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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
2000

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TEXT

SERIAL: DIADIN 111-9A  
SUBJ: BOLIVIA: ARMS DELIVERY. (U)  
DOI: 20 APR 84 (AS OF 1458 EST)  
TEXT: 1. (C/NF) AN 18 APRIL FRENCH DELIVERY OF 2,000  
SUBMACHINEGUNS AND AMMUNITION INTENDED FOR THE INTERIOR MINISTRY  
HAS PROVOKED A SERIOUS MILITARY REACTION.  
2. (C/NF) THE ARMS ARE REPORTEDLY PART OF A SHIPMENT THE FRENCH  
AGREED TO GIVE THE INTERIOR MINISTRY IN EXCHANGE FOR THE  
EXTRADITION OF NAZI WAR CRIMINAL **KLAUS BARBIE** IN FEBRUARY 1983. A  
FRENCH CARGO JET DISCHARGED 8 TONS OF THE WEAPONS IN LA PAZ AND  
THEN PROCEEDED TO SANTA CRUZ, WHERE IT UNLOADED 12 MORE TONS.  
ALTHOUGH THE CRATES WERE LABELED "FOODSTUFFS," AIR FORCE OFFICIALS  
AT BOTH DELIVERY POINTS RECOGNIZED THE BOXES PROBABLY CONTAINED  
ARMS AND CONFISCATED THE CARGO.  
3. (C/NF) INTERIOR MINISTER FEDERICO ALVAREZ, ON HAND IN LA PAZ  
TO ACCEPT THE DELIVERY, EXPLAINED THE WEAPONS WERE INTENDED FOR  
POLICE ANTINARCOTICS EFFORTS AND THAT THE FALSE LABELING WAS AN  
ATTEMPT TO AVOID "BUREAUCRATIC DELAYS" AT THE AIRPORT. RIGHTWING  
POLITICAL GROUPS, HOWEVER, ARE LINKING THE ARMS DELIVERY TO THE  
ALLEGED FORMATION OF GOVERNMENT-SUPPORTED LEFTIST PARAMILITARY  
GROUPS. SENIOR MILITARY OFFICIALS ARE ANGRY THAT THEY WERE NOT  
NOTIFIED BEFORE THE SHIPMENT AND HAVE REFUSED TO GIVE THE WEAPONS  
TO THE POLICE.  
4. (C/NF) COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE INTERIOR MINISTRY IS SAYING THE  
DELIVERY WAS A ROUTINE MATTER, THE CLANDESTINE MANNER IN WHICH IT  
WAS HANDLED HAS CREATED DEEP SUSPICION IN THE MILITARY. THE ARMY

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AND THE AIR FORCE ARE HISTORICALLY DISTRUSTFUL OF THE POLICE, WHO WERE USED AGAINST THEM IN THE 1952 REVOLUTION. MOREOVER, NUMEROUS REPORTS DURING THE PAST YEAR HAVE TOLD OF ALLEGED INTERIOR MINISTRY LINKS TO INSURGENCY TRAINING FOR PRO-SILES LEFTISTS, AND SUBMINISTER OF INTERIOR GUSTAVO SANCHEZ IS WIDELY BELIEVED TO BE A CUBAN AGENT.

5. (C/NF) THE ARMS DELIVERY COMES AT AN INOPPORTUNE TIME FOR PRESIDENT SILES, WHO WAS COUNTING ON MILITARY SUPPORT TO QUELL THREATENED LABOR UNREST AND PUBLIC DISORDERS RESULTING FROM HIS RECENTLY ENACTED AUSTERITY PROGRAM. THE INTERIOR MINISTRY EXPLANATION WILL NOT ALLAY MILITARY SUSPICIONS. INDEED, IT WILL GOVERNMENT EVEN WIDER.

PREP: CAPT B. CHRISTIANSEN, USAF, JSI-4B, 695-1606

DECL: OADR

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