

Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ARA-10 L-02 NSC-10 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 IGA-02 EB-03

TRSE-00 OMB-01 MC-02 SPC-01 DRC-01 AID-10 /071 W

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R 041937Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1871

INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HGTS CZ

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS BL

SUBJ: PATROL CRAFT FOR BOLIVIAN NAVY; LETTER OFFER FROM

ADM. ZUMWALT TO BOLIVIAN CNO.

1. ADMIRAL ZUMWALT HAS SIGNED A LETTER DATED DECEMBER 13, 1973
TO ADMIRAL PINTO FO THE BOLIVIAN NAVY, OFFERING "TWO SMALL
UNARMED PATROL CRAFT, PBRS" TO MEET THE BOLIVIAN NAVY'S
"REQUIREMENTS." ADMIRAL ZUMWALT'S LETTER GOES ON TO STATE:
"THE ESTIMATED COST OF THE CRAFT, INCLUDING NECESSARY
REPAIRS TO PLACE THEM IN GOOD OPERATING CONDITION AS
TRAINING CRAFT IS \$25,000 EACH. IN ORDER THAT WE CAN EXPEDITE
THE PROCEDURES TO TRANSFER THESE UNITS TO YOUR NAVY,
I WOULD SUGGEST THE SUBMISSION OF A DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO THE
U.S. GOVERNMENT STATING YOUR COUNTRY'S WISH TO MAKE THIS
PURCHASE. THE MEANS OF FUNDING THE CRAFT IS, OF COURSE,
AT YOUR DISCRETION. THE USE OF MAP FUNDS MIGHT BE A POSSIBILITY
AND THIS AVENUE WOULD REQUIRE COORDINATION WITH OUR MILITARY
GROUP IN BOLIVIA.

ANOTHER MEANS IS BY A DIRECT PURCHASE THROUGH THE FOREIGN
MILITARY SALES. AFTER THE DIPLOMATIC NOTE HAS BEEN SUBMITTED
AND APPROVED, PRECISE PRICE AND AVAILABILITY INFORMATION OF
THE PATROL CRAFT CAN BE PROVIDED. THIS WILL, IN TURN,
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PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR AN OFFICIAL LETTER OF OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE.

I WOULD ESTIMATE THAT THE CRAFT WOULD BE READY FOR SHIPMENT TO BOLIVIA WITHIN SIXTY DAYS AFTER THE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED."

2. UPON RECEIPT OF INFORMATION THAT THIS LETTER HAD BEEN SENT TO THE BOLIVIAN NAVY, I HAVE HAD A SPECIAL MEETING WITH THE APPROPRIATE MEMBERS OF THE MILGP AND THE DEFENSE ATTACHE'S OFFICE TO EVALUATE THE OFFER AND TO FORMULATE OUR RESPONSES IF WE RECEIVE A NOTE AS ADMIRAL ZUMWALT HAS SUGGESTED TO THE BOLIVIAN NAVY. AS A RESULT OF THIS MEETING, I HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THERE IS NO OBJECTION ON SUBSTANTIVE GROUNDS TO THE ACQUISITION OF THESE VESSELS FROM US, BUT I WISH TO RECORD IN THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS SOME OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE MANNER IN WHICH THIS OFFER WAS MADE.

3. ALTHOUGH ADMIRAL ZUMWALT'S LETTER INVITES THE GOB TO CONSIDER INCLUSION OF THE PATROL CRAFT UNDER MAP, THIS IS A MATTER WHICH OF COURSE SHOULD BE REVIEWED BY THE IG/ARA AND BY THE PMG

IF THIS MISSION WERE TO RECOMMEND IT, WHICH WE DO NOT. OUR POSITION IS THAT THE BOLIVIANS SHOULD EITHER PAY CASH OR USE FMS. ACCORDINGLY, WE ARE INFORMALLY UNDERTAKING TO DISCOURAGE THE BOLIVIAN NAVY FROM ASKING US TO PROVIDE THESE VESSELS UNDER MAP. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS ACTUALLY COINCIDES WITH THE BOLIVIAN NAVY'S WISHES TO BE ON A MORE INDEPENDENT BASIS. IF THIS ANALYSIS IS CORRECT, THEN THE MAP SUGGESTION IN THE LETTER MAY NOT CAUSE US ANY POLITICAL PROBLEMS.

4. THE CONCERNs I HAVE ABOUT THE MANNER IN WHICH THE OFFER OF THE PATROL CRAFT WAS MADE ARE BOTH SUBSTANTIVE AND PROCEDURAL. THE U.S. IS CONDUCTING A MAP PROGRAM IN BOLIVIA AND HAS SOUGHT OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS TO DEVELOP A CONCEPT OF COORDINATED OR JOINT PLANNING FOR THIS PROGRAM. THUS, REQUESTS FROM BOLIVIAN AUTHORITIES FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE CHANNELED THROUGH THE MILGP HERE AND THEN REVIEWED IN AN APPROPRIATE INTER-AGENCY FORUM IN A SYSTEMATIC WAY IN WASHINGTON. IF WASHINGTON APPROVAL IS THEN GIVEN TO AN OFFER OF EQUIPMENT, SUCH AN OFFER SHOULD CONFIDENTIAL

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BE MADE BY ME OR BY ELEMENTS OF MY MISSION AT MY DIRECTION SO AS TO REINFORCE THE EMBASSY'S ROLE AS THE RESPONSIBLE AGENCY FOR THE CONDUCT OF U.S. FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN BOLIVIA. EVEN IF CEREMONIAL OR PROTOCOLARY COMMUNICATIONS ARE MADE ON A SERVICE TO SERVICE BASIS, THEY SHOULD OF COURSE GO THROUGH ME, OR BE SUBJECT TO MY CONCURRENCE. ON THE SUBSTANTIVE SIDE, WE NOW FIND THAT THE TWO PATROL CRAFT ARE IN FACT TO BE SUBSTITUTED FOR A NAVAL VESSEL

ALREADY PROGRAMMED UNDER MAP WHICH WAS TO HAVE REPLACED THE EXISTING MAP PATROL CRAFT, THE J.F.KENNEDY. THE VESSEL WHICH WILL NOW BE DELETED HAD BEEN SELECTED IN A CAREFUL WAY AS BEING THE APPROPRIATE UNIT FOR USE ON LAKE TITICACA. AGAIN, WE BELIEVE THAT WE MAY BE ABLE TO DELETE THIS VESSEL WITHOUT POLITICAL PROBLEMS BUT CANNOT BE COMPLETELY SURE.

5. IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF THE DEPARTMENT WOULD TAKE UP WITH THE NAVY DEPARTMENT MY CONCERNS IN THE MANNER BY WHICH THIS OFFER OF PATROL CRAFT WAS MADE TO BOLIVIA AND TO SEEK AGREEMENT ON THE POINTS THAT I HAVE MADE TO INSURE THE MORE ORDERLY CONDUCT OF OUR AFFAIRS IN BOLIVIA.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY SALES, NAVAL SHIPS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, MILITARY CREDIT, MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
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: 1974LAPAZ00080
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LA PAZ
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740162/aaaacgpr.tel
Line Count: 130
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
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 kelleyw0>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
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: PATROL CRAFT FOR BOLIVIAN NAVY; LETTER OFFER FROM ADM. ZUMWALT TO BOLIVIAN CNO.
TAGS: MASS, BL, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005