

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 04464 111447Z

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ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3620

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 4464

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT SNAR, BL

SUBJ: PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING IN US

REF: STATE 139779

1. COUNTRY TEAM BELIEVES US INTERESTS WELL SERVED BY CONTINUATION PRESENT LEVEL OF PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING OF BOLIVIANS AT FACILITIES IN CONTINENTAL US, PARTICULARLY WHERE SUCH TRAINING INCLUDES NARCOTICS COURSES. AS DEPT AWARE, EMBASSY IS RECEIVING CLOSE COOPERATION FROM BOLIVIAN POLICE IN COMBATTING ILLICIT NARCOTICS TRAFFIC.

2. RELAXATION OF POLITICAL TENSIONS IN WAKE OF FORMATION OF ALL-MILITARY CABINET AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTIONS IN 1975 SHOULD BE REFLECTED IN GREATER TOLERANCE OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY, INCLUDING THAT OF OPPOSITION GROUPS. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, MIN OF INTERIOR HAS BEEN INVOLVED FOR SOME TIME IN REVIEWING THE CASES OF POLITICAL PRISONERS. THIS REVIEW PROCESS HAS ALREADY RESULTED IN THE RELEASE OF SEVERAL PRISONERS, AND IT APPEARS MORE WILL BE RELEASED IN THE COMING WEEK.

3. POLITICAL PARTIES, INCLUDING SOME OPPOSITION GROUPS, HAVE APPLAUDED GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO CALL FOR ELECTIONS IN 1975, THOSE IN OPPOSITION ANTICIPATING THAT A FAIRLY BROAD AMNESTY WILL BE DECLARED IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS WHICH WILL ENABLE SOME EXILED LEADERS SUCH AS GUEVARA ARCE (PRA) AND BENJAMIN MIGUEL (PDC) TO RETURN AND RESUME THEIR PARTICIPATION IN BOLIVIAN POLITICS.

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PAGE 02 LA PAZ 04464 111447Z

CIPATION IN BOLIVIAN POLITICS.

4. IN SHORT, THE GOB'S PERCEIVED NEED FOR SOME POLITICAL
REPRESSION WHEN ANTI-GOVERNMENT PLOTTING IS UNCOVERED HAS
NOW BEEN GREATLY REDUCED, AND WE FORESEE A POLITICAL OPENING
OF SORTS WHICH SHOULD HELP TO IMPROVE BOLIVIA'S IMAGE IN
THE US.
STEDMAN

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