

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3436

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 3970

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT BL

SUBJ: RECTOR AND VICE-RECTOR OF UMSA RESIGN

REF: LA PAZ 3504

1. SURPRISE RESIGNATIONS OF RECTOR AND VICE-RECTOR OF SAN ANDRES UNIVERSITY (UMSA) IN LA PAZ DURING EARLY MORNING HOURS OF JUNE 18 MAY OPEN WAY TO INTERIM RESOLUTION OF UNIVERSITY POLITICAL PROBLEM. IN PAST TEN DAYS, PRESS AND RADIO ASSOCIATION OF BOLIVIA HAS BEEN ACTING AS INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN EDUCATION OFFICIALS AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN EFFORT TO SEEK COMMON GROUNDS FOR AGREEMENT. THIS MEDIATION EFFOR, HOWEVER, WAS OPPOSED BY UMSA AUTHORITIES IN PERSONS OF FALANGE RECTOR MARIO AGUILAR AND MNR VICE-RECTOR GONZALO SANCHEZ DE LORIA. STUDENT-LED INTER-FACULTY COMMITTEE ALSO HAD INDICATED THAT UNIVERSITY STUDENT STRIKE BEGUN ON MAY 21 WOULD NOT END UNTIL RECTOR AGUILAR RESIGNED HIS POST. AT PRESENT, UNIVERSITY STUDENTS CONTINUE ON STRIKE AT UMSA AND IN SUCRE, COCHABAMBA AND POTOSI.

2. NOW THAT CONTROVERSIAL UMSA RECTOR HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM SCENE, POSSIBLE BASIS FOR A TRUCE MAY BE PROVIDED BY FIVE-POINT AGREEMENT REACHED BY STUDENTS AND NATIONAL COUNCIL ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CNES) JUNE 16. BOTH PARTIES AGREED TO NEED FOR MODIFICATION OF 1972 FUNDAMENTAL LAW OF BOLIVIAN UNIVERSITY
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BY A NEW SUPREME DECREE, FOLLOWING WHICH A UNIVERSITY ASSEMBLY

(CLAUSTRO UNIVERSITARIO) COULD MEET TO SELECT NEW ACEDMIC
AUTHORITIES. AGREEMENT ALSO WAS REACHED TO HOLD PUBLIC EX-
AMINATIONS OF COMPETENCE FOR CURRENT TEACHING PERSONNEL IN
BOLIVIAN UNIVERSITIES, MANY OF WHOM OBTAINED THEIR POSTS
THROUGH POLITICAL CONNECTIONS. STUDENTS AND EDUCATION
AUTHORITIES ALSO DETERMINED THAT ELECTIONS FOR STUDENT
REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD BE HELD IN NEAR FUTURE, AND IN MEANTIME
ANNOUNCED CLOSURE OF CUB AND FUL OFFICES SINCE LEADERS OF
THESE BODIES WERE NOT ELECTED TO THEIR POSTS AND THUS LACK
OFFICIAL UNIVERSITY RECOGNITION.
STEDMAN

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