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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0319

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

USMISSION GENEVA 1810

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 LIMA 10649

E.O: 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, PHUM, ASEC, PE
SUBJECT: THE MIND OF THE BEAST: SENDERO LUMINOSO
BRUTALITY

1. (C) SUMMARY. FROM ITS FIRST MURDER IN DECEMBER 1980, SENDERO LUMINOSO VIOLENCE HAS BEEN MARKED BY ITS UNUSUAL BRUTALITY. TORTURE AS A PART OF DEATH IS COMMON IN SL EXECUTIONS. SOME SCIENTISTS THINK SL TRIES TO REPLICATE SPANISH COLONIAL VIOLENCE AGAINST THE INCAS AND THEIR MODERN DESCENDANTS, THE
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PEASANTS. WHATEVER THE MOTIVE OF THE TERRORISTS, THE AVERAGE PERUVIAN PEASANT UNDERSTANDS THE MESSAGE OF THE VIOLENCE. TO ILLUSTRATE THAT VIOLENCE, WE REPEAT SOME VERY GRAPHIC ACCOUNTS OF SL BRUTALITY. THOUGH THESE TERRORIST ACTS ARE OFTEN HORRIFYING, POLICE PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING DEMONSTRATES THAT SL KILLERS ARE NOT PATHOLOGICAL. OUR PURPOSE HERE IS NOT TO JUSTIFY THE VIOLENCE OF OTHER GROUPS IN REACTION TO

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SL. WE ONLY WISH TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT SL IS INHUMANLY BRUTAL IN ITS ADMINISTRATION OF "POPULAR JUSTICE." END SUMMARY.

2. (C) LEST WE FORGET, THE HALLMARK OF SENDERO LUMINOSO'S MILITARY CAMPAIGN IN PERU IS ITS BRUTALITY. THE SINGLE PURPOSE OF THIS CABLE IS TO DOCUMENT AGAIN, FOR THE RECORD, THE COLD-BLOODED AND BESTIAL NATURE OF SL VIOLENCE. THE ACCOUNTS WE ARE INCLUDING ARE GRAPHIC IN THEIR DESCRIPTION OF SL EXCESSES. NEVERTHELESS, WE HAVE ATTEMPTED TO REPEAT AS DISPASSIONATELY AS WE CAN THE DETAILS OF THOSE CASES WHERE WE ARE SATISFIED THAT THE FACTS AS WE REPORT THEM ARE ACCURATE. WHERE POSSIBLE, THIS REPORT IS UNCLASSIFIED TO PERMIT ITS WIDEST DISTRIBUTION. FOR THAT REASON NON-PUBLIC SOURCES ARE GENERALLY NOT SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED.

THE EARLY SENDERO

3. (U) SOME CHRONICLERS OF SL SUGGEST THAT SL
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BRUTALITY IS A RECENT DEVELOPMENT AND LARGELY A RESPONSE TO MILITARY AND POLICE VIOLENCE. OUR STUDIES OF THE EARLY BEHAVIOR OF SENDERO LUMINOSO SUGGEST OTHERWISE.

4. (U) THE FIRST VICTIM OF SL VIOLENCE WAS BENIGNO MEDINA, THE OWNER OF A SMALL RANCH IN THE AYACUCHO DEPARTMENT VILLAGE OF AYZARCA. ON CHRISTMAS EVE, 1980, 30 TERRORISTS ENTERED AYZARCA AND DETAINED MEDINA. HE WAS DRAGGED INTO THE COMMUNITY'S CHURCH. HIS FAMILY, INCLUDING HIS SON AND TWO DAUGHTERS, WERE HELD IN A NEARBY BUILDING. MEDINA WAS STRIPPED AND STAKED OUT, CHEST UPWARDS, ON THE DIRT FLOOR OF THE CHAPEL. THE TERRORISTS, LED BY LIMA PHYSICIAN EDUARDO MATA, CUT OFF MEDINA'S EARS AND SLIT HIS TONGUE, TIP TO BACK. THEY THEN EMASCULATED HIM, AMPUTATING HIS PENIS AND TESTICLES. A DAUGHTER DESCRIBED IN RECENT PRESS INTERVIEWS THE EXPERIENCE OF LISTENING TO THEIR FATHER'S CRIES OF AGONY WHILE

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HE BLEED TO DEATH ON THE FLOOR OF THE CHURCH.

5. (U) A CATHOLIC PRIEST WHO HAS SERVED IN THE APURIMAC/AYACUCHO AREA FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS DESCRIBED TO POLOFF IN SOME DETAIL ACCOUNTS HE HAS COLLECTED FROM PEASANTS FLEEING TO HIS PARISH FROM SL VIOLENCE IN THE NORTH OF APURIMAC AND AYACUCHO DEPARTMENTS DURING THE FIRST THREE YEARS OF TERRORIST VIOLENCE, 1980-83. THE FATHER OPINED THAT FROM THE BEGINNING THESE TERRORISTS WERE BESTIAL IN THE TREATMENT OF THEIR ENEMIES.

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6. (U) ACCORDING TO THIS PRIEST, SL HAD A PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE METHOD OF DEALING WITH PEASANTS WHO REFUSED TO COOPERATE OR WHO WERE CAPTURED FLEEING FROM TOWNS CONTROLLED BY THE TERRORISTS. THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY WAS CONVOKED TO THE TOWN SQUARE. THE CAPTURED RENEGADE WAS BROUGHT BEFORE THE ASSEMBLED PEASANTS FOR A PEOPLE'S TRIAL. CONVICTED, HE WAS STRIPPED AND TIED TO A POST IN THE SQUARE. A SHARP KNIFE WAS PRODUCED. EACH MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY, ADULTS AND CHILDREN, WERE FORCED TO GO FORWARD AND CUT A PIECE OF FLESH FROM THE VICTIM.

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P 071910Z AUG 91
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0320
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 04 LIMA 10649

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ACCORDING TO THE TESTIMONY OF PEASANTS WHO HAVE
SPOKEN TO THIS PRIEST, IT OFTEN TOOK AS LONG AS AN
HOUR FOR THE VICTIM TO DIE FROM BLOOD LOSS OR SHOCK.

7. (U) WHILE THERE IS LITTLE QUESTION NOW OF THE
BRUTALITY OF SL, DURING THE EARLY YEARS OF SL
VIOLENCE SUCH REPORTS RARELY APPEARED IN PUBLIC
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ACCOUNTS. POLITICAL SECTION CONTACTS IN THE LEGAL
LEFT EXPLAIN THAT DURIN/ THOSE FIRST FOUR OR FIVE
YEARS THE PERUVIAN LEFT REFUSED TO CRITICIZE SL,
BELIEVING THAT THESE ACCOUNTS OF TORTURE WERE
INVENTED OR EXAGGERATED BY THE POLICE AND ARMY.
THUS, CLAIMS OF SL BRUTALITY WERE SUPPRESSED OR
IGNORED, EVEN IN THE CONSERVATIVE PRESS. ACCORDING
TO OUR MARXIST FRIENDS, SL VIOLENCE HAS ALWAYS BEEN
CHARACTERIZED BY ITS BRUTALITY, IT IS JUST THAT IN

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THE PAST THREE OR FOUR YEARS THE LEGAL LEFT HAS FINALLY STOPPED APOLOGIZING FOR THE TERRORISTS WHOSE RHETORIC AT LEAST, CLOSELY MATCHED THEIR OWN.

THE MEANINGS OF DEATH

8. (U) SOME PERUVIAN CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGISTS THEORIZE THAT THERE ARE SYMBOLIC MEANINGS IN THE METHODS OF EXECUTION USED BY SL. BEHEADING OR GARROTING IS OFTEN USED BY THE TERRORISTS. INCA EMPEROR ATAHUALPA WAS GARROTED BY PIZARRO IN 1533. THESE SOCIAL SCIENTISTS CONCLUDE THAT SL IS ATTEMPTING TO CREATE A CULTURAL TIE BETWEEN THE PEASANTS OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, THEIR FOREFATHERS, AND THEIR COMMON OPPRESSOR: THE WHITE, EUROPEAN ELITE. WHEN JOSE GABRIEL TUPAC AMARU'S REVOLUTION (HE OF MRTA FAME) AGAINST THE SPANISH WAS CRUSHED IN 1781, THE SPANISH STAKED MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY IN THE CUZCO PLAZA DE ARMAS AND TORTURED THEM TO DEATH. TUPAC AMARU WAS QUARTERED AND BEHEADED. PARTS OF HIS

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BODY WERE SCATTERED TO THE FAR CORNERS OF THE ONCE INCA EMPIRE. THUS THE ORIGIN OF SL'S PEOPLE'S TRIALS AND PUBLIC EXECUTIONS.

9. (U) WHETHER OR NOT SL KILLERS CONSCIOUSLY MAKE ANY OF THESE ANTHROPOLOGICAL LINKS, IT IS CERTAINLY TRUE THAT THE PEASANT OF THE SIERRA DERIVES MEANING FROM SL BRUTALITY. A PRIEST WHO HAS LIVED AND WORKED IN THE SIERRA OF JUNIN DEPARTMENT FOR MORE THAN A DECADE EXPLAINS THAT THE PEASANTS DO NOT SO MUCH DECRY THE INHUMANITY OF SL BRUTALITY. WHAT THEY FEAR, CLAIMS THIS PRIEST, IS THE MUTILATION OF THE CORPSE. IN THAT REGARD THE CATHOLIC TEACHING OF THE LITERAL CORPORAL RESURRECTION MATCHES TRADITIONAL INDIAN BELIEFS THAT THE SAME BODY LAID INTO THE EARTH WILL BE RESURRECTED TO IMMORTALITY. WITNESS ATAHUALPA'S TERROR THAT HE WOULD BE BURNED AT THE STAKE AS AN INFIDEL AND THUS ACCEPTED A CHRISTIAN BAPTISM FROM VALVERDE (AND SUBSEQUENT STRANGULATION) SO HIS CORPSE COULD BE PRESERVED.

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10. (U) OUR JUNIN PRIEST AS WELL AS PROTESTANT MISSIONARIES FROM JUNIN NOTE THAT FOLLOWING SL PUBLIC EXECUTIONS IT IS COMMON FOR THE TERRORISTS TO ORDER THAT THE BODIES OF VICTIMS NOT BE TOUCHED OR MOVED FOR AT LEAST 24 HOURS. A COMMON ELEMENT AMONG THESE KILLINGS IN JUNIN DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS IS CORPSES LEFT IN THE SUN AMIDST ROOTING SWINE AND HUNGRY DOGS FIGHTING OVER THE HUMAN REMAINS. THIS TYPE OF DEFILEMENT OF CORPSES HORRIFIES THESE INDIANS.

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11. (U) THE MAY KILLING OF AUSTRALIAN SISTER MCCORMACK IN HUASAHUASI, JUNIN IS A CASE IN POINT. REMARKABLE IN THAT INCIDENT IS THE ACCOUNT OF A 13 YEAR OLD GIRL WHO DEFIED THE TERRORISTS, TOOK HOLY WATER FROM THE CHURCH AND ANOINTED THE NUN'S BODY, THEN COVERED IT WITH THE MANTLE FROM THE ALTAR. EVEN SO, THE SISTER'S BODY WAS UNMOVED FOR 24 HOURS FROM THE SPOT IN THE TOWN SQUARE WHERE SHE WAS SHOT TO DEATH.

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P 071910Z AUG 91
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0321
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 04 LIMA 10649

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DESENSITIZING THE CHILDREN

12. (U) GUZMAN PROMISED THAT HIS REVOLUTION WOULD
CREATE A RIVER OF BLOOD IN PERU AND THAT VICTORY
WOULD OCCUR WHEN THE PEOPLE "CROSSED THE RIVER OF
BLOOD TO THE OTHER SIDE." THE EVIDENCE SUGGESTS THAT
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SL STARTS TRAINING ITS CADRE FROM A VERY EARLY AGE
THAT NOTHING HAS MEANING, NOT EVEN LIFE, BEYOND THE
PARTY AND THE REVOLUTION.

13. (U) IN JANUARY 1990 SL INTERCEPTED A BUS
TRAVELING BETWEEN ANDAHUAYLAS AND ABANCA Y, APURIMAC
DEPARTMENT. THERE WERE TWO YOUNG FRENCH TOURISTS
ABOARD, A MAN AND A WOMAN. POLOFF SPOKE WITH A
PERUVIAN NUN WHO WAS A PASSENGER ON THE BUS. SHE

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STATED THAT THE TWO WERE SHOT ONCE THROUGH THE HEAD BY THE LEADER OF THE SL COLUMN, THE ONLY MEMBER OF THE GROUP OVER 16. THE FRENCH MALE APPEARED NOT TO BE DEAD, DESPITE THE HEAD WOUND. THE COLUMN LEADER SELECTED THE APPARENT YOUNGEST MEMBER OF THE GROUP. THE WITNESS GUESSED HIS AGE TO BE 13. THE LAD PICKED UP THE LARGEST ROCK HE COULD HEFT, WALKED OVER TO THE STILL LIVING VICTIM, AND REPEATEDLY STRUCK THE MAN OVER THE HEAD WITH THE SMALL BOULDER UNTIL THE SKULL WAS COMPLETELY CRUSHED.

14. (U) 1990/91 REPORTS FROM THE ENE/TAMBO RIVER VALLEY OF SL BRUTALITY AGAINST THE ASHANINKA INDIANS AND LOCAL COLONISTS ARE TERRIFYING IN THEIR BRUTALITY. TONGUES CUT FROM ADULTS AND FORCE-FED TO THEIR CHILDREN. GASOLINE POURED OVER LIVING VICTIMS AND THEN SET AFIRE. A 14 YEAR OLD CHILD STRUCK ON THE HEAD WITH A MACHETE, SHOT, STABBED, AND DUMPED IN THE RIVER ONLY TO SURVIVE AND BE TREATED BY BLUE VENTURE MEDICS.

15. (U) THE KILLERS OF SISTER MCCORMACK IN MAY 1991
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AND SISTER MARIA RIVAS IN SEPTEMBER 1990 (ALSO IN JUNIN DEPARTMENT) WERE BOTH FEMALES IN THEIR EARLY TEENS. ACCORDING TO WITNESSES, THE TWO WERE THE YOUNGEST MEMBERS OF THE INVADING SL COLUMNS. IN MAY 1991 AN SL COLUMN COMPRISED ALMOST ENTIRELY OF 14 TO 16 YEAR OLDS KILLED FOUR WOMEN AND FIVE OF THEIR CHILDREN IN AYACUCHO. THE VICTIMS WERE BEATEN AND STABBED TO DEATH FOR HAVING PARTICIPATED IN A PROGRAM TO PROVIDE MILK TO INFANTS IN A RURAL AYACUCHO FEEDING PROGRAM.

AN ALMANAC OF BRUTALITY

16. (U) IN ADDITION TO THE INCIDENTS NOTED ABOVE, WE REPEAT SEVERAL ACCOUNTS OF RECENT SL VIOLENCE WHICH WE BELIEVE ILLUSTRATE THE BRUTAL NATURE OF THAT VIOLENCE.

-- ON MAY 31, 1989 ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTER BARBARA

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D'ACHILLE WAS CAPTURED BY TERRORISTS IN HUANCAYELICA DEPARTMENT. SHE WAS STRIPPED NAKED, STONED TO DEATH, THEN SHOT.

-- SOMETIME IN JUNE OR JULY 1989 POLICE IN JUNIN DEPARTMENT FOUND THE BODY OF A FELLOW OFFICER KILLED BY SL. THE TERRORISTS HAD CUT OFF HIS LOWER JAW. THEY HAD SLIT OPEN HIS STOMACH AND CHEST, EMPTIED IT OF ITS ORGANS, AND HAD THEN, ONE AT A TIME, SQUATTED OVER THE MAN AND DEFECATED INTO HIS CHEST CAVITY.

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WHEN HIS FELLOW OFFICERS FOUND HIM, THE CORPSE WAS FILLED WITH HUMAN FECES.

-- ON NOVEMBER 22, 1989 TWO TOURISTS (AN AUSTRALIAN AND A NEW ZEALANDER) WERE TAKEN FROM A BUS TRAVELING BETWEEN AYACUCHO AND NAZCA. BOTH WERE SHOT TO DEATH AND TORTURED. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE TORTURE PRECEDED OR FOLLOWED THE KILLING. THE YOUNG WOMAN WAS SO BADLY SLASHED IN THE CHEST AND STOMACH THAT HER TORSO HAD TO BE BOUND TO HOLD HER ENTRAILS SO HER BODY COULD BE MOVED.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 04 OF 04 LIMA 10649

E.O. 12356: DECL: DADR
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-- ON NOVEMBER 27, 1989 U.S. REPORTER TODD SMITH WAS
BEATEN, BURNED, AND GARROTED. HIS BODY WAS SO BADLY
BRUTALIZED THAT A CLOSE FRIEND WAS INITIALLY UNABLE
TO MAKE A POSITIVE ID.

-- ON AUGUST 22, 1990 TWO MORMON MISSIONARIES WERE
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KILLED IN HUANCAYO CITY. ONE OF THE YOUTHS HAD A
KNIFE DRIVEN THROUGH HIS NECK, BETWEEN HIS SPINE AND

-- ON MAY 23, 1991 THE 29 YEAR OLD MAYOR OF
PACHACAMAC WAS TRAVELING WITH HIS WIFE AND TWO OF HIS
FOUR CHILDREN. HIS CAR WAS INTERCEPTED BY AN SL
ASSASSINATION TEAM. HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN WERE TAKEN
FROM THE CAR. TWO OF THE TERRORISTS PHYSICALLY HELD
HIS CHILDREN'S HEADS UP AND FORCED THEM TO WATCH AS

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THE OTHER KILLERS MACHINE-GUNNED THEIR FATHER AND THEN EXPLODED A LARGE DYNAMITE CHARGE PLACED IN HIS LAP. IT IS COMMON FOR SL TO DYNAMITE THE CORPSES OF ITS VICTIMS.

ARE THESE KILLERS HUMAN?

17. (C) POLICE CAPTAINS RIQUELME FERNANDEZ AND OSVALDO BALDOS AND CIVILIAN BLANCA DORREGARRAY OF THE ANTI-TERRORISM POLICE (DIRCOTE) PSYCHOLOGY UNIT HAVE REVIEWED WITH POLOFF THE RESULTS OF RECENT PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING THEY HAVE DONE ON TERRORISTS CAPTURED IN THE LIMA AREA AND PROCESSED THROUGH DIRCOTE. WHILE THEIR SAMPLE HAS AN URBAN SKEW AND IS BASED ON OUTDATED PSYCHOLOGICAL PROFILE TESTS, THESE THREE DEGREEED PROFESSIONALS HAVE PRODUCED AN INFORMATIVE LOOK AT PERUVIAN TERRORISTS.

18. (C) THEY REPORT SOME INTERESTING TRENDS AS TO FAMILY PROFILES. (BROKEN HOMES, DOMINANT MOTHERS AND
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THE LIKE). BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THIS TESTING IS ITS BASIC CONCLUSION: SL TERRORISTS ARE NOT PATHOLOGICAL. ACCORDING TO THESE RESULTS, CAPTURED SL TERRORISTS IN GENERAL MANIFEST NO SERIOUS PSYCHOLOGICAL OR PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS. AS FERNANDEZ TOLD US, "THESE MEN AND WOMEN ARE NOT INSANE. THEY ARE UNCOMMONLY NORMAL."

19. (U) ACCOUNTS OF SL VIOLENCE TEND TO CONFIRM THESE RESULTS. THOUGH THE BRUTALITY IS EXAGGERATED, SL KILLERS APPEAR CALM AND DISPASSIONATE AS THEY DISPENSE "POPULAR JUSTICE." THERE ARE FEW ACCOUNTS OF RAGING VIOLENCE, UNCONTROLLED BLOOD LUST, OR RAMPAGING TROOPS RANDOMLY SLAUGHTERING THEIR VICTIMS. PERHAPS THE SINGLE MOST FRIGHTENING ASPECT OF SENDERO LUMINOSO VIOLENCE IS THAT WHAT THESE TERRORISTS DO, THEY APPARENTLY DO FOR IDEOLOGICAL REASONS.

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BRUTES IN A BRUTAL LAND

20. (U) THE TERRORISTS, OF COURSE, ARE NOT THE ONLY PLAYERS IN PERU WHO COMMIT BRUTALITIES. THIS CABLE IS NOT INTENDED TO JUSTIFY THE VIOLENCE OF OTHER GROUPS AS A REACTION TO SL VIOLENCE. NOR IS IT OUR PURPOSE HERE TO PROVE THAT SL IS MORE VIOLENT THAN OTHER PERUVIAN "PLAYERS," THOUGH THAT CERTAINLY IS THE OPINION OF ALMOST ALL WHO STUDY THIS ISSUE. RATHER, OUR SINGLE HOPE IS TO PRESENT A STARK
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CONTRAST TO SL'S PROPAGANDA EFFORT TO DESCRIBE ITSELF AS A POPULAR REVOLUTION, AND TO DENY THE OCCASIONAL PORTRAYAL IN THE FOREIGN PRESS OF SL AS THE "ROBIN HOOD" OF LATIN AMERICA.

21. (U) THE TRUTH IS OTHERWISE. SENDERO LUMINOSO IS A LUSUS WHICH RANKS HIGH IN THE PANTHEON OF HISTORY'S REAL AND FICTIONAL MONSTERS.
QUAINTON

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