

Message Text

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72-60

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 INR-11 DLOS-07 COA-02 RSC-01

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R 092030Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3855

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 5083

CARACAS FOR USDEL LOS

E.O.M 11652: GDS

TAGS: BL, PFOR, PLOS

SUBJECT: VISIT OF PROFESSOR COCHRAN TO BOLIVIA

REFERENCE: USNA MESSAGE 04650 DTG 081320Z AUG 74; DAO MESSAGE

021330Z AUG 74; USNA MESSAGE 04650 DTG 291901Z

JUL 74

1. EMBASSY WISHES TO CALL THE ATTENTION OF THE DEPARTMENT AND USDEL LOS CONFERENCE CARACAS TO THE REFERENCED MESSAGES, CONCERNING A PROPOSED VISIT OF PROFESSOR CHARLES COCHRAN, US NAVAL ACADEMY, TO A PRIVATE-SPONSORED CONFERENCE IN LA PAZ OCTOBER 24-26 ON THE SUBJECT OF "LAW OF THE SEA: POST CARACAS". ACCORDING TO INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY THE US NAVAL ACADEMY, PROFESSOR COCHRAN WISHES TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE IN ORDER TO GATHER INFORMATION AND EXCHANGE IDEAS ON STATE RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY IN THE AREA OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, WHILE ALSO STUDYING THE DEVELOPMENT OF DISPUTE SETTLEMENT MECHANISMS FOR A NEW LOS STRUCTURE.

2. THE EMBASSY WISHES TO INFORM THE DEPARTMENT OF CERTAIN CONSIDERATIONS WHICH AFFECT THE ADVISABILITY OF GRANTING COUNTRY CLEARANCE FOR PROFESSOR COCHRAN'S ATTENDANCE AT THE SUBJECT CONFERENCE. FOR THE PAST SIX MONTHS, THE GOB HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN AN INTENSIVE PUBLICITY AND PROPAGANDA

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CAMPAIGN TO STIMULATE INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS OF ITS CLAIM

TO AN ACCESS TO THE SEA. BOLIVIAN DELEGATIONS TO MOST RECENT INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES, INCLUDING THE LOS CONFERENCE IN CARACAS, HAVE TAKEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE THIS SENSITIVE ISSUE, WHICH AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE AFFECTS PRIMARILY THE NATIONAL INTERESTS OF BOLIVIA ITSELF AND OF ITS TWO WESTERN NEIGHBORS: CHILE AND PERU. IT IS NOT UNLIKELY THAT BOLIVIA ALSO WILL SEEK TO USE A REGIONAL LEGAL CONFERENCE ON LOS, ESPECIALLY ONE TAKING PLACE IN LA PAZ, TO SEEK TO OBTAIN A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE GOB'S CURRENT POLITICAL OBJECTIVES IN THIS REGARD; THE POSITION OF A U.S. DELEGATE TO THE CONFERENCE COULD THEN BECOME ESPECIALLY DELICATE, DUE TO THE GOB'S DESIRE TO ELICIT EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT FROM ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS OFFICIAL LINKS TO THE US GOVERNMENT.

3. IN ADDITION, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, DR. MOISES FUENTES, HAS INDICATED TO US THAT THIS CONFERENCE IS BEING PRIVATELY SPONSORED AND ORGANIZED BY DR. FEDERICO NIELSEN REYES, A POLITICAL OPPORTUNIST WHO HAS MADE SOMETHING OF A REPUTATION FOR HIMSELF AS AN IDEOLOGUE OF BOLIVIA'S "RIGHT" TO AN ACCESS TO THE SEA. NIELSEN WAS RECENTLY NAMED A MEMBER OF THE GOB'S "MARITIME COMMISSION," WHICH IS CHARGED WITH DEVELOPING NEW STRATEGIES FOR THE ATTAINMENT OF THE DESIRED OUTLET TO THE PACIFIC OCEAN. WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE OUT OF CHARACTER FOR AN INDIVIDUAL OF NIELSEN'S BACKGROUND NOT TO ATTEMPT TO USE THIS CONFERENCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF DRUMMING UP SUPPORT FOR THE CAUSE TO WHICH HE HAS DEVOTED A GREAT PROPORTION OF HIS ATTENTION IN RECENT YEARS.

4. THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS REGARDING THE ADVISABILITY OF GRANTING COUNTRY CLEARANCE FOR THIS VISIT, IN VIEW OF THE CONSIDERATIONS NOTED IN PARAGRAPHS TWO AND THREE.

STEDMAN

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