

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 AID-20 PC-10 COME-00 EB-11

LAB-06 SIL-01 DRC-01 /149 W
----- 006487

R 301855Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WSHDC 2099

INFO USCINCSO

UNCLAS LA PAZ 0627

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGON, BL

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT BANZER'S SPEECH ANNOUNCING STATE OF SIEGE

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESIDENT BANZER'S SPEECH OF JANUARY 28
ANNOUNCING INSTITUTION OF STATE OF SIEGE THROUGHOUT BOLIVIA.
"FELLOW BOLIVIANS:

I MUST DENOUNCE BEFORE THE COUNTRY AN INTERNATIONAL CONSPIRACY,
TO WHICH I HAVE REFERRED SEVERAL TIMES IN THE PAST.

THIS ACTIVITY, WHOSE DETAILS I HAVE MADE KNOWN TO THE DIRECTORS
OF THE PRESS AND RADIO IN A CONFIDENTIAL MANNER, AND WHICH WAS
ORIGINALLY PLANNED FOR A LATER DATE, HAS SUDDENLY COMMENCED IN THE
BELIEF, THAT -- WITH THE NEW ECONOMIC MEASURES -- ITS TIME
HAS COME. THE PLAN HAS BEGUN WITH THE DESTRUCTION OF BRIDGES,
BLOCKAGE OF ROADS, INTERRUPTION OF RAILROAD LINES AND EXPLOSION
OF GRENADES IN URBAN CENTERS, CONCLUDING WITH THE CRIMINAL
SABOTAGE OF OUR PETROLEUM PRODUCTION, ALL OF WHICH IS AIMED
AT CREATING A STATE OF CONFUSION AND CHAOS WHEREIN THE CITIES
WOULD SUFFER SHORTAGES OF GOODS, PROVOKING THE PEOPLES'
ANGER; AT THIS MOMENT WHEN THE CONDITIONS WERE RIPE, THE
EXTREMISTS WOULD CALL FOR AN ARMED UPRISING, CONVERTING OUR
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COUNTRY, AS IT IS EASY TO IMAGINE, INTO A BATTLEFIELD OF
IDEOLOGICAL AND ARMED STRUGGLE IN SOUTH AMERICA.

IT IS NOT, HENCE, A PLAN WHICH SEEKS A NEW TYPE OF GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATE FOR OUR NATION'S PROBLEMS, BUT RATHER ONE WHICH SEEKS TO ESTABLISH IN OUR COUNTRY, ASIDE FROM A PUPPET GOVERNMENT, A NEW CENTER OF CONTINENTAL EXTREMIST ACTIVITIES; IT IS A CONSPIRACY WHICH INTENDS TO REGAIN FOR EXTREMISM THE POSITIONS RECENTLY LOST IN AMERICA, AND, THIS ACTION, AS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY, POINTED OUT, IS BEING CARRIED OUT IN OUR COUNTRY BECAUSE OF ITS SPECIAL POLITICAL AND GEOGRAPHIC SITUATION. THE PLAN IS NOT NEW OR ORIGINAL; WE HAVE SUFFERED BEFORE FROM THE SAME TYPE OF ATTEMPTS. THE POPULAR ARMED REJECTION OF EXTREMIST AGGRESSION IS STILL FRESH IN OUR MEMORY.

THE SOLID INTEGRATION OF THE ARMED FORCES, THE NATIONALIST REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT, BOLIVIAN SOCIALIST FALANGE, THE FARRIENTIST FORCES AND THE CITIZENS OF THE COUNTRYSIDE AND OF THE CITIES DOES NOT REFLECT THE MERE PERMANENCE IN POWER OF INTERESTS OR PARTISAN GROUPS BUT RATHER THE DEEP IDEOLOGICAL, NATIONALIST CONVICTION WHICH UNITES THEM TOGETHER IN ORDER TO KEEP BOLLIVIA FROM ANY INTERNATIONAL DEPENDENCY, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF CHRISTIAN MORAL AND SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES, WITH FULL AWARENESS OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES THE WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS SHARE IN THE COMMON ENTERPRISE WHICH THEIR WORK INVOLVES. SOME NARROW-MINDED PERSONS WHO DO NOT UNDERSTAND THIS SCHEME TRY TO CHANNEL THEIR PERSONAL AMBITIONS THROUGH A DOZEN "DISPLACED" PERSONS AND WANT TO SURPRISE US WITH INGENIOUS COMMANDO-STYLE COUP ATTEMPTS. THOSE WHO CONSCIOUSLY OR UNCONSCIOUSLY ARE ENGAGED IN THIS NEW ADVENTURE, WHICH ULTIMATELY FAVORS THE INTERNATIONAL CONSPIRACY, ARE HEREBY WARNED THAT MY GOVERNMENT WILL BE INFLEXIBLE IN IMPOSING THE EXISTING LEGAL SANCTIONS.

IN THE SAME MANNER THAT IN AUGUST 1971 THE ARMED FORCES SUPPORTED THE POPULAR EFFORT TO GUARD OUR NATIONAL INTEGRITY AND CALL A HALT TO THE EXCESSIVE ACTS OF ANARCHY, TODAY IN THE PRESENCE OF THESE SERIOUS ACTS I TAKE MY PLACE TO FIGHT THIS NEW BATTLE FOR OUR NATION.

TO THE FARMERS, TO THE WORKERS IN THE CITIES, TO THE
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MINERS, TO ALL THOSE WHO ARE DECEIVED IN THEIR GOOD FAITH, WHOM THE EXTREMISTS ARE TRYING TO INDUCE TO ACT AGAINST THE FORCES OF PUBLIC ORDER, CONVERTING THEM INTO CANNON FODDER, I MAKE A CALL SO THAT THEY WILL BECOME AWARE OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THIS SITUATION, REALIZING THAT THE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF SUPPLY AND SALARIES CAN NOT COME VIA AN ARMED CONFRONTATION OR THE BLOCKING OF ROADS, BUT ONLY BY COOPERATING WITH GOVERNMENT'S EFFORT TO OBTAIN MORE RESOURCES IN ORDER TO FACE THE WORLD FOOD SHORTAGE. IT IS NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH CLEARLY THAT THE LINE OF THE GOVERNMENT IS FIRMLY OUT-LINED AND EXPLAINED IN MY NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE, AN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, MARTIAL LAW, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, FOOD SHORTAGE, SPEECHES, ECONOMIC CONTROLS, CIVIL DISORDERS, EXTREMISTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, ANARCHY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LAPAZ00627
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LA PAZ
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974016/aaaaafea.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: smithrj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 28 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 FEB 2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <27 NOV 2002 by smithrj>
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: PRESIDENT BANZER'S SPEECH ANNOUNCING STATE OF SIEGE
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, BL, (BANZER SUAREZ, HUGO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005