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STATE FOR INM AND ARA  
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SUBJECT: NARCOTICS CONTROL: MONTHLY REPORT ON BOLIVIA,  
APRIL 1984  
REFS: A) LA PAZ 2787 (NOTAL); B) LA PAZ 2225 C) LA PAZ  
- 2886  
1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)  
2. SUMMARY: THE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT FOR IMPLEMEN-  
TATION OF OUR BILATERAL NARCOTICS PROJECTS IN BOLIVIA  
CONTINUED TO DETERIORATE IN APRIL. MOST SERIOUS, IN  
THE SHORT TERM AT LEAST, WAS A WIDENING OF THE TRADI-  
TIONAL POLICE-MILITARY SCHISM, RESULTING FROM A CON-  
FRONTATION OVER THE DISPOSITION OF ARMS DONATED TO

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THE POLICE BY FRANCE. ENSUING BITTERNESS AND CONTENTIOUS PRESS COVERAGE OF THE AFFAIR PREJUDICED OUR EFFORTS TO SECURE MILITARY SUPPORT FOR THE PLANNED POLICE DEPLOYMENT INTO THE CHAPARE COCA GROWING REGION. OF IMPORTANCE IN THE LONGER TERM WAS CONTINUED ORGANIZED ACTIVITY BY CHAPARE COCA GROWERS AND TRAFFICKERS; THEY STEPPED UP PROPAGANDA AGAINST BILATERAL NARCOTICS PROGRAMS AND SET UP ARMED ROAD BLOCKS, SEALING OFF MOST OF THE CHAPARE. WHILE INITIAL OPERATIONS BY THE USG-SUPPORTED 30-MAN NARCOTICS INVESTIGATIVE GROUP PROCEEDED WELL WITH DEA HELP AND ADVICE, DEPLOYMENT OF THE CHAPARE POLICE STRIKE FORCE (UMOPAR) CONTINUED TO BE DELAYED BY LACK OF MILITARY COOPERATION. THIS, IN TURN, HELD UP DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES AND PREPARATIONS FOR COCA ERADICATION THERE. OUR MEDIA CAMPAIGN IS SUCCESSFUL IN ITS INITIAL ACTIVITIES BUT IS NOT YET SUPPLEMENTED BY PUBLIC, HIGH-LEVEL GOB SUPPORT FOR NARCOTICS CONTROL IN THE CHAPARE, DESPITE OUR CONTINUED EFFORTS TO OBTAIN THAT. END SUMMARY.

3. GENERAL DEVELOPMENTS:

-- ORGANIZED OPPOSITION TO COCA REDUCTION AND REIMPOSITION OF PUBLIC ORDER IN THE CHAPARE CONTINUES TO EVOLVE, THOUGH THE MASSIVE DEMONSTRATIONS OF MARCH IN COCHABAMBA WERE NOT REPEATED. HOWEVER, THOSE WHO SPONSORED THE DEMONSTRATIONS LATER ORGANIZED ARMED ROAD BLOCKS IN THE CHAPARE WITH THE ANNOUNCED PURPOSE OF PREVENTING ENTRY BY POLICE, FOREIGNERS AND OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN GOB DEVELOPMENT AND COCA PROGRAMS. SHORTLY LATER, THE CONCOCA (NATIONAL COCA PRODUCERS CONFEDERATION) ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD SEND TRUCK CONVOYS CARRYING FREE COCA LEAVES AND FOOD FROM THE CHAPARE TO "THE MINERS OF THE COUNTRY," IN A TRANSPARENT BID TO OBTAIN MINER'S UNION SUPPORT AGAINST GOB COCA CONTROL PLANS. THE PRESS REPORTED DISPATCH OF THE FIRST CONVOY IN LATE APRIL.

-- THE POWERFUL MINERS' UNION, AT ITS CONVENTION EARLIER IN THE MONTH, REPORTEDLY HAD ADOPTED A RESOLUTION DEMANDING THAT THE GOB PUBLISH THE "SECRET" NARCOTICS CONTROL AGREEMENTS SIGNED BY THE USG AND ATTACKED "NORTHAMERICAN IMPERIALISM" FOR "INSULTING" COCA GROWERS UNDER THE GUISE OF FIGHTING NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING.

-- ON APRIL 27, ARA/AND DIRECTOR RONDON EXPLAINED TO PRESIDENT SILES USG CONCERNS OVER DELAYED DEPLOYMENT OF UMOPAR TO THE CHAPARE; HE AND AMBASSADOR CORR URGED THAT NECESSARY MILITARY SUPPORT BE OBTAINED. SILES REITERATED HIS COMMITMENT TO FIGHT THE NARCOTICS TRADE, CITING HIS SIGNING OF THE ANDEAN CHIEFS-OF-STATE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT AND NOTING UMOPAR'S READINESS (REF C).

-- AN EFFORT BY FRANCE TO PROVIDE ARMS TO THE POLICE FOR ANTI-NARCOTICS ACTIVITIES HAS PREJUDICED OUR EFFORTS, AND THOSE OF THE INTERIOR MINISTER, TO SEEK MILITARY SUPPORT FOR UMOPAR'S ENTRY INTO THE CHAPARE.

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A 35-TON DONATION OF USED FRENCH AUTOMATIC PISTOLS, AMMUNITION AND RADIO BATTERIES ARRIVED BY AIR IN MID-APRIL, PERSUANT TO A DEAL MADE BETWEEN FRANCE AND BOLIVIA IN EARLY 1983 AT THE TIME THAT **KLAUS BARBIE** WAS EXTRADITED TO FRANCE. THE DONATION CAUSED A MAJOR FLAP BETWEEN THE INTERIOR MINISTRY AND THE MILITARY, SERIOUSLY AGGRAVATING THE TRADITIONALLY WARY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE MILITARY AND POLICE STEMMING FROM THEIR ARMED CONFLICT DURING THE 1952 REVOLUTION (REF A). THE MILITARY'S REACTION LED TO: MILITARY CONFISCATION OF THE FRENCH GIFT; A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT THAT THE ARMS WOULD REMAIN IN MILITARY CONTROL PENDING A REVIEW OF THE SITUATION; CONSEQUENT PERSONAL BITTERNESS BETWEEN THE MINISTERS OF INTERIOR AND DEFENSE; AND WIDE PRESS AND PRIVATE SPECULATION THAT THE ARMS WERE DESTINED FOR LEFTIST EXTREMISTS IN OR OUTSIDE THE GOVERNMENT. AS A RESULT, MEANINGFUL POLICE/MILITARY COORDINATION ON NARCOTICS WAS SET BACK, THOUGH DISCUSSIONS ARE CONTINUING. ALSO THE FRENCH EMBASSY HAS LET IT BE KNOWN THAT FRANCE WILL WITHDRAW THE GIFTS IF THEY ARE NOT DESIRED FOR THE PURPOSES INTENDED.

4. NARCOTICS PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION:

-- THERE IS SATISFACTORY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING A 30-MAN INVESTIGATIVE POLICE UNIT TO WORK CLOSELY WITH DEA. MEMBERS OF THE UNIT ARE WORKING IN THE THREE MAJOR CITIES; OFFICE SITES ARE ESTABLISHED IN LA PAZ AND SANTA CRUZ. SUCCESSFUL CASES ARE BEING MADE, EVEN PENDING RECEIPT OF A FULL COMPLEMENT OF VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT.

-- IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT TO DEPLOY UMOPAR TO THE CHAPARE IS DELAYED BY FACTORS NOTED ABOVE. UMOPAR'S OPERATION PLAN WAS SUBMITTED TO HIGHER HEADQUARTERS ON APRIL 13; WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE PLAN IS BEING REVIEWED BY THE INTERIOR MINISTER AS WELL AS THE CHIEFS OF DNCSP AND THE NATIONAL POLICE. BASIC EQUIPMENT IS ON HAND, THOUGH WE ARE CONTINUING TO FILL LAST MINUTE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS TO ENSURE THE UNIT'S MOBILITY, HEALTH AND SAFETY IN A JUNGLE ENVIRONMENT.

-- IMPLEMENTATION OF COCA REDUCTION AND MARKETING PROJECT AGREEMENTS, AS THEY RELATE TO THE CHAPARE, CONTINUE ON HOLD PENDING UMOPAR DEPLOYMENT. DUE TO THE DELAY IN THE RELEASE OF 1984 FUNDS AND TO THE APRIL CABINET RESHUFFLE, AFFECTING THE PLANNING MINISTRY, THE STAFFING OF THE COCA REDUCTION DIRECTORATE HAS BEEN DELAYED ONCE AGAIN. THERE IS RECENT BUT GROWING SENTIMENT WITHIN THE GOB TO ESTABLISH A GOVERNMENT MONOPOLY TO BUY UP COCA PRODUCTION EXCESS TO CONSUMPTION BY THOSE WHO CHEW THE LEAF. WE ARE DISCOURAGING THE IDEA, AS VERY COSTLY AND POLITICALLY UNWISE, AND HAVE LET IT BE KNOWN THAT THE USG WILL NOT CONTRIBUTE TO SUCH A SCHEME.

5. MEDIA ACTIVITIES:

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-- USIS ORGANIZED A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL PRESS SEMINAR ON NARCOTICS AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN EARLY APRIL, FUNDED BY INM AND CO-SPONSORED BY THE NAU-FUNDED EDUCATION CAMPAIGN ON DRUGS (CESE). WELL REPORTED, THE SEMINAR RESULTED IN 35 PRESS ARTICLES, SEVERAL EDITORIALS, RADIO AND TV COVERAGE AND HELPFUL NEW CONTACTS FOR USIS, CESE AND SEMINAR PANELISTS, ALL OF WHOM WERE BOLIVIAN OFFICIALS, POLICE, DOCTORS, ETC.

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-- OTHER CURRENT MEDIA ACTIVITIES INCLUDE PREPARATION OF: TWO PAMPHLETS FOR MASS DISTRIBUTION, ONE ON THE CHAPARE AND ONE ON COCAINE ABUSE IN LATIN AMERICA; POSTERS AND RADIO SPOTS TO BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CHAPARE PROGRAMS; PLANNING FOR A PRESS SEMINAR ON DRUG DABUSE; CONTRACTING FOR A POLL ON DRUG USE IN BOLIVIAN CITIES, FOR PROPAGANDA EXPLOITATION; REVIEW OF PILOT PROGRAMS FOR A RADIO "SOAP OPERA" ON COCA/COCAINE; AND NEGOTIATION FOR PRODUCTION OF TV SPOTS ON THE ABOVE SUBJECTS.

(DRAFTED BY GARRET SWEANY) CORR

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