, GENERAL PEREZ, HAD BEEN

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IN OFFICE THREE DAYS AT POLOFFS ARRIVAL. THE NEW ANTI-TERRORISM POLICE CHIEF IN HUANCABELICA, FOR EXAMPLE, THOUGH APPARENTLY VERY BRIGHT, HAS SPENT THE LAST FOUR YEARS AS A CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL.

34. THE GOP HAS BOTH FAIR WARNING AND TIME TO GET ORGANIZED. AND AS WE HAVE OBSERVED ELSEWHERE IN PERU, THERE IS A SOLID CADRE OF POLITICIANS, POLICE, AND MILITARY WHO ARE DEDICATED AND HIGHLY MOTIVATED. BUT TOO MANY THAT LEARN THE REALITY OF THE BATTLE FIELD SOON MOVE ON. SOME, LIKE [REDACTED] DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE "CULTURE OF DENIAL" THAT

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ACTION SCT-03

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-05	ADS-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	ARA-01	A-01
	CA-02	CCO-00	CG-00	CIAE-00	SJK-01	COME-00	CTME-00
	ZOVD-00	DOEE-00	DS-00	EB-01	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	IMMC-01
	INRE-00	INR-01	INSE-00	JUSE-00	L-02	M-01	NRCE-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIS-01	PA-01	PM-01	P-02	SSO-00
	SS-01	TRSE-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	/027W		

-----4EB8BB 182239Z /38

P 182228Z MAR 91
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6183
INFO RHLBAAA/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM
DIA WASHDC

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 06 OF 06 LIMA 03474

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

TERREP

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, ASEC, PHUM, PE
SUBJECT: SENERO VICTORIES AND VULNERABILITIES:
CITIES. THE GROUP STOPPED IN MITO. TWO COPS DIED
AFFECTS THE GOP PERCEPTION OF ITS SUBVERSION THREAT.
BUT THEY ARE HARD PUT TO RESPOND EFFECTIVELY AND EVEN
THEN CAN ONLY DO SO BY PLAYING BOTH JUDGE AND JURY.
IT'S NOT A PRETTY PICTURE THEY PAINT, BUT THEY DO NOT
HAVE MANY CHOICES.

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