

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 09940 170237Z
ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 PM-06 H-02 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 SSC-01 SY-05 USSS-00
EUR-12 IO-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
ANAE-00 /089 W
-----072407 170243Z /73

O R 170110Z NOV 79
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9338
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USCINCSO J2 QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ IMMEDIATE
DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS LA PAZ 9940

ROME FOR VATICAN

EO 12065: NA
TAGS: PINT, PINS, BL
SUBJECT: CONGRESS CHOOSES GUEILER TO BE INTERIM PRESIDENT OF
BOLIVIA

1. SHORTLY AFTER 8 PM TONIGHT (NOV 16), THE CONGRESS IN
PLENARY SESSION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED A RESOLUTION (A)
REVOKING THE PRESIDENTIAL MANDATE OF WALTER GUEVARA AND
(B) NAMING CONGRESSIONAL CHAIRPERSON LYDIA GUEILER AS
INTERIM PRESIDENT OF THE COUNTRY UNTIL AUGUST 6, 1980.

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ALTHOUGH NOT SO STIPULATED, THE CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION
OF LAST AUGUST CALLING FOR PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE PRESIDENTIAL--
RATHER THAN GENERAL -- ELECTIONS EVIDENTLY REMAINS IN
FORCE.

2. THE SELECTION OF MS. GUEILER PRESUMABLY WAS APPROVED
IN PRINCIPLE DURING LAST EVENING'S BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS

BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ARMED FORCES AND THE CONGRESS.
IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARD, COL NATUSCH APPEARING ON NATIONAL
TELEVISION, FORMALLY RESIGNED.

3. AT APPROXIMATELY 8:05 PM MS GUEILER TOOK THE OATH OF OFFICE ON THE FLOOR OF THE CONGRESS. AFTER CONGRESSMEN AND SPECTATORS SANG A VERSE OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM, SHE GAVE A BRIEF, EMOTIONAL ADDRESS RECALLING HER 30 YEARS OF "PATRIOTIC STRUGGLE" AS A "REVOLUTIONARY WOMAN" AND PLEDGING TO DEFEND THE CONGRESS AND THE CONSTITUTION.

4. GUEILER, ABOUT 60 YEARS OLD, WAS ONE OF THE FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE NATIONALIST REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT (MNR). AFTER THE 1952 REVOLUTION, SHE HELD A POSITION IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOR, AND IN 1960 SHE SERVED AS A CONGRESSIONAL DEPUTY. SHE SUBSEQUENTLY JOINED JUAN LECHIN TO FORM THE LABOR-ORIENTED PARTY OF THE REVOLUTIONARY LEFT (PRIN). IN THE LATE 1970'S, WHEN THE PRIN BECAME SCHISMATIC, SHE ESTABLISHED HER OWN PARTY FACTION. IN THE 1979 ELECTIONS, SHE WAS A MEMBER OF VICTOR PAZ ESTENSSORO'S MNR ALLIANCE; EDWIN MOELLER, A FORMER HUSBAND, HEADED A SECOND PRIN FACTION WHICH SUPPORTED HERNAN SILES' UDP. MS GUEILER HAS A GROWN DAUGHTER, AND A GRANDCHILD WHO IS CURRENTLY STUDYING AT A UNIVERSITY IN FLORIDA.

BOEKER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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