

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

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O R 091743Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1888

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 0158

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT BL

SUBJ: VICTOR PAZ EXILED

REF: LA PAZ 110

1. THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR ANNOUNCED THAT ON JANUARY 8 VICTOR PAZ ESTENSSORO, MNR CHIEF, ALONG WITH THE FOLLOWING OF HIS AIDES--JULIO GARRET AYLLON, EDUARDO OLMEDO, EUFRONIO AMURRIO, JOSE UGARTE CALVI AND JUAN LOAYZA WERE DETAINED AND EXILED TO PARAGUAY. CHARGES AGAINST THE EXILES WERE (IN PARAPHRASE): A) ATTEMPT TO CHANGE THE NATURE OF THE REVOLUTION OF AUGUST 1971; B) ATTEMPT TO CREATE DIVISIONS WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES AND POLICE; C) SYSTEMATIC AGITATION AMONG THE RANKS OF ORGANIZED LABOR TO CREATE ANARCHY AND SOCIAL DISCORD; D) UNWILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT THE RESPONSIBILITY THESE PERSONS HAD IN THE PASSAGE OF THE SOCALLED ECONOMIC PACKAGE LAST OCTOBER -NOVEMBER; E) CONTACT WITH THE EXTREME LEFT BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE OF THE COUNTRY WITH PATENTLY SUBVERSIVE PURPOSES; AND F) EXTORTION OF FUNDS FROM INDUSTRY FOR CONSPIRATORIAL ENDS.

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(NOTE: THIS LAST CHARGE EVIDENTLY REFERS TO THE MNR CAMPAIGN

TO RAISE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PARTY MEMBERS AND THE PUBLIC TO
DEFRAY THE COSTS OF THE PROPOSED CONVENTION.)

2. ALSO ON JANUARY 8, CIRO HUMBOLDT ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE
ANNOUNCING HIS ASSUMPTION OF THE DUTIES OF MNR CHIEF AD INTERIM.
DR. HUMBOLDT STATED THAT HE HAS WARNED VPE OF THE NEED TO WORK
FOR PARTY AND NATIONAL UNITY BUT THAT HIS EFFORTS HAD BEEN IN
VAIN. HUMBOLDT, WITH AN EXTRAORDINARY DISPLAY OF CYNICISM,
THEN CRITICIZED VPE FOR PASSIVELY ACCEPTING HIS EXILE AND
ABANDONING HIS FOLLOWERS. HUMBOLDT ALSO ANNOUNCED THE POST-
PONEMENT OF THE MNR CONVENTION UNTIL AUGUST 1974. AT THE SAME
TIME, THE VARIOUS DISSIDENTS TO VPE'S LEADERSHIP, ISSUED A COM-
MUNIQUE IN THE NAME OF THE MNR CRITICIZING DR. PAZ' AUTOCRATIC
RULE AND PLEDGING THE PARTY'S SUPPORT TO THE FPN AND PRESIDENT
BANZER. ALONG DISSIDENT LEADERS SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT WERE
HUMBOLDT, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY RUBEN JULIO, SECRETARY GENERAL
JUAN JOSE RIVERO AND THE MNR MINISTERS IN THE GOB.

3. THE MEETING OF DR. PAZ WITH THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR IN
THE MORNING OF JANUARY 8 (SEE REFTEL) WAS ATTENDED BY RANKING
OFFICERS OF THE ARMED FORCES SO IT IS CLEAR THAT THE DECISION
TO EXILE THE MNR LEADER HAD THE BACKING OF THE UPPER ECHELONS
OF THE MILITARY INSTITUTION.

4. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT OTHER FOLLOWERS OF DR. PAZ MAY BE
EXILED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

5. COMMENT: WITH THE EXILE OF VPE, THE LEADER OF BOLIVIA'S
LARGEST POLITICAL PARTY, THE GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT BANZER
WILL APPEAR MORE AUTHORITARIAN THAN AT ANY TIME IN THE PAST,
BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN, BUT IT APPEARS
UNLIKELY THAT THE PUBLIC WILL ACCEPT THE HUMBOLDT-LED PARTY AS
THE TRUE MNR. THUS, THE MILITARY, ALREADY CONSIDERED THE
SIGNIFICANT FORCE BEHIND THE ADMINISTRATION, WILL BE AWARDED THE
PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND FAILURES OF THE
BANZER GOVERNMENT. THIS, IN TURN, SHOULD INCREASE THE MILITARY'S
INTEREST IN THE DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT. IT
WOULD APPEAR THAT ALTHOUGH BANZER HAS REMOVED A RIVAL OF GREAT
SKILL, HE HAS LIMITED HIS ROOM FOR POLITICAL MANEUVER AND IN-
CREASED FURTHER HIS ALREADY SIGNIFICANT DEPENDENCE ON THE ARMED
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FORCES. ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT FORESEE ANY IMMINENT POLITICAL UP-
HEAVALS RESULTING FROM THIS ACTION, THERE IS SOME CONCERN THAT
THE DECAPITATION OF THE POLITICAL MIDDLE GROUND MAY HAVE LONGER
TERM CONSEQUENCES OF POLARIZING POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN BOLIVIA
BETWEEN FAR RIGHT AND FAR LEFT.
STEDMAN

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