

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LA PAZ 09196 290743Z
ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 PM-06 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 EB-08 COM-02 TRSE-00
OMB-01 AID-05 FEMA-02 GSA-02 /086 W
-----067077 290806Z /21

R 262230Z OCT 79
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8898
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
USCINCSO J2 QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ
DIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LA PAZ 9196

BUENOS AIRES FOR RSO

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: OLAB, BL
SUBJECT: OCTOBER 25 "ANTI-IMPERIALIST" DEMONSTRATIONS DRAW LARGE
CRODS

REF: LA PAZ 9142

1. SUMMARY: LA PAZ MORNING PAPERS REPORTED CROWDS AT THE "ANTI-IMPERIALIST" DEMONSTRATIONS AROUND BOLIVIA OCTOBER 25, AS WELL AS THE MARCH IN LA PAZ, WERE SIGNIFICANT. MOST SPEECHES DURING THE RALLIES ATTACKED THE UNITED STATES AND DENOUNCED THE PROSPECTIVE SALE OF TIN FROM ITS STRATEGIC RESERVES. CHILE, ITS GOVERNMENT, AND ITS OAS REPRESENTATIVE ALSO WERE ATTACKED FOR DENYING BOLIVIA ACCESS TO THE SEA. SEVERAL POLITICIANS JOINED MARCHERS IN LA PAZ, BUT NOTABLEY ABSENT WAS LABOR LEADER JUAN LECHIN. END SUMMARY.

2. TO MOST OBSERVERS THE OCTOBER 25 "ANTI-IMPERIALIST" MARCH IN LA PAZ APPEARED TO BE THE BEST ORGANIZED AND BEST ATTENDED

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LA PAZ 09196 290743Z

DEMONSTRATION SPONSORED BY THE CONFEDERATION OF BOLIVIAN WORKERS (COB) IN RECENT YEARS. ESTIMATES OF CROWD SIZE VARY. TWO OF LA PAZ' NEWSPAPERS, HOY AND PRESENCIA, ESTIMATED THE CROWD TO "NUMBER IN THE THOUSANDS." EL DIARIO, ANOTHER LA PAZ MORNING PAPER, REPORTED 15,000 PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN THE DEMONSTRATION. BY WAY OF CONTRAST, POLICE COLONEL SALINAS, WHO COMMANDED THE RIOT POLICE DETACHMENT OUTSIDE THE SHERATON DURING THE 80 MINUTE

PARADE, CALCULATED THE MARCHERS NUMBERED SIX OR SEVEN THOUSAND PEOPLE.

3. MOST SPEECHES BEFORE AND AFTER THE MARCH DENOUNCED THE US AND THE PROSPECTIVE SALE OF TIN FROM STRATEGIC STOCKPILES. FELIX LACUMSA, STUDENT LEADER AT SAN ANDRES UNIVERSITY, ACCUSED THE US OF "DEALING A HARD BLOW TO BOLIVIA'S ONGOING DEMOCRATIZATION PROCESS" WHILE GENARO FLORES, A CAMPESINO LEADER, CHARGED THE US WITH BEING "THE FIRST TO VIOLATE HUMAN RIGHTS."

4. CHOICE WORDS WERE ALSO RESERVED FOR THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT AND ITS OAS REPRESENTATIVE FOR DENYING BOLIVIA ACCESS TO THE SEA. OSCAR SALAS, A LEADER OF THE MINERS, ANNOUNCED "THE PEOPLE WILL CONTINUE FIGHTING UNTIL BOLIVIA RETURNS TO THE SEA." CHANTS DURING THE MARCH ALSO CALLED FOR "DEATH TO DAZA (CHILEAN OAS REP) AND PINOCHET" AND "DOWN WITH CHILEANS." SOME PLACARDS CARRIED BY FACTORY WORKERS CALLED FOR THE DISMISSAL OF CHILEANS WORKING IN BOLIVIAN FACTORIES.

5. ABSENT FROM THE LA PAZ MARCH WAS JUAN LECHIN, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE COB. BUT, AMONG MARCHERS LABATT IDENTIFIED MARCELO QUIROGA SANTA CRUZ, PS-1 LEADER AND ITS DEPUTY FOR COCHABAMBA; OSCAR EID, MIR LEADER; AND JAIME PAZ ZAMORA, MIR LEADER AND UDP VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE IN 1979. THEY WERE WELL RECEIVED BY THE CROWD OUTSIDE THE SHERATON HOTEL.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LA PAZ 09196 290743Z

6. LA PAZ NEWSPAPERS OF OCTOBER 26 ALSO COMMENTED BRIEFLY ON SIMILAR DEMONSTRATIONS IN ORURO AND COCHABAMBA. SPEECHES APPERAED TO BE SIMILAR IN CONTENT. PRESENCIA ESTIMATED THE COCHABAMBA MARCH DREW TWO THOUSAND PEOPLE. HOY CLAIMED "THOUSANDS" OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN THE ORURO RALLY.

7. COMMENT: THE LARGE TURN OUT AT THE COB DEMONSTRATIONS THROUGHOUT BOLIVIA CAN BE EXPLAINED BY THE FACT THAT: (1) TIN AND ACCESS TO THE SEA ARE THE TWO ISSUES IN BOLIVIA ON WHICH THERE IS WIDESPREAD CONSENSUS; (2) STUDENTS JOINED THE COB MARCH; AND (3) THE DEMONSTRATIONS WERE SCHEDULED FOR MID-AFTERNOON INSTEAD OF AFTER WORKING HOURS. DESPITE THE DEPTH OF BOLIVIAN FEELINGS ON THESE ISSUES, THE DEMONSTRATIONS WERE IMPRESSIVE FOR THEIR DISCIPLINE AND PEACE-FULNESS.
BOEKER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, ANTIAMERICAN
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 oct 1979
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1979LAPAZ09196
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D790495-0191
Format: TEL
From: LA PAZ
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1979/newtext/t19791025/aaaaatuj.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2de46e37-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 79 LA PAZ 9142
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1031545
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OCTOBER 25 'ANTI-IMPERIALIST' DEMONSTRATIONS DRAW LARGE CRODS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, BL
To: STATE BUENOS AIRES
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2de46e37-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014