

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

COUNTRY Bolivia

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT Reaction to Barrientos Revolution in Bolivian Mining Circles

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REFERENCES

DATE OF INFO. [REDACTED]
PLACE & DATE ACQ [REDACTED]

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE: [REDACTED]

1. A university-educated Bolivian mining engineer, [REDACTED] wrote the following in a confidential letter to one of his correspondents under [REDACTED]
2. "As you perhaps know from the newspapers, we had a revolution here in Bolivia last week which brought a new government in the form of a military council headed by the new President, General Barrientos, who was the former Vice President. The Army says that this revolution is a 'restorer revolution,' but this is not the truth.
3. "The real situation in this country is confusing. You know that the miners are Communists and that they are working hard with their leader, Lechin, and other Communists like Pimentel and Escobar who have been freed from prison now. Lechin, as the miners' spokesman, accepts this new government. Meanwhile, Lechin has forced the President to make his brother, General Juan Lechin [sic], the head of COMIBOL (the government-owned Bolivian Mining Corporation). Things like that make the situation a little dangerous.
4. "Both the privately-owned mines and those of COMIBOL are apparently working in a normal manner, but ... they are not picking up their old orders for mining equipment. The managers of the mines say that they are 'waiting.' I do not know for what they are waiting, nor does anyone else. It is not advisable yet to travel to the Potosi, Quechisla and Colquiri mines until the situation becomes normal."

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
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S-Yes

U-Yes

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Date MAR 1999

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