

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-15 ADS-00 COM-04 AGRE-00 CIAE-00
INR-10 LABE-00 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-08 TRSE-00
FRB-01 OMB-01 MMO-01 /051 W
-----102908 090721Z/14

R 081350Z MAY 79
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO AMEMBASSY LIMA
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6134

UNCLAS LA PAZ 4006

LIMA FOR AGATT

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, EPAP BL
SUBJECT: INOPPORTUNE DROP IN 1979 BOLIVIAN COTTON PRODUCTION

1. JOSE JUSTINIANO, GENERAL MANAGER OF ADEPA, THE BOLIVIAN COTTON GROWER'S ASSOCIATION, HAS PROVIDED US WITH INFORMATION INDICATING THAT RECENT FLOODS HAVE CAUSED MORE DAMAGE TO THE 1979 COTTON CROP THAN ORIGINALLY SUSPECTED.

2. PRODUCTION:

THE 1979 COTTON CROP IS ESTIMATED TO TOTAL 293,250 QQ (QUINTAL) AS COMPARED WITH 378,633 QQ FOR 1978, A DECREASE OF 22.6 PERCENT. YIELDS PER HECTARE SHOULD AVERAGE 8.5QQ WHICH COMPARES WITH 12.0 QQ FOR 1978. ADEPA ESTIMATES THAT 34,500 HECTARES WERE PLANTED FOR THIS 1979 SEASON.

3. EXPORTATION:

ADEPA ESTIMATES THAT 195,304 QQ OF COTTON WILL BE EXPORTED AND THAT BOLIVIA WILL RECEIVE \$US 9,677,250.

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IN 1978 ESPORTS TOTLED 304,279 QQ WHICH REPRESENTED EXPORT REVENUES OF \$US 14,317,248.-. TO THIS DATE, ADEPA HAS SOLD 15,000 BALES TO BUNGE, AN ENGLISH FIRM, AT PRICE OF \$US 50/QQ FOB SANTA CRUZ.

3. HIGHER TRANSPORTATION COSTS WILL INCREASE EXPORT COSTS OF THIS YEARS COTTON CROP.

THE RAILROAD LINK BETWEEN SANTA CRUZ, THE CENTER OF COTTON PRODUCTION, AND THE PORT OF SANTOS, BRAZIL WAS SEVERELY DAMAGED BY FLOODING AND HAS NOT BEEN REPAIRED. COTTON EXPORTS WILL BEGIN IN EARLY MAY AND MUST GO THROUGH ROSARIO, ARGENTINA UNTIL THE BRAZILIAN RAILROAD LINK IS TEMPORARILY RESTORED SOMETIME IN EARLY JUNE.

4. DOMESTIC DEMAND:

THIS IS ESTIMATED TO INCREASE FROM 73,655 QQ IN 1978 TO 97,946 QQ AND GENERATING US\$ 4,897,300.

5. COMMENT: THE UNTIMELY FALLIN COTTON PRODUCTION WILL AGGRAVATE BOLIVIA'S ALREADY SERIOUS BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEMS. AN IMPORTANT NON-TRADITIONAL EXPORT, COTTON REPRESENTED 2 PERCENT OF TOTAL EXPORTS AND 17 PERCENT OF NON-TRADITIONAL EXPORTS IN 1978.

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Message Attributes

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