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 INFO RULPALJ/USCINCSO
 RUFJC/AMEMBASSY PARIS 99
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 UNCLAS LA PAZ 0956

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: ALTMANN CASE

1. IN PRESS DECLARATION PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY 18 LA PAZ PRESS MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS GUTIERREZ STATED THAT WHILE ALTMANN CASE REMAINS UNDER STUDY WITHIN MINISTRY, "GOF HAD NOT FORMALLY REQUESTED EXTRADITION." EL DIARIO OF FEBRUARY 19 CLARIFIED STATEMENT IN AFP DATED LINE ARTICLE IN WHICH FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES NOTED THAT GOF HAD PRESENTED ONLY A "VERBAL NOTE," AND THAT CONSIDERING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CASE, THE MINISTRY REQUIRED A "FORMAL NOTE." HOWEVER, FEBRUARY 19 HOY CARRIED FRENCH-DATED LINE STORY WHICH RECOUNTED STEPS GOF HAD TAKEN IN CASE, INCLUDING HAVING PRESENTED A REQUEST FOR EXTRADITION.

2. FEBRUARY 19 PRESENCIA CARRIED AN INTERVIEW WHICH ALTMANN GAVE TO EFE AND PUEBLO OF MADRID CORRESPONDENTS ON FEBRUARY 18. ALTMANN WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT HE IS PROUD OF BEING A NATURALIZED BOLIVIAN CITIZEN AND THAT HE WANTS TO REMAIN IN BOLIVIA AND "WORK AS BEFORE." HE REPORTEDLY STATED THAT THE ACCUSATION THAT HE IS BARBIE WAS BROUGHT ABOUT BY INTRIGUES INVOLVING CIA TRANSMARITIMA BOLIVIANA, OF WHICH HE IS PRESIDENT. HE ALSO OBSERVED THAT HE KNOWS WHO HAD MADE THE ACCUSATIONS. HON ON HIS WARTIME EXPERIENCES HE STATED THAT HE HAD "CARRIED OUT HIS DUTIES AS ANY SOLDIER SHOULD." THE

SECRET

FOR COORDINATION WITH DOT

501-Altman
 DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
 NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
 DATE 2000 2006

CASE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION		CLASSIFIED MESSAGE	TOTAL COPIES	ROUTING AND/OR INITIALS-SEEN BY	
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EFE ARTICLE COMMENTED THAT ALTMANN APPEARED "CALM AND UNEMOTIONAL."

3. A MUNICH AFP DATED LINE STORY CARRIED IN EL DIARIO REPORTED THAT "NAZI HUNTER" BEATE KLARSFELD WILL ARRIVE IN LA PAZ ON FEBRUARY 20. SHE REPORTEDLY WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A MRS HALAUNBRENNER, WHO IS SAID TO CLAIM THAT BARBIE EXECUTED HER HUSBAND AND SENT HER THREE CHILDREN TO THE AUSCHWITZ GAS CHAMBERS IN 1943.

4. COMMENT: ALTMANN IS APPARENTLY RECEIVING POLICE PROTECTION IN A PRIVATE HOUSE IN THIS CITY. HIS PROPENSITY TO GIVE PRESS INTERVIEWS AND HAVE HIS PICTURE PUBLISHED IN THE PRESS MAY INDICATE THAT HE FEELS RELATIVELY SECURE AT THIS TIME. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S POSITION ON THE EXTRADITION REQUEST MAY INDICATE A DESIRE OF THE GOB TO DELAY HAVING TO MAKE A DECISION ON THE CASE. SIRACUSA

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