10-2-1989

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John Neagle

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Peru: Guerrillas Launch Offensive To Force Boycott Of Group Of 8 Summit

by John Neagle
Category/Department: General
Published: Monday, October 2, 1989

Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) guerrillas have apparently launched an offensive in Ica and Huancavelica departments with the objective of forcing a boycott against the Group of 8 summit, scheduled to take place in Ica on Oct. 11, capital of the department of the same name. Ica is located some 330 km. south of Lima. On the evening of Oct. 1, guerrilla commandos attacked in Ica the home of Oswaldo Aspilcueta, rector of San Luis Gonzaga University. Hilda Salas de Aspilcueta, the rector's wife, was killed. Witnesses said guerrillas blocked the Pan-American highway to facilitate the assassins' escape. Next, a guerrilla column of over 100 armed with automatic weapons occupied Palpa, about 90 km. south of Ica, resulting in the deaths of seven police. Radio reports said the police post in Palpa sustained major damage. The rebels also bombed several government offices in the town, and equipment belonging to the state-owned telephone company. On the same day, four persons, including a justice of the peace, primary school teacher and a businessperson, were assassinated in Huancavelica department. The fourth victim was the mayor of the Rio Negro district, Satipo municipality. (Basic data from Notimex, 10/02/89)

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