

## Message Text

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72

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-11 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07

PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /115 W

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R 021610Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3817

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 4988

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, BL

SUBJ: POSSIBLE REOPENING OF CENTRAL OBRERA BOLIVIANA (COB)

1. THE MINISTER OF LABOR HAS STARTED DISCUSSIONS WITH BOLIVIA'S MAJOR CONFEDERATIONS AND FEDERATIONS ON THE POSSIBILITY OF REOPENING THE CENTRAL OBRERA BOLIVIANA (COB). THIS REPRESENTS A MAJOR CHANGE IN THE GOVERNMENT'S LABOR POLICY SINCE THE DISESTABLISHMENT OF THE COB HAD BEEN A KEY TACTIC IN THE BANZER REGIME'S STRATEGY OF KEEPING THE LABOR MOVEMENT DIVIDED.

2. THE MINISTER OF LABOR HAS INDICATED IN A NUMBER OF STATEMENTS ON THIS ISSUE THAT TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE GOVERNMENT THE COB WOULD HAVE TO BE REORGANIZED AS AN APOLITICAL ORGANIZATION STRICTLY DEVOTED TO TRADE UNION MATTERS. THERE IS SOME SUPPORT FOR THIS VIEW AMONG CERTAIN LABOR ORGANIZATIONS WHO BELIEVE THAT THE COB STATUTES GIVE DISAPPROPORTIONATE VOTING STRENGTH TO THE MINERS AND FACTORY WORKERS. MODERATE TRADE UNIONISTS WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SEE ORGANIZATIONS NOT STRICTLY TRADE UNION SUCH AS STUDENT GROUPS AND "FREE PROFESSIONALS" SEPARATED FROM THE COB. THE MINERS FEDERATION IS, OF COURSE, OPPOSED TO ANY CHANGES IN THE COB'S STATUTES.

3. COMMENT: THE REOPENING OF THE COB WOULD STRENGTHEN THE BARGAINING POWER OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT MANYFOLD AND INEVITABLY ENABLE THE MOVEMENT TO PLAY A MORE EFFECTIVE ROLE AS CRITIC

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OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICIES OF THE GOVERNMENT. IT

SEEMS PROBABLE THAT VARIOUS UNIONS MIGHT ACCEPT SOME CHANGES  
IN THE COB'S TRADITIONAL STRUCTURE IF IT MEANT THE DIFFERENCE  
BETWEEN HAVING A CENTRAL OR NOT.  
STEDMAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LABOR RELATIONS, LABOR UNIONS, REORGANIZATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 AUG 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** boyleja  
**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:** 1974LAPAZ04988  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740211-0956  
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**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** boyleja  
**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 <24 FEB 2003 by boyleja>  
**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:** POSSIBLE REOPENING OF CENTRAL OBRERA BOLIVIANA (COB)  
**TAGS:** ELAB, BL, COB-CENTRAL OBRERA BOLIVIANA, CENTRAL OBRERA BOLIVIANA-COB  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005