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PAGE 01 BUENOS 06637 200156Z  
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SSO-00 /031 W  
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6424  
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~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ BUENOS AIRES 6637

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E.O. 12065: XDS 8/18/00 (RUSER, CLAUS W.) OR-M  
TAGS: MILI, PINS, BL, AR  
SUBJECT: BOLIVIA AND US-ARGENTINE RELATIONS - CONVERSATION  
WITH AIR FORCE GENERAL GARCIA

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. ON AUGUST 12, OVER LUNCH GENERAL JUAN GARCIA (AIR FORCE  
DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL), WHOM I HAVE KNOWN SINCE HIS  
TOUR IN WASHINGTON AS AIR FORCE ATTACHE, DISCUSSED WITH  
APPARENT CANDOR THE ARGENTINE ACTIONS IN BOLIVIA AND  
REACTION TO POSTPONEMENT OF THE BOWDLER VISIT.

3. ON BOLIVIA, HE CLAIMED, THE DECISION TO PROCEED WITH  
THE COUP HAD BEEN GARCIA MEZA'S. THE COUP COULD NOT  
HAVE COME AT A WORSE TIME; IT SHOULD HAVE COME, IF AT ALL,  
EITHER MUCH EARLIER OR MUCH LATER. THE ARGENTINE ADVICE, GARCIA  
CLAIMED, HAD BEEN THAT SILES ZUAZO BE PERMITTED TO TAKE  
OFFICE AND THAT HE BE REPLACED ONLY AFTER HE DEMONSTRATES HIS  
INCAPACITY TO GOVERN. GARCIA MEZA, HOWEVER, HAD RE-  
SPONDED THAT HE COULD NOT WAIT; LEFTIST INFILTRATION  
WAS PROCEEDING TOO RAPIDLY. (I SPECIFICALLY ASKED  
WHETHER THE DESIRABILITY TO DEFER A COUP HAD BEEN AN  
AIR FORCE POINT OF VIEW; HE ALLEGED IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S.)

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4. REACTION TO POSTPONEMENT OF BOWDLER VISIT. GEN.  
GARCIA (LIKE ALL MY OTHER INTERLOCUTORS) STRESSED  
ARGENTINA'S GOOD WILL TOWARD THE UNITED STATES. AS  
EVIDENCE, HE CITED THAT THERE WAS VIRTUALLY NO ANTI-  
AMERICAN GOVERNMENT-INSPIRED MATERIAL IN THE ARGENTINE  
PRESS. (COMMENT. THIS IS ESSENTIALLY CORRECT FOR THE  
PRESS.) GENERAL GRAFFIGNA WAS PERSONALLY INTERESTED  
IN FINDING WAYS TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS DESPITE  
BOLIVIA. (COMMENT. I EXPECT TO CALL ON GRAFFIGNA,  
WHO HAS BEEN OUT OF TOWN, IN THE NEXT WEEK OR SO.)

5. GENERAL GARCIA WONDERED HOW WE SAW BOLIVIA'S  
FUTURE, WHAT CURRENT US OBJECTIVES WERE, AND HOW US-  
ARGENTINE RELATIONS COULD BE IMPROVED. HE RAISED THE  
IDEA OF AN ARGENTINE EMISSARY TO WASHINGTON. PURSUANT  
TO THE DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS, I DISCOURAGED THE  
IDEA, NOTING THAT THE TIME WAS NOT RIGHT FOR THIS.

RUSER

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~~Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP~~  
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IPS by W Date 12-15-16

Declassified Case: 17X-87067 Date: 06-07-2013

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