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TEXT
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SUBJECT: 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD WAR II

REF: STATE 246389

1. IN RESPONSE TO REFTTEL, POST KNOWS OF NO PLANNING CURRENTLY UNDERWAY TO COMMEMORATE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD WAR II. BOLIVIA'S ROLE IN WORLD WAR II WAS EXTREMELY LIMITED. IN 1940, BOLIVIA AGREED TO PROVIDE TIN TO THE UNITED STATES AND ITS ALLIES, AND ALSO SIGNED AN AGREEMENT TO PRODUCE TUNGSTEN.

2. IN 1943, WHEN THE REASON FOR THE FATHERLAND (RADEPA) PARTY AND THE NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT (MNR) PARTY JOINED FORCES AND FORMED A JUNTA UNDER MAJOR GUALBERTO VILLARROEL, THE U.S. AND ALL LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS (EXCEPT ARGENTINA) REFUSED TO RECOGNIZE THE NEW REGIME ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE REGIME'S RISE HAD BEEN SUPPORTED BY NAZI GERMANY AND ARGENTINA. SIX MONTHS LATER RECOGNITION WAS GRANTED AFTER THE MNR MEMBERS, INCLUDING VICTOR PAZ ESTENSORO

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AND HERNAN SILES ZUAZO, HAD BEEN DISMISSED FROM THE CABINET. VILLARROEL'S PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT ENDED IN 1946, WHEN A MOB DRAGGED HIM FROM HIS OFFICE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE AND HANGED HIM FROM A LAMPPOST.

3. CONSEQUENTLY, THERE ARE FEW IF ANY KEY EVENTS OR SPECIFIC HISTORICAL SITES ASSOCIATED WITH THE WAR THAT ARE WORTHY OF JOINT COMMEMORATION.

GELBARD

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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