

Message Text

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61

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3345

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, BL

SUBJECT: ARMED FORCES DISMISS TWENTY-FOUR OFFICERS

1. IN COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY JOINT COMMAND OF ARMED FORCES ON JUNE 6, TWENTY-FOUR MILITARY OFFICERS IMPLICATED IN ABORTIVE COUP ATTEMPT OF JUNE 5 ARE DISMISSED FROM MILITARY SERVICE. LIST IS HEADED BY LT. COLONEL RAUL LOPEZ LEYTON, NOW IN ASYLUM AT ARGENTINE EMBASSY AND THREE OTHER LT. COLONELS, PLUS MAJOR GARY PRADO. PRADO IS CURRENTLY REPORTED TO BE UNDER HOUSE ARREST. OTHERS IN LIST INCLUDE ANOTHER MAJOR, TWO CAPTAINS, SIX LIEUTENANTS AND TEN SECOND LIEUTENANTS. COMMUNIQUE, TEXT OF WHICH IS REPORTED BY SEPTTEL, PROMISES THAT ARMED FORCES "HAVING CONSOLIDATED ESTABLISHED INSTITUTIONAL ORDER" WILL NOW CONTINUE TO GIVE "FULLEST AND MOST DECIDED SUPPORT" TO BANZER GOVERNMENT.

2. GOVERNMENT ALSO IS TAKING STRONG MEASURES IN OTHER AREAS IN WHICH IT RECENTLY FACED POLITICAL OPPOSITION. MANUEL MORALES DAVILA, PRESIDENT OF CONFEDERATION OF PROFESSIONALS OF BOLIVIA, WAS EXILED TO ARGENTINA ON JUNE 6 CHARGED WITH HAVING "DEVELOPED INTENSE POLITICAL ACTIVITY" IN STUDENT CIRCLES. MORALES, WHO HAD EXPRESSED PUBLIC OPPOSITION TO GAS SALES CONTRACT WITH BRAZIL, ATTEMPTED TO ACT AS INTER-
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MEDIARY BETWEEN STUDENTS OF SAN ANDRES UNIVERSITY (UMSA) AND

UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES IN RECENT DAYS. HE WAS ARRESTED ON JUNE 4 FOLLOWING HABEAS CORPUS HEARING FOR SEVERAL IMPRISONED STUDENTS.

3. ALSO ON JUNE 6, MINISTRY OF INTERIOR ACCUSED UMSA INTER-FACULTY COMMITTEE OF INVOLVMENT WITH CONSPIRATORIAL GROUPS. MINISTRY WARNED IT WOULD PUNISH COMMITTEE MEMBERS "WITH MAXIMUM ENERGY." NONETHELESS, DESPITE THIS WARNING AND THREAT BY UMSA AUTHORITIES THAT STUDENTS WHO FAIL TO RETURN TO CLASSES JUNE 7 WILL LOSE CREDIT FOR CURRENT SEMESTER, INTER-FACULTY COMMITTEE HAS ISSUED ANOTHER STATEMENT DECLARING CONTINUATION OF UNIVERSITY STUDENT STRIKE, NOW IN ITS FOURTEENTH DAY. SECONDARY STUDENTS OF LA PAZ ALSO HAVE DECLARED RENEWED STRIKE COMMENCING ON JUNE 7. RENE SORIA GALVARRO, PRESIDENT OF INTER-FACULTY COMMITTEE OF UMSA, REPORTEDLY ESCAPED FROM POLICE CUSTODY DURING CONFUSED EVENTS OF JUNE 5 COUP ATTEMPT AND IS NOW IN HIDING.
BREWIN

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