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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Intelligence Information Cable

PRIORITY

124 S

COUNTRY BOLIVIA

DISTR. 27 OCTOBER 1964

SUBJECT

ACTIONS OF PRESIDENT PAZ RELATIVE TO THE PRESENT CRISIS

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)-25Yrs (C)

REF

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)-25Yrs (C)

1. PRESIDENT VICTRO PAZ ESTENSSORO, IN MEETING ON 26 OCTOBER 1964 WITH A GROUP OF CLOSE ADVISERS, EXPRESSED HIMSELF AS CONCERNED BUT CONFIDENT ABOUT THE POLITICAL SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO RECENT DISORDERS IN LA PAZ AND SEVERAL PROVINCIAL CITIES. PAZ PLANNED TO USE THE POLICE, THE MILITIA AND OTHER CIVILIAN FORCES, SUCH AS ARMED CAMPESINOS, TO COPE WITH THE SITUATION, AND TO USE MILITARY FORCES ONLY AS A LAST RESORT.

2. AS A RESULT OF THIS MEETING WITH HIS ADVISER, PAZ DECIDED UPON THE FOLLOWING COURSES OF ACTION:

A. TO MOBILIZE THE MOVIMIENTO REVOLUCIONARIO NACIONALISTA

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(MNR-THE GOVERNMENT PARTY).

B. TO HAVE THE MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT ISSUE AN APPROPRIATE STATEMENT TO THE PRESS. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THIS WAS DONE ON 27 OCTOBER.)

C. TO PLACE THE MILITIA ON A STATE OF ALERT,

D. TO PREPARE MNR FOLLOWERS TO STAGE A COUNTER DEMONSTRATION IF STUDENTS PROVOKE A DEMONSTRATION ON 27 OR 29 OCTOBER;

E. TO MAKE A LARGE NUMBER OF ARRESTS IF THE STUDENT DEMONSTRATORS ARE AGGRESSIVE ON 27 OCTOBER.

F. TO SPEAK WITH THE RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN ANDRES AND EXPLAIN TO HIM THAT DISORDERS DURING THE VISIT OF FELIPE HERRERA MAY PREVENT BOLIVIA FROM OBTAINING AN INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK LOAN. [REDACTED] GENERAL CLAUDIO SAN ROMAN, THE HEAD OF THE DEPARTAMENTO DE INSPECCION (POLITICAL POLICE), SUBSEQUENTLY TALKED WITH THE RECTOR.)

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G. WHEN THE PRESENT CRISIS ENDS, TO HOLD A CABINET MEETING TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES AMONG THE MINISTERS OR TO MAKE CHANGES IN THE CABINET. [REDACTED] CIRO HUMBODLT, MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT, HAS SHOWN HIMSELF TO BE SOMEWHAT CONFUSED AND UNDECIDED AS TO HOW TO COPE WITH THE PRESENT CRISIS. HE MAY BE REMOVED FROM THE CABINET AFTER THE CRISIS ENDS.)

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H. TO MOBILIZE CAMPESINOS IN THE ORURO AND LA PAZ AREAS.

I. TO FORMULATE A PLAN FOR GOVERNMENT PROPAGANDA IN LIEU OF

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CONTINUING PRESS CENSORSHIP.

J. TO USE MARIO SANJINEZ URIARTE AS A SPECIAL DELEGATE TO ORURO TO OBTAIN FIRST HAND INFORMATION OF THE SITUATION, SINCE REPORTS FROM ORURO HAD BEEN VERY CONTRADICTORY. [REDACTED] COMMENT:

SANJINEZ HAS HELD VARIOUS GOVERNMENT JOBS, INCLUDING THAT OF PREFECT OF ORURO,)

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K. TO USE THE ARMED FORCES AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE.

3. AFTER THE ABOVE MEETING HAD ENDED, JACOBO LIBERMANN, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF INFORMATION, CONFIDED TO A FRIEND OF HIS THAT PRESIDENT PAZ HAD BEEN INFORMED BY VICE-PRESIDENT RENE BARRIENTOS ORTUNO THAT IT HAD BEEN PROPOSED TO HIM THAT HE TAKE CHARGE OF THE GOVERNMENT, ALONG WITH JULIO SANJINEZ GOITIA, AS VICE-PRESIDENT, AND A GROUP OF POLITICIANS. BARRIENTOS DID NOT SAY WHO HAD MADE THE OFFER. [REDACTED] COMMENT: SANJINEZ, THE PRESIDENT OF THE NEWSPAPER EL DIARIO, IS KNOWN TO BE CLOSE TO BARRIENTOS AND, ACCORDING TO SOME OBSERVERS, TO HAVE PRESIDENTIAL AMBITIONS.)

4. [REDACTED] DISSEM: STATE ARMY AIR CINCSO

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