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## **Peru: Report On Rebel Activities; Death Of U.S. Reporter**

*by John Neagle*

*Category/Department: General*

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On Nov. 28, Interior Minister Agustin Mantilla said that Todd Smith, a US journalist found dead this month in Peru's main coca-producing region, had been kidnapped by rebels and turned over to drug traffickers in exchange for money. The minister told reporters the traffickers killed Smith, who worked for the Tampa Tribune, and was reported missing 11 days ago in the Andean mountain village of Uchiza. Smith was collecting information on drug trafficking in the Upper Huallaga Valley and the run-up to the Nov. 12 municipal elections. He was on vacation from the Tribune. Police said Sendero Luminoso rebels shot and killed the superintendent of a mine in Huari province, 470 km. southeast of Lima, during a pre-dawn attack on Nov. 27. The rebels seized 120 cases of dynamite and fuses, medicine and food, according to a miner who witnessed the incident. Also on Nov. 26, in Lima gunmen fired on two policemen in a restaurant, killing one and wounding the other. As they fled the assailants detonated a small bomb that injured two passers-by. (Basic data from AFP, 11/28/89)

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