

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-15

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
AID-05 PC-01 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 /082 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/AND/B - PBTAYLOR:LEE
APPROVED BY ARA - VPVAKY
ARA/AND - MRBARNEBEY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 322132

E.O. 12065 GDS 12/13/85 (TAYLOR, PHILIP B)

TAGS: PINT, BL

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION BETWEEN WALTER GUEVARA ARZE AND
ASSISTANT SECRETARY VAKY

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT
2. WALTER GUEVARA ARZE, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS SON AND
BOLIVIAN AMBASSADOR ROBERTO ARCE, CALLED ON ASSISTANT
SECRETARY VAKY AND ARA/AND DIRECTOR BARNEBEY ON DECEMBER
11.

3. GUEVARA OFFERED HIS OBSERVATIONS ON THE FOLLOWING
ITEMS:

A. STABILIZATION MEASURES -- THERE HAS BEEN A STRONG
REACTION TO THE MEASURES AS THEY WERE ORIGINALLY ANNOUNC-
ED. PAZ HAS THE VOTES NECESSARY TO AVOID A CONGRESSIONAL
CENSURE OF THE GOVERNMENT, AND GUEILER'S PERSONAL RELATION-
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SHIP WITH JUAN LECHIN WILL HELP IN OVERCOMING RESISTANCE
TO THE DECREES. THERE WAS GREATER OPPOSITION, HOWEVER,
ON THE PART OF THE PEASANTS AND TRANSPORT WORKERS BECAUSE
FOOD PRICES HAD REMAINED FROZEN AND GASOLINE WAS MUCH
MORE EXPENSIVE. GUEVARA THOUGHT GUEILER WOULD AGREE

TO SOME ADJUSTMENT OF FOOD PRICES WHICH WOULD SATISFY

THE PEASANTS.

B. THE MILITARY, THE REAL POWER IN BOLIVIA, REMAIN IN THEIR HEADQUARTERS IN MIRAFLORES. THE SAME PEOPLE WHO SUPPORTED NATUSCH ARE STILL IN COMMAND AND BELIEVE THE REAL ENEMY OF BOLIVIA IS THE BOLIVIAN PEOPLE. DEMOCRACY AND THE CURRENT MILITARY STRUCTURE IN BOLIVIA ARE INCOMPATIBLE BECAUSE TOO MANY OFFICERS SEE THEMSELVES AS HAVING TO GUIDE THE COUNTRY (QUOTE TUTELAR DE LA PATRIA END QUOTE). GUEVARA ALSO SAID THAT PRESIDENT GUEILER WILL HAVE NO INFLUENCE OVER THE DECEMBER PROMOTION, RETIREMENT AND TRANSFER LIST.

C. ELECTIONS -- IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER TO TACKLE ONLY ECONOMIC PROBLEMS DURING 1980, AND LEAVE ELECTIONS FOR 1981. THERE IS A DANGER THAT PAZ WILL ATTEMPT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HIS INFLUENCE OVER THE GOVERNMENT FOR ELECTORAL PURPOSES. ASSUMING SILES AND BANZER WILL BOTH BE CANDIDATES, THE 1980 ELECTIONS WILL BE A REPLAY OF THOSE OF 1979. THE FACT THAT THE ELECTIONS WILL NOT BE GENERAL POSES A PROBLEM BECAUSE THE TERMS OF OFFICE FOR THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT WILL NO LONGER COINCIDE WITH THAT OF THE CONGRESS.

4. ASSISTANT SECRETARY VAKY OBSERVED THAT THE FAILURE OF THE NATUSCH COUP WILL HAVE A BENEFICIAL EFFECT INTER-CONFIDENTIAL

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NATIONALLY, INCLUDING ON THE PERUVIANS. HE ALSO SAID THAT WHAT IS HAPPENING IN BOLIVIA IS OF GREAT INTEREST TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO THE STABILIZATION MEASURES. HE HOPED THIS POINT COULD BE CONVEYED TO POLITICAL PARTY FIGURES IN LA PAZ. CHRISTOPHER

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