

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 04464 111447Z

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 IGA-02 RSC-01 DRC-01 /045 W
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R 111256Z JUL 74
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3620

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 4464

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT SNAR, BL
SUBJ: PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING IN US

REF: STATE 139779

1. COUNTRY TEAM BELIEVES US INTERESTS WELL SERVED BY CONTINUATION PRESENT LEVEL OF PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING OF BOLIVIANS AT FACILITIES IN CONTINENTAL US, PARTICULARLY WHERE SUCH TRAINING INCLUDES NARCOTICS COURSES. AS DEPT AWARE, EMBASSY IS RECEIVING CLOSE COOPERATION FROM BOLIVIAN POLICE IN COMBATTING ILLICIT NARCOTICS TRAFFIC.

2. RELAXATION OF POLITICAL TENSIONS IN WAKE OF FORMATION OF ALL-MILITARY CABINET AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTIONS IN 1975 SHOULD BE REFLECTED IN GREATER TOLERANCE OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY, INCLUDING THAT OF OPPOSITION GROUPS. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, MIN OF INTERIOR HAS BEEN INVOLVED FOR SOME TIME IN REVIEWING THE CASES OF POLITICAL PRISONERS. THIS REVIEW PROCESS HAS ALREADY RESULTED IN THE RELEASE OF SEVERAL PRISONERS, AND IT APPEARS MORE WILL BE RELEASED IN THE COMING WEEK.

3. POLITICAL PARTIES, INCLUDING SOME OPPOSITION GROUPS, HAVE APPLAUSED GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO CALL FOR ELECTIONS IN 1975, THOSE IN OPPOSITION ANTICIPATING THAT A FAIRLY BROAD AMNESTY WILL BE DECLARED IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS WHICH WILL ENABLE SOME EXILED LEADERS SUCH AS GUEVARA ARCE (PRA) AND BENJAMIN MIGUEL (PDC) TO RETURN AND RESUME THEIR PARTI-
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PAGE 02 LA PAZ 04464 111447Z

CIPATION IN BOLIVIAN POLITICS.

4. IN SHORT, THE GOB'S PERCEIVED NEED FOR SOME POLITICAL
REPRESION WHEN ANTI-GOVERNMENT PLOTTING IS UNCOVERED HAS
NOW BEEN GREATLY REDUCED, AND WE FORESEE A POLITICAL OPENING
OF SORTS WHICH SHOULD HELP TO IMPROVE BOLIVIA'S IMAGE IN
THE US.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL TRAINING, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: martinml
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LAPAZ04464
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740185-0633
From: LA PAZ
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740758/aaaabxrs.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 139779
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinml
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 SEP 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2003 by martinml>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING IN US
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, SNAR, BL, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005