

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XM, US, BL

SUBJ: CONSULTATIONS AMONG POLICY PLANNING STAFFS

REF: STATE 192211

1. ALTHOUGH I RECOGNIZE THAT BOLIVIA IS NOT A "KEY" COUNTRY IN LATIN AMERICA, I BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL SOUND REASONS FOR INCLUDING IT AMONG THOSE COUNTRIES ON THE CONSULTATION LIST. THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THESE REASONS IS THAT BOLIVIA INEVITABLY WILL BE A FACTOR IN ANY CONFLICT BETWEEN CHILE AND PERU. WITH PROPER ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT, BOLIVIA COULD PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE AND PERHAPS AN IMPORTANT ONE IN PREVENTING CHILEAN-PERUVIAN TENSIONS FROM GETTING OUT OF HAND. OUR CONSULTATIONS MIGHT HELP PRECLUDE BOLIVIA FROM MAKING AN IRRATIONAL MOVE TO SUPPORT ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER AND COMPLICATE THE ISSUES EVEN FURTHER.

2. ANOTHER IMPORTANT REASON IS THAT THE PRESENT BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT, WHICH TOPPLED AN EXTREMIST AND HOSTILE REGIME, IS VERY FRIENDLY TO US; DISPOSED TO COOPERATE WITH US ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES; AND IS MOVING TOWARD OPENING ITS DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROCESSES. THESE CONSULTATIONS WOULD HELP ASSURE CONTINUED BOLIVIAN SUPPORT FOR OUR POSITIONS, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, WOULD PROVIDE A USEFUL SHORING UP OF PRESTIGE FOR THE BANZER REGIME. I BELIEVE BANZER HAS A GOOD CHANCE TO STAY ON UNTIL ELECTIONS SOMETIME IN 1975,

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BUT HIS ABILITY TO GOVERN EFFECTIVELY DURING THIS TIME AND

TO KEEP THE PROCESS OF CONSTITUTIONALIZATION ON THE TRACK
WOULD BE ADVANCED IN THE MEASURE THAT HIS PRESTIGE IS
AUGMENTED. THIS WOULD BE IN OUR INTEREST.

3. A THIRD REASON APPLIES TO ALL THE SMALLER COUNTRIES IN THE HEMISPHERE, I.E., OUR NEW DIALOGUE SHOULD BE CARRIED ON WITH ALL THE COUNTRIES, NOT JUST THE BIG ONES, OR WE MAY IN THE PROCESS OF CONSULTING WITH THE "KEY" COUNTRIES OFFEND THE SMALL ONES, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN OUTSPOKENLY FRIENDLY. THIS WOULD BE PARTICULARLY TRUE IN BOLIVIA'S CASE WERE OUR TEAM TO VISIT PERU AND CHILE AND NOT BOLIVIA.

4. THERE ARE SOME GOB-GROUPS IN EXISTENCE NOW THAT HAVE POLICY PLANNING FUNCTIONS AFFECTING FOREIGN POLICY, SUCH AS THE COMISION MARITIMA, THE CONSEJO POLITICO NACIONALISTA, THE ALTO MANDO MILITAR, AND THE AS YET UNSTAFFED ADVISORY COUNCIL TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. NEVERTHELESS, EACH OF THESE HAS CERTAIN DRAWBACKS, AND IT PROBABLY WOULD BE BETTER IF THE GOB FORMED A SPECIAL GROUP OF DECISION MAKERS AND PLANNERS TO MEET WITH OUR TEAM. THIS WOULD NOT PRESENT A PROBLEM. ON THE CONTRARY, IT WOULD PROVIDE USEFUL PUBLICITY HERE AND ENSURE THE KIND OF PARTICIPATION THAT WE WANT. I WOULD IMAGINE THAT SUCH A GROUP WOULD BE CHAIRED BY THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MARCELO OSTRIA, AND COMPOSED OF SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES, FORMER FOREIGN MINISTERS SUCH AS ALBERTO CRESPO AND OTHER EXPERTS DRAWN FROM THE GROUPS MENTIONED ABOVE.

5. CERTAINLY THE GOB WOULD WISH TO TALK ABOUT ITS PROBLEM OF LACK OF ADEQUATE ACCESS TO THE SEA AND THE CURRENT TENSIONS BETWEEN CHILE AND PERU WHICH MIGHT BEAR ON THIS PROBLEM. ANOTHER THEME OF INTEREST TO BOTH SIDES IS OUR STOCKPILE POLICY ON STRATEGIC ITEMS AND HOW BOLIVIA CAN COOPERATE IN THAT POLICY. BOLIVIA OF COURSE WOULD WISH TO DISCUSS CUBA POLICY, AND WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO DISCUSSING WAYS TO UNDERCUT STEAMROLLER TACTICS BY THE LDC'S IN INTERNATIONAL FORA. AS THE DEPARTMENT KNOWS, BOLIVIA CONTINUES VIGOROUSLY TO OPPOSE THE RE-ENTRY OF CUBA INTO THE OAS AND TAKES VERY SERIOUSLY OUR PLEDGE TO CONSULT WITH OAS MEMBERS BEFORE WE CHANGE OUR CURRENT CUBA POLICY. WE COULD USE THE CONFIDENTIAL

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OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE FOREIGN PLICY OF BRAZIL, ARGENTINA AND VENEZUELA AS SEEN THROUGH BOLIVIAN EYES.

6. I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PRUDENT, AT LEAST IN THE EARLY STAGES OF THESE CONSULTATIONS, TO STAGGER THE VISITS TO PERU, CHILE AND BOLIVIA SO THAT IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT WE HAVE DECIDED TO TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN SETTLING THE PROBLEMS INVOLVING THESE COUNTRIES. FOR THE DOMESTIC

POLITICAL REASONS MENTIONED ABOVE, IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE
TO SCHEDULE THE VISIT TO BOLIVIA EARLIER RATHER THAN LATER.

7. PLEASE ADVISE.
STEDMAN

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