

## Message Text

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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

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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 PROS-  
PECTIVE 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 NOTABLY 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  
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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.

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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 PEACEFULNESS.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, ANTIAMERICAN  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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