

Message Text

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53

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

AID-20 IGA-02 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00

EB-11 SWF-02 PC-10 FDRE-00 DRC-01 /121 W

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O 201455Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3457

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MASS EAID BL

SUBJ: C-130 AIRCRAFT FOR BOLIVIA

1. AS DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND DEFENSE AWARE, GOB HAS EXPRESSED STRONG INTEREST IN PURCHASING PROMPTLY TWO C-130 TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT. PRESIDENT BANZER HAS MADE THIS INTEREST KNOWN TO ME EXPLICITY. THE BOLIVIAN AIR FORCE HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH OUR MILITARY MISSION ABOUT THESE AIRCRAFT. WHILE THE BOLIVIAN AUTHORITIES WOULD PREFER NEW UNITS, THEY WOULD BE SATISFIED WITH PROMPT DELIVERY OF USED EQUIPMENT PROVIDED, NATURALLY, IT IS IN SERVICEABLE CONDITION. I HAVE JUST RECEIVED PRICE AND AVAILABILITY DATA FOR NEW C-130 AIRCRAFT THROUGH U.S. MILITARY CHANNELS INDICATING A COMPLETE PRICE PER UNIT OF ABOUT \$8 MILLION AND A DELIVERY TIME OF 1977. WE SHALL APPRRRIATELY INFORM THE BOLIVIAN AUTHORITIES OF THIS INFORMATION WHICH WILL DISAPPOINT THEM AND ADDITIONALLY HEIGHTEN THEIR INTEREST IN USED C-130 AIRCRAFT.

2. I WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE, ON AN URGENT BASIS, AN AGGRESSIVE EFFORT BY STATE AND DEFENSE TO LOCATE TWO OR AT LEAST ONE USED C-130 AIRCRAFT WHICH CAN BE OFFERED FOR PURCHASE BY BOLIVIA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE C-130 IS AN IDEAL TRANSPORT

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AIRCRAFT FOR THIS COUNTRY FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND CIVIC

ACTION PURPOSES. THIS HAS BEEN AMPLY PROVEN IN THE PAST THROUGH EFFECTIVE AIRLIFTS PROVIDED BOLIVIA BY C-130 AIRCRAFT FROM SOUTHERN COMMAND. C-130'S HAVE MADE POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS HERE IN AIRLIFTING CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT FROM ONE AREA OF THE COUNTRY TO ANOTHER THROUGH WHICH NO OTHER TRANSPORTATION MEANS AVAILABLE. DURING EMERGENCIES SUCH AS ANNUAL FLOODING, WHEN RAIL AND ROAD TRANSPORT BROKEN, C-130 AIRLIFTS HAVE MOVED FOOD FROM STORAGE LOCATIONS TO POPULATION CENTERS. BOLIVIA HAS, AS IS WELL KNOWN, A WEAK TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM AT BEST, OVER SOME OF THE MOST DIFFICULT TERRAIN IN THE WORLD. THE ADDITIONAL TRANSPORTATION CAPABILITY PROVIDED BOLIVIA BY THE POSSESSION OF C-130 AIRCRAFT WOULD BE EXTREMELY BENEFICIAL.

3. I URGE PROMPT ACTION TO MEET BOLIVIA'S DESIRES TO PURCHASE C-130 AIRCRAFT FOR POLITICAL REASONS AS WELL. THE BENEFITS TO THE U.S. FROM THE PRESENCE IN BOLIVIA OF A U.S. MANUFACTURED C-130 AIRCRAFT PROVING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND CIVIC ACTION ASSISTANCE WOULD BE GREAT. I BELIEVE THAT AT THE COST OF SOME INTERNAL ADMINISTRATIVE EFFORT, WE CAN DERIVE SUBSTANTIAL POLITICAL GAINS HERE.

4. IF USED C-130'S ARE BECOMING AVAILABLE FROM U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD, I RECOMMEND ALLOCATION OF AT LEAST ONE FOR BOLIVIA. IF THIS SOURCE IS NOT VIABLE, THEN I SINCERELY HOPE MAXIMUM EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO LOCATE ANOTHER.

5. PLEASE ADVISE.
STEDMAN

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