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KLAUS ALTMAN'S EXTRADITION REQUEST RETURNED TO PERU

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[Text] La Paz, 2 Apr--The Bolivian Supreme Court has returned to Peru the extradition request for the German-born Bolivian citizen Klaus Altman because it is lacking in procedural formalities. The Bolivian court made the decision during a plenary session in the city of Sucre last Friday. It considers that, according to the legal treaty signed between Bolivia and Peru, documents issued by state officials must be authentic and legalized according to the laws of the issuing state in order to have any value.

In addition they should be authenticated by diplomatic or consular agents of the country to which they will be submitted.

The decision of the Bolivian Supreme Court states that the extradition request submitted by Peru does not comply with the latter requirement and, since it is necessary to comply with this formality to consider the case, using the powers granted by Article 31 of the multilateral treaty of Montevideo, the court decided to return the request to Peru through the Bolivian Foreign Minis to correct the omission.

In the meantime, Klaus Altman, against whom Peru has filed extradition proceedings for income tax evasion, is still being held at the public jail in La Paz where his defense lawyer, Constantino Carrion, is also being held now. The 75-year-old Carrion was jailed at 1000 hours last Saturday by order of the third penal instruction judge, Silvia Aramayo, after a preliminary hearing of charges brought against him for using a document which the authorities consider to be a forgery. This case is in no way related to the Altman case.

Speaking about his arrest, Constantino Carrion said that he is suffering the reprisal of the district judicial authorities as a result of statements which he made to the press 2 weeks ago in which he complained of the administration of justice in the country regarding the situation of his client, Klaus Altman. Concerning the charge lodged against him, Carrion recalled that in a case in which he was the defense lawyer, a client gave him a document on the basis of which he asked the judge to release his client. This occurred 4 months ago and last Friday Carrion was ordered to appear before the third penal instruction judge for a hearing, after which the judge decided to order his arrest.

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