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62519

ACTION UNIT: NOVE FILE, VI OLBAW 4, OLWES, OLESD 3, ONE,

ACTION NO.: NNNVT EIC 15 2KL F047 ORZ, ORG 12, CRW, 2/FBIS, WMB,

RR RUEHC RUFNCR RUFHOL  
 DE RUESLZ #1047 0551440  
 ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
 R WTQREPZ FEB 72  
 FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
 TO RUECH/SECSTATE WASHDC 6227  
 INFO RULPALJ/USCINCSO  
 RUFNCR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 103  
 RUFHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN 63  
 BT  
 C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 1047

EUR 3, CAP, FI,

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

SUSJ: ALTMANN CASE

REF: LA PAZ 1027

1. DURING CONVERSATION FEBRUARY 24 WITH MINISTER OF INTERIOR ADET ZAMORA COVERING SEVERAL TOPICS, AMT SADOR RAISED SUBJECT OF ALTMANN. AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT INTERNATIONAL PUBLICITY ALTMANN CASE IS RECEIVING IS SUCH THAT BOLIVIA MUST THINK ABOUT ITS INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION IN ITS DELIBERATIONS ON HOW TO HANDLE THE MATTER. THE AMBASSADOR OBSERVED THAT IF GOB DECIDES NOT REPEAT NOT TO EXTRADITE ALTMANN, BOLIVIA WILL BE SUBJECTED TO CHARGES IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF FASCIST SYMPATHIES AS A WIDESPREAD BELIEF EXISTS THAT ALTMANN IS IN FACT BARBIE. DURING THE CONVERSATION, THE AMBASSADOR COMMENTED THAT IF ALTMANN'S NATIONALIZATION AS A BOLIVIAN WAS FRAUDULENT, WHICH WOULD PRESUMABLY BE THE CASE IF ALTMANN'S IDENTITY HAD BEEN FALSIFIED, IT WOULD AFFECT THE ~~ALTMANN COULD NOT LEGALLY CLAIM BOLIVIAN CITIZENSHIP~~ - PART OF HIS EFFORTS TO PREVENT DEPORTATION.

2. ADET ZAMORA RESPONDED STRONGLY TO THE AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS AND MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS: (A) HE SAID THAT THE GOB KNOWS THAT ALTMANN WAS BARBIE, BUT THAT BARBIE WAS A "NOMBRE DE GUERRA" USED DURING

Mark  
**SECRET**

201 - Altmann

FOR COORDINATION WITH STATE

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# 62519 PG 2/2

THE WAR BY ALTMANN, AND THAT ALTMANN IS THE SUBJECT'S GIVEN LEGAL NAME AND ALWAYS HAS BEEN. FURTHER, ADET NOTEX THAT ALTMANN ORIGINALY CAME TO BOLIVIA WITH A PASSPORT AND DOCUMENTATION GIVEN TO HIM BY THE "ALLIED COMMAND" AND THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS. ADET ZAMORA NOTED THAT FRANCE WAS A PART OF THE "ALLIED COMMAND" WHEN THE PASSPORT AND DOCUMENTATION WERE GRANTED, AND THEREFORE THE GOB CAN ONLY ASSUME THAT THE GOF KNEW WHO ALTMANN WAS. AT THE TIME AND KNOWINGLY FACILITATED HIS DEPARTURE FROM EUROPE BY DOCUMENTING HIM. (B) ADET SAID THAT NOT ONLY DOES ALTMANN HAVE BOLIVIAN CITIZENSHIP, WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT BE PROVEN TO HAVE BEEN LEGALLY OBTAINED, BUT HE HAS A BOLIVIAN WIFE AND BOLIVIAN CHILDREN. (C) ADET NOTED THAT BOLIVIA IS A SOVEREIGN COUNTRY AND WILL ACT ACCORDINGLY IN THIS CASE. HE STRONGLY INDICATED RESENTMENT AGAINST FRENCH PRESSURES BEING BROUGHT TO BEAR IN THE ALTMANN CASE, AND REFERRED IN THIS REGARD TO PRESSURES THE GOF BROUGHT AGAINST BOLIVIA A LITTLE OVER A YEAR AGO FOR THE RELEASE OF REGIS DEBRAY. (NOTE: WE WERE AWARE AND REPORTED AT THE TIME OF THE DEBRAY RELEASE THAT MANY IN THE GOB, INCLUDING LEFTIST PRESIDENT TORRES HIMSELF, WERE RESENTFUL OF WHAT THEY FELT TO BE HEAVY-HANDED FRENCH PRESSURE IN BEHALF OF DEBRAY.) ADET ADDED THAT IT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA AT THE TIME FOR THE GOB TO ASK THE GOF TO RETURN DEBRAY TO BOLIVIA CHARGING THAT DEBRAY WAS, AND STILL IS, INVOLVING HIMSELF IN SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES AGAINST THE GOB, THEREBY VIOLATING THE TERMS OF HIS RELEASE.

3. TO SUM UP, HOWEVER, ADET TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE QUESTION OF WHAT TO DO WITH ALTMANN IS BEING STUDIED BY A SPECIALLY CONSTITUTED COMMISSION OF JURISTS AND THAT A DECISION WILL NOT BE MADE UNTIL THEIR LEGAL OPINION IS GIVEN TO THE GOB. GP-4 SIRACUSA  
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#1047

**SECRET**