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CLASSIFICATION

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Bolivia

DATE DISTR. 13 September 1961

SUBJECT Possible Changes in Military Junta and Army General Staff

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE ACQUIRED 25X1C

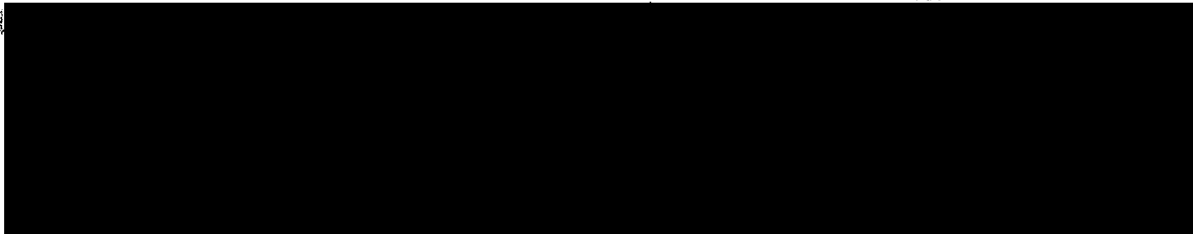
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NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO. 25X1X

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SOURCE [REDACTED]

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1. When General Hugo Ballivian, President of the Military Junta, visited Cochabamba during the weekend of 24-26 August, a group of younger army officers presented him with a program which included the following points:

- a. Retirement of ageing generals to be replaced by younger men;
- b. Reorganization of the Military Junta and of the General Staff of the Army;
- c. Convening of free elections to be held after the reorganization of the Junta has been effected.

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2. [REDACTED] is of the opinion that this program is tied in with the efforts to bring members of the Falange Socialista Boliviana (FSB) into the Junta, and reported that the plan has the support of the Military Garrison in Cochabamba.

3. Major Elias Belmonte Fabon is reported to have told some officers attached to the Seguencoma Regiment that, in addition to the inclusion of himself as Minister of Government and General Antonio Seiene as President, it was planned to appoint ex-Major Alberto Taborga, former leader of the Movimiento Nacionalista Revolucionario (MNR), Logia Redepa member, and confidant of Villarroel, as Director General of the National Police. Taborga and Belmonte are close friends and presently adhere to the FSB, apparently through opportunistic motives.

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4. [REDACTED] believes that the older army officers who would be replaced are:

General Francisco Careaga, Minister of War; General Donato Cardozo, Minister of Public Works; Colonel Tomas Antonio Suarez, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Colonel Valentin Gomez, Minister of Health; and General Armando Sainz, Chief of the General Staff.

Army Chief, Colonel Armando Ichazo, and Air Force Chief, Colonel Carlos Suarez, are younger men who would probably go along with the plan and retain their posts along with the other younger members of the Junta Cabinet.

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