

Top Secret

BOLIVIA: Political Stalemate

Lack of a compromise candidate to succeed General Garcia Meza as President has led to a stalemate between the junta and the rebel commanders.

A solution still depends on the Army's key unit commanders. Coup leaders Natusch and Anez distrust the current junta members--especially in light of Garcia Meza's continued presence in the capital--and believe that the same officers who supported Garcia Meza cannot offer effective change.

Military leaders in La Paz, on the other hand, allege that exiled civilian politicians who back the coup are leftwing radicals bent on taking over the country. This claim is without much substance, but it strikes a responsive chord throughout the military.

both sides may resort to military action, the armed forces' paramount objectives are to remain in power and to prevent civil war. This has prevented bloodshed, but frustration over a protracted deadlock could increase the chances for violence.

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