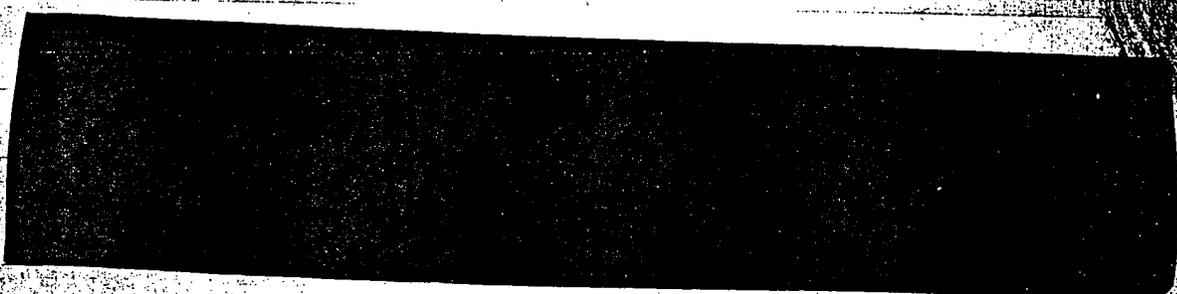


Top Secret



Bolivia

Congresswoman Lidia Gueiler was unanimously elected interim president by the Bolivian Congress yesterday to serve until 6 August 1980, [redacted]

[redacted] She will turn over power to the winner of a general election that is to be held on 4 May 1980. Just before yesterday's vote, the Congress revoked the mandate given last August to former President Guevara, who was ousted on 1 November in a military coup led by Colonel Natusch. Natusch, whose attempt to form a government was widely resisted, announced his resignation after Gueiler assumed office. Active in politics for 30 years, Gueiler had been president of the Chamber of Deputies, the lower house of the Bolivian Congress. She becomes the first woman president in the country's history. [redacted]

b(1) b(3)

Top Secret
17 November 1979

Approved for Release