

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LA PAZ 03295 221547Z

42

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 AID-20 EB-11 FEA-02 CIEP-02

COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SCI-06 DRC-01 /123 W

----- 126017

O R 221452Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3163

INFO USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 3295

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PFOR, BL

SUBJECT: POLITICAL TENSIONS RISE OVER RELATIONS WITH BRAZIL

REF: LA PAZ 3187

1. TENSIONS ARE RUNNING HIGH IN POLITICAL AND MILITARY
CIRCLES ON THE EVE OF THE GEISEL VISIT AND THE SCHEDULED
SIGNING OF THE GAS SALES CONTRACT BETWEEN BRAZIL AND BOLIVIA.

2. THE LATTER, WITH ITS COROLLARY PROSPECTS FOR CREATING
A SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLE, DEBATED IN PUBLIC FORA
(INCLUDING ESPECIALLY THE PRESS) OVER THE PAST MONTH. IT IS
THE KIND OF ISSUE AROUND WHICH PUBLIC OPINION CAN AND WILL
POLARIZE, AND IT HAS ALREADY HELPED TO BRING TOGETHER A NUMBER
OF HERETOFORE DISPARATE GROUPS OPPOSED TO THE BANZER REGIME.

3. TENSIONS HAVE BEEN AGGRAVATED IN THE PAST FOUR DAYS BY THE
LARGELY UNRELATED DISTURBANCES AT THE UNIVERSITY IN LA PAZ
WHERE PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS INVOLVING THE NAMING OF A
NEW RECTOR WERE DISBANDED BY TEAR GAS AND POLICE DOGS (AND
POSSIBLY GUNFIRE). A SMALL NUMBER OF STUDENTS HAVE BEEN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LA PAZ 03295 221547Z

ARRESTED, AND THE UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN CLOSED INDEFINITELY.

4. GIVEN THE EXTRAORDINARY SECURITY PRECAUTIONS RELATED TO THE GEISEL VISIT AND THE ALREADY EXISTING STATE OF SIEGE, THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT IN A TOLERANT MOOD AND HAS OVERREACTION TO CRITICISM OF THE PROPOSED GAS SALES CONTRACT. YESTERDAY, FOR INSTANCE, PRA AND PDC CHIEFS WALTER GUEVARA ARZE AND BENJAMIN MIGUEL AND LOCAL MNRI REPRESENTATIVE WERE EXILED FOR THEIR OPEN CRITICISM OF THE CONTRACT. THE MILITARY ARE DIVIDED ON THE ISSUE AND FEELINGS ARE RUNNING HIGH, PARTICULARLY AMONG SUCH INFLUENTIAL YOUNGER ARMY OFFICERS AS LTC RAUL LOPEZ LEYTON, WHO SEE THE CONTRACT AS A SELL-OUT TO BRAZIL.

5. ALTHOUGH THE SIGNING NO DOUBT WILL TAKE PLACE AS SCHEDULED AND ORDER WILL BE MAINTAINED, THE ISSUE WILL REMAIN. BANZER MAY HAVE TO MAKE SOME OTHER CONCESSIONS TO THE MILITARY TO FORESTALL A SERIOUS WEAKENING OF HIS POWER BASE OVER THIS ISSUE, WHICH HAS SUCH SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS FOR BOLIVIA'S NATIONAL SECURITY.

BREWIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATURAL GAS, OPPOSITION PARTIES, PARTY ALLIANCE, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, CONTRACTS, POPULAR RESENTMENT, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LAPAZ03295
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740127-0941
From: LA PAZ
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740527/aaaaaxvg.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: LA PAZ 3187
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 SEP 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <28 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
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: POLITICAL TENSIONS RISE OVER RELATIONS WITH BRAZIL
TAGS: PINS, PINT, PFOR, BL, PDC, MNRI, PRA, (GEISEL, ERNESTO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005