

DIA

DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY (U)

(b)(3):10 USC
424

1 DIA/RIS-2

25 OCTOBER 1980
(FOR JULIAN DAY 298)



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Date: Oct 18, 2018

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ARGENTINA-BOLIVIA: Argentine collaboration with Bolivian security forces has III-2
apparently resumed after a lull. ~~(S//WNINTEL/NOFORN/NOCONTRACT)~~ DIADIN
298-2A

25 Oct 80

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BOLIVIA: Several groups and individuals are reportedly interested in overthrowing the Garcia Meza-led government. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ DIADIN 298-10A III-3

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DIADIN 298-2A
AS OF 0250 EDT
24 OCT 80

ARGENTINA-BOLIVIA: INTERNAL SECURITY COOPERATION. (U)

~~(S/WNINTEL/NOFORN/NOCONTRACT)~~ ARGENTINE COLLABORATION WITH BOLIVIAN SECURITY FORCES HAS APPARENTLY RESUMED FOLLOWING A LULL.

~~(S/WNINTEL/NOFORN/NOCONTRACT)~~ Sec. 3.3(b)(1)
THE ARGENTINE STATE SECRETARIAT FOR INTELLIGENCE (SIDE), THE PRINCIPAL INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION OF THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT WITH TIES TO BOTH MILITARY AND POLICE SECURITY COMPONENTS, REPORTEDLY CONDUCTED A 7-DAY COURSE IN ANTI-SUBVERSIVE INTELLIGENCE FOR 14 BOLIVIAN STUDENTS. AMONG THE STUDENTS WERE THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR AND OTHER EMPLOYEES OF THE NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS DIRECTORATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL ORDER. THREE SECTION CHIEFS, PRESUMABLY FROM THE ARMED FORCES, ALSO ATTENDED CLASSES AT THE BOLIVIAN ARMY GENERAL STAFF HEADQUARTERS.

~~(S/WNINTEL/NOFORN/NOCONTRACT)~~ DURING THE SESSIONS ON INTERROGATION, THE ARGENTINE INSTRUCTORS WERE SAID TO EMPHASIZE PSYCHOLOGICAL PRESSURE AS A METHOD OF OBTAINING INFORMATION. THEY ALSO REPORTEDLY PROVIDED INSTRUCTION ON PHYSICAL MEASURES, EMPHASIZING THOSE LEAVING NO MARKS. ON TWO OCCASIONS, POLITICAL DETAINEES WERE SAID TO HAVE BEEN BROUGHT IN FOR DEMONSTRATION PURPOSES, BUT WERE REPORTEDLY NOT PHYSICALLY MISTREATED. SINCE ARGENTINE AID TO THE BOLIVIAN REGIME BEFORE AND AFTER THE 17 JULY COUP BECAME A CONTROVERSIAL INTERNATIONAL ISSUE, BOTH NATIONS HAVE WORKED HARD TO PLAY DOWN ANY MILITARY-SECURITY TIES. THE USE OF SIDE CREDENTIALS AND CIVILIAN CLOTHES BY THE ARGENTINE OFFICIALS SUGGESTS AWARENESS OF A CONTINUING NEED TO RETAIN PLAUSIBLE DENIAL OF OFFICIAL MILITARY INVOLVEMENT. Sec. 3.3(b)(1)

THE SIDE INSTRUCTORS REPORTEDLY HAD PROVIDED SUCH TRAINING IN THE PAST AND WERE TO RETURN TO BOLIVIA IN EARLY NOVEMBER TO GIVE A SIMILAR COURSE TO BOLIVIAN AIR FORCE PERSONNEL. ~~(REVW 22 OCT 80)~~

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BOLIVIA: COUP PLOTTING. (U)

~~(C/NOFORN)~~ THE COURSE OF EVENTS IS ONCE AGAIN LEADING TO COUP RUMORS. SEVERAL GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS ARE REPORTEDLY INTERESTED IN OVERTHROWING THE GARCIA MEZA-LED GOVERNMENT. GENERAL CONCERNS CENTER AROUND THE REGIME'S NOTORIETY, ITS POOR INTERNATIONAL IMAGE, AND A DETERIORATING ECONOMY. OVERRIDING THE ISSUES ARE THE PERSONAL AMBITIONS DRIVING THE USUAL MACHINATIONS AMONG MEMBERS OF THE OFFICER CORPS.

~~(S/WNINTEL/NOFORN/NOCONTRACT)~~ ALTHOUGH SOME HARDLINE OFFICERS ARE SAID TO BE PLOTTING, THE MOST SERIOUS PLOTTERS CURRENTLY SEEM TO BE A GROUP OF MODERATE OFFICERS WHO REPORTEDLY HAVE BEEN JOINED BY COL NATUSCH, LEADER OF THE SHORT-LIVED NOVEMBER 1979 COUP. THEIR BACKING IS UNCLEAR. KEY UNIT COMMANDERS IN THE LA PAZ AREA HAVE BEEN SHOWING VARIOUS DEGREES OF SUPPORT, WHILE THOSE OUTSIDE THE CAPITOL HAVE APPARENTLY EXPRESSED SOME INTEREST AND MODERATE SUPPORT.

~~(C/NOFORN)~~ ALTHOUGH THE TIMING AND SPECIFIC PLAYERS ARE HARD TO DISCERN, A CHANGE IN THE NEAR FUTURE IS POSSIBLE, ESPECIALLY IF THE ECONOMY CONTINUES TO DETERIORATE AND UNPOPULAR ECONOMIC MEASURES SUCH AS A PESO DEVALUATION AND SUBSIDY REDUCTIONS ARE ANNOUNCED. THE ANNUAL ASSIGNMENT LIST WILL REPORTEDLY BE PUBLISHED IN MID-NOVEMBER, ABOUT 6 WEEKS EARLIER THAN USUAL. IF TRUE, GARCIA MEZA WILL NO DOUBT DISPERSE SUSPECTED PLOTTERS AWAY FROM LA PAZ AND GAIN THE ALLEGIANCE OF POTENTIAL SUPPORTERS BY PLACING THEM IN MORE IMPORTANT OR PERSONALLY LUCRATIVE POSITIONS. ALSO, CONSCRIPTS TRAINING WILL BE AT A PEAK IN THE NEXT 2 MONTHS. NORMALLY, ABOUT HALF THEIR TOTAL NUMBER ARE DRAFTED FOR 1 YEAR EACH JUNE AND JANUARY, THEREBY PUTTING MILITARY READINESS AT A MAXIMUM JUST BEFORE EACH SEMIANNUAL INDUCTION. THIS SITUATION HAS EXISTED AT THE TIME OF TWO OF THE LAST THREE COUPS.

~~(S/WNINTEL/NOFORN/NOCONTRACT)~~ ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE IS LITTLE CONFIRMED EVIDENCE OF THE PLOTTERS CLAIMED SUPPORT. THEY REPORTEDLY DO NOT HAVE THE FUNDS ON HAND TO FINANCE A COUP. ALSO, THE OFFICER CORPS' IMAGE OF THE MODERATELY INCLINED PLOTTERS IS NOT NECESSARILY VERY POSITIVE BASED ON THEIR PREVIOUS ACTIVITIES AND ASSOCIATIONS WITH FORMER GOVERNMENTS.

~~(C/NOFORN)~~ WHO WILL SUPPORT WHOM AND WHAT BACKING THE PLOTTERS MAY COUNT ON IS NOT CLEAR AS VENAL ASPIRATIONS AND

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SHIFTING LOYALTIES FREQUENTLY RESULT IN COMPETING CLIQUES
WITHIN THE MILITARY. AT THE PRESENT TIME, RIVAL GROUPS WILL
NEED TO STRIKE DEALS PRIOR TO ANY ATTEMPT TO CHANGE THE
CURRENT REGIME. HOWEVER, AS HAS BEEN THE CASE BEFORE, SUCH
A COALESCING OF GOALS CAN OCCUR QUICKLY. ~~(REVW 22 OCT 00)~~

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