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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Intelligence Information Cable

• PRIORITY

COUNTRY BOLIVIA

DISTR. 6 NOVEMBER 1964

SUBJECT

COMMENTS OF RENE BARRIENTO ORTUNO ON THE MILITARY  
TAKEOVER OF THE BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT

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

REF

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

1. RENE BARRIENTOS ORTUNO, PRESIDENT OF THE MILITARY JUNTA, SAID ON 6 NOVEMBER 1964 THAT THE REASON HE WANTED AND IMPLEMENTED THE MILITARY TAKEOVER OF BOLIVIA WAS SO THE COMMUNISTS WOULD NOT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE REVOLUTION. HE WANTS THE UNITED STATES TO RECOGNIZE HIS GOVERNMENT AND TO CONTINUE ITS AID.

2. ACCORDING TO BARRIENTOS, THE FIRST JOB OF HIS NEW GOVERNMENT IS "TO CONSOLIDATE ITSELF". AFTERWARDS THE COMMUNISTS WILL BE ELIMINATED SYSTEMATICALLY. FOR THE TIME BEING IT IS NECESSARY FOR HIM TO BALANCE THE COMMUNISTS AGAINST THE FALANGISTAS IN THE GOVERNMENT.

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PAGE 2

3. BARRIENTOS SAID THAT HE IS VERY SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO GENERAL ALFREDO OVANDO CANDIA. IF BARRIENTOS HAD KNOWN THAT OVANDO WAS LOSING THE FAITH AND SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE, HE WOULD HAVE COME TO LA PAZ FROM COCHABAMBA SOONER. IT IS ONLY BECAUSE OF THE REACTION OF THE PEOPLE TO OVANDO'S LEADERSHIP THAT HE HAS BEEN ELIMINATED FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

4. [REDACTED] DISSEM: STATE ARMY AIR CINCSO.

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END OF MESSAGE

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