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BOLIVIA

LA PAZ COURT RULES ALTMANN AND BARBIE SAME PERSON

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[Excerpts] La Paz, 9 August--Former SS Capt Klaus Altamann and the "Butcher of Lyon," Klaus Barbie, are the same person. This was the conclusion reached today by the La Paz court of Justice following a careful examination of the documents presented by the French Embassy in Bolivia.

This is the first pronouncement by the La Paz Court of Justice within the extradition proceedings initiated by the Paris government through its embassy in La Paz against the former captain of the German SS. Altamann has been detained in the La Paz state jail since 2 March by order of the former district prosecutor, Gaston Ledezma, who found suspicious indications about the double identity of the German-born Bolivian citizen.

The conclusions of the La Paz court will be sent to Bolivia's supreme court with headquarters in Sucre, southeast of La Paz, so that this court may make the final decision.

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Klaus

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