

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 05604 282048Z

70

ACTION ARA-10

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R 282010Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4058

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 5604

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PGOV, BL

SUBJ: FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT OF BOLIVIA
AND DR. PAZ ESTENSSORO

1. EMBASSY HAS HEARD FROM EXCELLENT SOURCE THAT THE VERY INFORMAL MEETING IN LIMA BETWEEN VICTOR PAZ ESTENSSORO AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BANZER GOVERNMENT WAS SUCCESSFUL IN DETERMINING THAT DR. PAZ IS WILLING TO DISCUSS TERMS WITH THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT FOR HIS SUPPORT IN THE 1975 ELECTION. THE GOB NOW PLANS TO SEND A HIGH-LEVEL PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR TO LIMA TO NEGOTIATE WITH PAZ FOR HIS EVENTUAL SUPPORT. IT IS REASONABLY CLEAR FROM REMARKS MADE BY THE ABOVE SOURCE AND IN FORMER CONVERSATIONS WITH PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORS ARCE AND CAPRILES THAT PRESIDENT BANZER WILL NOT SEEK RE-ELECTION, BUT THAT BANZER WANTS TO HAVE A DECISIVE VOICE IN CHOSING HIS SUCCESSOR AND THEREFOR WANTS TO REMAIN IN OFFICE UNTIL THE ELECTIONS. WHILE IT MAY BE PREMATURE TO SELECT A SUCCESSOR NOW, IT IS CLEAR THAT AN ENDORSEMENT OF PAZ OF A SUCCESSOR CHOSEN BY BANZER AND THE MILITARY HIERARCHY WOULD BE UNBEATABLE IN THE NEXT ELECTIONS.

PARKER

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NNN

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