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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

PRIORITY

Intelligence Information Cable

*Bolivia*

COUNTRY BOLIVIA

DISTR. 20 SEPTEMBER 1964

SUBJECT

ORDERS BY THE BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT TO ARREST ALL  
OPPOSITION LEADERS REPORTEDLY INVOLVED IN AN ATTEMPT  
AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT

EO 12958  
3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs  
(C)

REF

EO 12958  
3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs  
(C)

1. COMMENT: A STATE OF SIEGE WAS DECLARED BY THE BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT AT 3:00 A.M. ON 20 SEPTEMBER 1964. IN THE CITIES OF LA PAZ, ORURO, COCHABAMBA, AND SANTA CRUZ. POLICE UNITS IN ORURO RECEIVED THE ORDER AT 7:00 A.M.)

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs  
(C)

2. AT APPROXIMATELY 10:00 A.M. ON 20 SEPTEMBER, THE STATE OF SIEGE WAS EXTENDED FOR THE ENTIRE COUNTRY. THE ORDERS FOR THE ARREST OF PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION LEADERS WAS EXTENDED TO INCLUDE ALL OF THE LEADERS OF THE PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO DE IZQUIERDA NACIONAL (PRIN- THE NATIONAL LEFTIST REVOLUTIONARY PARTY), HEADED BY FORMER VICE PRESIDENT JUAN LECHIN OQUENDO; THE FALANGE SOLIALISTA BOLIVIANO

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(FSB- BOLIVIAN FALANGE PARTY), THE PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO AUTENTICO (PRA- AUTHENTIC REVOLUTIONARY PARTY) , THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF BOLIVIA (PCB), AND ALL THE PRINCIPAL SUPPORTERS OF FORMER PRESIDENT HERNAN SILES ZUAZO.

3. GENERAL CLAUDIO SAN ROMAN, THE HEAD OF THE BOLIVIAN DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTION (DI), AND CIRO HUMBOLDT BARRERO, THE MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT, HAD RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM THEIR INFORMANTS THAT THE LEADERS OF THE FSB, PRA, AND PRIN WERE PLANNING A COUP WHICH WAS TO INCLUDE THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT VICTOR PAZ ESTENSSORO, VICE PRESIDENT RENE BARRIENTOS ORTUNO, AND GENERAL EDUARDO RIVAS UGALDEI, THE HEAD OF THE NATIONAL POLICY COMMISSION OF THE GOVERNMENT PARTY. THE INITIAL STAGES FOR THE COUP WERE SUPPOSED TO BE SET BY INSURRECTION IN THE PRINCIPAL CITIES OF THE INTERIOR, AND THEN SPREAD TO THE CAPITAL CITY OF LA PAZ. [REDACTED] NO ATTEMPT HAS BEEN MADE AGAINST ANY OF THESE PERSONS. THERE IS NO INDICATION OF PCB INVOLVEMENT IN THIS.)

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4. AS OF 3:00 P.M. ON 20 SEPTEMBER 26 PERSONS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED. FORMER PRESIDENT SILES IS BEING HELD IN THE JAIL OF THE NATIONAL POLICE. AMADO RODRIGUEZ ASPAZU, A LEADER OF THE FSB, IS BEING HELD IN THE JAIL OF THE DI. THE OTHER 24 PERSONS ARRESTED HAVE NOT BEEN IDENTIFIED. [REDACTED] MOST OF THE SECURITY PERSONNEL NORMALLY ENGAGED IN REGISTRATION OF PRISONERS ARE NOW SEARCHING FOR THE OPPOSITION LEADERS.

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5. ALL MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL POLICE, THE BOLIVIAN MILITARY, AND THE MILITIA UNITS UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE GOVERNMENT, ARE NOW

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CONFINED TO THEIR BARRACKS ON STAND-BY ORDERS. PRESIDENT PAZ AND VICE PRESIDENT BARRIENTOS ARE IN LA PAZ. THE NATIONAL CONGRESS IS SCHEDULED TO CONVENE ON 21 SEPTEMBER TO APPROVE THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS. THE GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO ARREST ANY OPPOSITION LEADERS IN THE CONGRESS, THEIR CONGRESSIONAL IMMUNITY NOTWITHSTANDING, IF THEY ARE FOUND TO BE INVOLVED IN THE PROPOSED COUP.

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6. [REDACTED] THE PRINCIPAL PROVISIONS FOR THE STATE OF SEIGE INCLUDE A PROHIBITION AGAINST ANY TWO PERSONS BEING SEEN TOGETHER AFTER 11:00 P.M.; NO POLITICAL GATHERINGS; NO PARTIES OR DRINKING; AND NO SALE OF LIQUOR; THE STATE OF SEIGE IS ESTABLISHED FOR A PERIOD OF 90 DAYS, HOWEVER IT CAN BE TERMINATED AT AN EARLIER DATE IF THE GOVERNMENT SO DESIRES.)

7. [REDACTED] COMMENT: ALTHOUGH IT MAY BE TRUE THAT THE OPPOSITION LEADERS WERE PLANNING AN OVERTHROW OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE FACT THAT SUCH AN OVERTHROW WAS PLANNED TO BEGIN FIRST IN THE CITIES OF THE INTERIOR AND THEN SPREAD TO LA PAZ IS AN INDICATION THAT EITHER THE PROPOSED COUP WAS VERY BADLY PLANNED OR ELSE THE GOVERNMENT IS USING USING THIS COUP AS A PRETEXT TO MOVE AGAINST THE OPPOSITION LEADERS AT THIS TIME.)

8. [REDACTED] DISSEM: STATE, ARMY, A#R, CINCSO.

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END OF MESSAGE

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