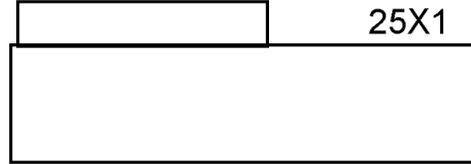


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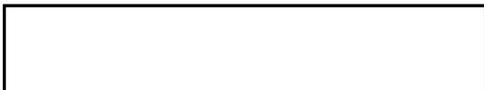
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9 September 1969

# *Central Intelligence Bulletin*

## CONTENTS

Bolivia: General Ovando says he will overthrow the government this week. (Page 3)

25X1

Approved For Release 2004/03/11 : CIA-RDP79T00975A014500050002-4

Next 2 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2004/03/11 : CIA-RDP79T00975A014500050002-4

Bolivia: Armed Forces Commander General Ovando stated categorically yesterday that he intends to take power sometime this week.

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US Ambassador Castro believes that Ovando has finally decided to overthrow President Siles as he had threatened to do in private talks with Bolivian politicians last week. The ambassador believes that Ovando may interpret US recognition of the Brazilian military junta and the rapid recognition of the military regime in Libya as a slackening in the US traditional wait-and-see policy regarding the recognition of new military governments.

When Ovando decides to move against Siles, he is unlikely to meet with much opposition. He has the support of most military leaders. Opposition political groups are too disorganized by factional strife to offer much initial resistance.

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