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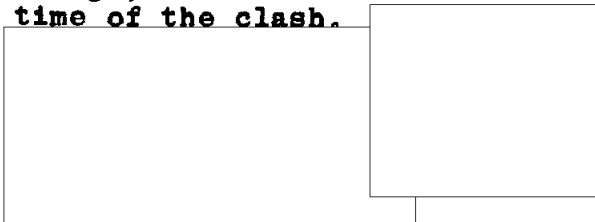
Bolivia
General
LATIN AMERICA

10. Possible Cuban Involvement in Bolivian Peasant Clashes

A peasant force loyal to President Paz Estenssoro mounted an attack of 14 April against the followers of the pro-Castro peasant leader Toribio Salas at a point close to the latter's stronghold at Achacachi near the Peruvian border. The clash apparently was precipitated by the flight of a Bolivian Air Force plane which dropped leaflets over the area, branding Salas a traitor and a Communist.

It is likely that the move against Salas was directed from the presidential palace. The pro-Paz forces were led by

Felipe Flores, whom Paz was successful in manipulating into the post of executive secretary of the national peasants organization at a national congress in March. Also, Federico Alvarez Plata, a close associate of Paz and a former minister of education, was, perhaps by design, in Achacachi at the time of the clash.



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