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ACTION INL-00

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P 301502Z JUL 02
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 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4023
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 AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
 USCINCSO MIAMI FL
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DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 09 LA PAZ 002723

STATE FOR WHA, WHA/AND, INL, EB AND DRL
NSC FOR AMBASSADOR MAISTO

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/26/2012
TAGS: PREL, SNAR, ECON, ETRD, ENRG, PGOV, PHUM, BL
SUBJECT: SCENESETTER: BOLIVIA'S AUGUST 6 TRANSITION, THE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
CLASSIFIED BY DEPT. OF STATE, L. R. LOHMAN, DAS, A/RPS
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 26 JUL 2012
DATE/CASE ID: 26 NOV 2003 200102870

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 2002LAPAZ02723

Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200102870

CHALLENGES AHEAD, AND THE U.S. ROLE

CLASSIFIED BY: ECON/POL CHIEF DAVID WOLFE. REASONS 1.5 B AND D.

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: A RESULT OF BOLIVIA'S FIFTH STRAIGHT FREE AND FAIR ELECTION SINCE CIVILIAN RULE WAS RESTORED IN 1982, THE AUGUST 6 GOVERNMENT TRANSITION MARKS ANOTHER IMPORTANT MILESTONE IN THE CONSOLIDATION OF BOLIVIAN DEMOCRACY. THE FINAL ELECTION RESULTS CONFOUNDED THE PRE-ELECTION, POLL-BASED WISDOM, DEMONSTRATING CLEARLY THE POWER OF BOLIVIAN VOTERS. CENTRIST, FREE-MARKET EX-PRESIDENT GONZALO SANCHEZ DE LOZADA ("GONI") WAS THE UNEXPECTED FIRST PLACE FINISHER, WHILE THE RADICAL LEFT EMERGED STRONG AS WELL, WITH ILLEGAL COCA AGITATOR EVO MORALES SURGING INTO A NARROW SECOND PLACE WIN. ON JULY 25, THE FOURTH-PLACE MIR PARTY LED BY JAIME PAZ ZAMORA PUT ASIDE HISTORICAL ANIMOSITIES AND ACCEPTED AN MNR OFFER TO FORM A COALITION GOVERNMENT, ASSURING GONI A VICTORY IN THE AUGUST 2 CONGRESSIONAL RUN-OFF WITH MORALES AND A GOVERNING MAJORITY IN BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS.

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2. (SBU) REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY IN BOLIVIA, HOWEVER, IS UNDER PRESSURE.

[REDACTED] A VARIETY OF "ANTI-SYSTEMIC" MOVEMENTS CONTINUE TO DEMAND CHANGES TO BOLIVIA'S DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM, CHANGES THAT WOULD ELEVATE GROUP REPRESENTATIVES (PARTICULARLY FROM INDIGENOUS, LABOR, SMALL FARMERS AND OTHER POOR COMMUNITIES) ABOVE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES INTO DECISION-MAKING ROLES. [REDACTED]

B1

[REDACTED] IN REPEATED STATEMENTS SINCE THE JUNE 30 ELECTION, MORALES HAS THREATENED TO USE PROTESTS TO FORCE THE NEWLY ELECTED CONGRESS TO SELECT HIM AS PRESIDENT OR TO BRING DOWN A GONI-LED GOVERNMENT, [REDACTED]

B1

[REDACTED]

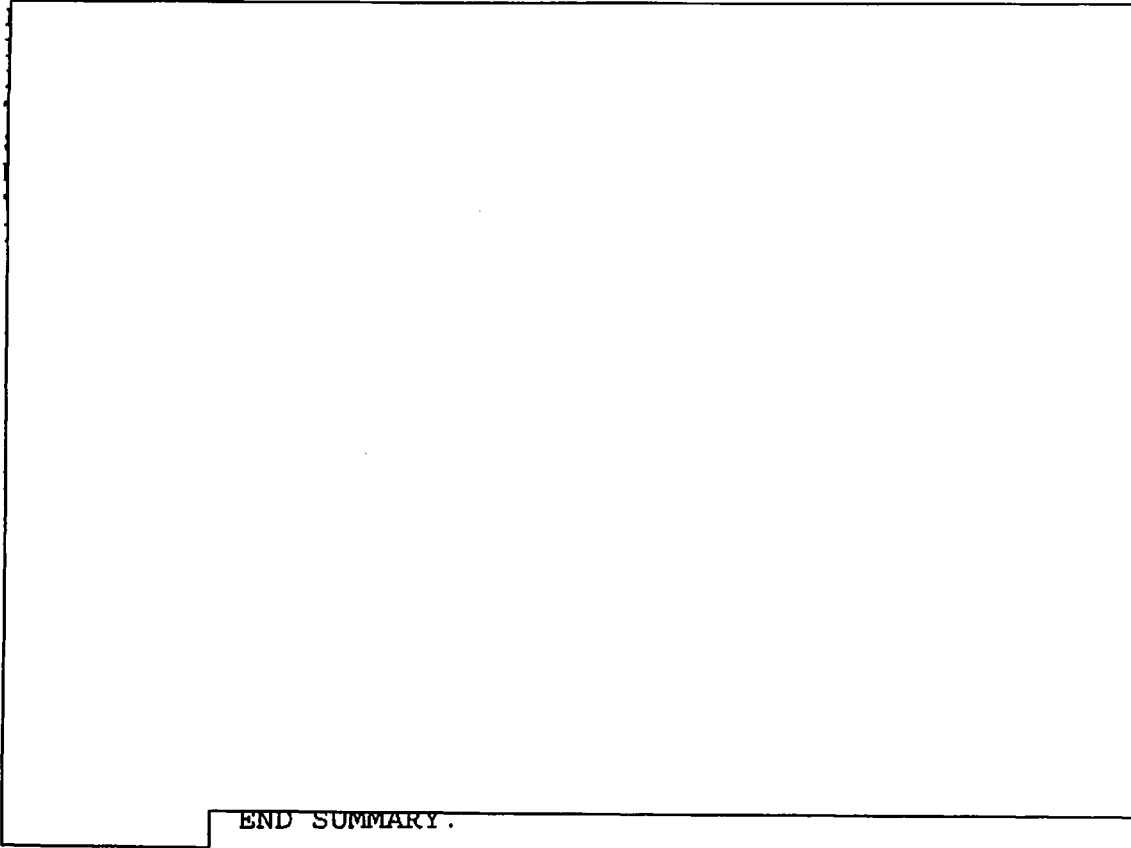
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BI

END SUMMARY.

THE ELECTION AND THE TRAVAILS OF FORMING A GOVERNMENT

5. (SBU) SEVENTY PERCENT OF BOLIVIA'S REGISTERED VOTERS CAST A BALLOT ON JUNE 30, DIVIDING THEIR VOTES AMONG FOUR MAJOR AND A FEW LESSER PARTIES. IN THE FINAL COUNT, BOLIVIA'S

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G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/012W			

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P 301502Z JUL 02
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 AMEMBASSY QUITO
 AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
 AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
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 USCINCSO MIAMI FL
 USDOC WASHDC 1232
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 09 LA PAZ 002723

STATE FOR WHA, WHA/AND, INL, EB AND DRL
NSC FOR AMBASSADOR MAISTO

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/26/2012
 TAGS: PREL, SNAR, ECON, ETRD, ENRG, PGOV, PHUM, BL
 SUBJECT: SCENESETTER: BOLIVIA'S AUGUST 6 TRANSITION, THE
 CHALLENGES AHEAD, AND THE U.S. ROLE

LONGEST-LIVED PARTY, THE NATIONALIST REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT
 (MNR), TOOK FIRST WITH 22.5 PERCENT OF THE VOTE. THE FIRST
 PLACE FINISH FOR CANDIDATE GONZALO SANCHEZ DE LOZADA
 ("GONI"), COUPLED WITH A STRONG SHOWING IN CONGRESSIONAL
 RACES, MADE THE MNR THE EARLY FAVORITE TO FORM A GOVERNMENT.
 (NOTE: UNDER BOLIVIA'S CONSTITUTION, A JOINT SESSION OF THE
 NEWLY-ELECTED CONGRESS SELECTS BETWEEN THE TOP TWO VOTE
 RECIPIENTS IF NO ONE RECEIVES AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY. END
 NOTE). THE MNR WAS FOLLOWED BY TWO PARTIES AT 21 PERCENT,

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WITH SECOND AND THIRD PLACE SEPARATED BY JUST 700 VOTES, OR ABOUT .03 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL. THE MOVEMENT TOWARDS SOCIALISM (MAS), LED BY ILLEGAL COCA AGITATOR EVO MORALES, ULTIMATELY CLAIMED SECOND AHEAD OF FORMER COCHABAMBA MAYOR AND POPULIST CANDIDATE MANFRED REYES VILLA OF THE NEW REPUBLICAN FORCE (NFR). FORMER PRESIDENT JAIME PAZ ZAMORA (MIR) TOOK FOURTH WITH JUST UNDER 16.5 PERCENT.

6. (SBU) AS A RESULT OF THE VOTE AND THE PECULIAR BOLIVIAN SYSTEM, THE NFR AND MIR PARTIES CONFRONTED UNEXPECTED AND
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 DIFFICULT CHOICES AS THE POSSIBLE KINGMAKERS (COMMENT: PRE-ELECTION POLLS HAD SHOWN THE NFR IN FIRST PLACE, AND COMMON WISDOM WAS THAT THE MIR RANK-AND-FILE WOULD FIND IT RELATIVELY EASY TO SUPPORT THE NFR IN A COALITION GOVERNMENT. AFTER THE BALLOTS WERE COUNTED, THIS OPTION CAME OFF THE TABLE. END COMMENT). EITHER PARTY COULD PRODUCE AN MNR WIN (ONCE THE MUCH-REDUCED, MAINSTREAM UCS AND ADN PARTIES HAD ANNOUNCED SUPPORT FOR THE MNR). ACTING TOGETHER [REDACTED]

B1

THEY COULD ALSO HAVE CREATED A MAS-LED GOVERNMENT. ALTHOUGH BOTH PARTIES EVENTUALLY PLEDGED TO SHUN THE MAS, ELEMENTS IN BOTH PARTIES, PARTICULARLY THE NFR, CONTINUED TO FLIRT WITH THE MORALES' CAMP.

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[REDACTED]
 UNWILLING TO ACCEPT DEFEAT AND JOIN WITH GONT, REYES VILLA ALSO CONTINUES TO CRY ELECTORAL FOUL AND DEMAND A REVIEW OF NATIONAL ELECTORAL COURT (CNE) RESULTS. (COMMENT: THE BOLIVIAN PRESS HAS ALMOST UNANIMOUSLY REJECTED THE NFR ALLEGATIONS, AND A U.S. GOVERNMENT-SUPPORTED OAS ELECTION MONITORING MISSION GENERALLY PRAISED THE CNE AND URGED SUPPORT FOR ITS DECISIONS. THE NFR ALSO FAILED TO LODGE ANY PROTESTS OVER SPECIFIC VOTING BOOTH COUNTS WITHIN THE 48-HOUR TIMEFRAME ALLOWED FOR BY LAW, ALTHOUGH THE NFR ALLEGES THE FRAUD ACTUALLY TOOK PLACE AT CNE HEADQUARTERS. END COMMENT.)

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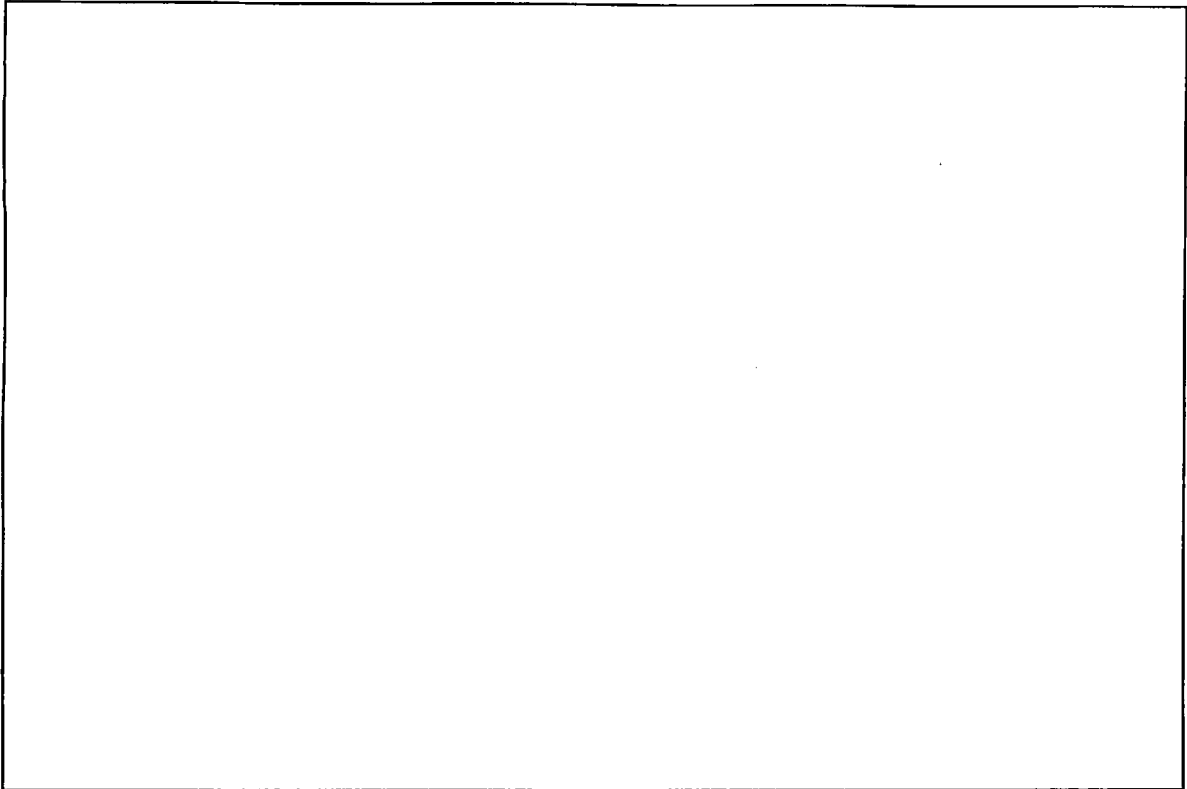
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P 301502Z JUL 02
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NSC WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

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AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
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USDOC WASHDC 1233
DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC
SECDEF WASHINGTON DC

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 09 LA PAZ 002723

STATE FOR WHA, WHA/AND, INL, EB AND DRL
NSC FOR AMBASSADOR MAISTO

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/26/2012
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9. (SBU) WITH THE MIR ON BOARD AND INCLUDING THE VOTES OF THE SMALL UCS AND ADN PARTIES (SUPPORTIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT BUT NOT YET FORMALLY IN THE COALITION), THE GOVERNMENT HAS A 17 TO 10 EDGE IN THE SENATE AND A 71 TO 59 MARGIN IN THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES. FOR ANY MEASURES REQUIRING A TWO-THIRDS VOTE (WHICH WOULD INCLUDE SOME MAJOR CHANGES IN MINISTERIAL PORTFOLIOS ENVISIONED BY THE MNR, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS, AND JUDICIAL AND INDEPENDENT REGULATORY BODY APPOINTMENTS), SUPPORT FROM ELEMENTS OF THE NFR WILL BE ESSENTIAL. ALTHOUGH HE FAILED TO ACT [REDACTED] BY JOINING THE COALITION GOVERNMENT, REYES VILLA WILL HAVE MULTIPLE OPPORTUNITIES IN THE COMING FIVE YEARS TO PROVE HIMSELF AND

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HIS PARTY A LOYAL OPPOSITION BY

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AND SUPPORTING KEY REFORMS IN CONGRESS. IF NOT,
MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY MAY DO SO ON THEIR OWN.



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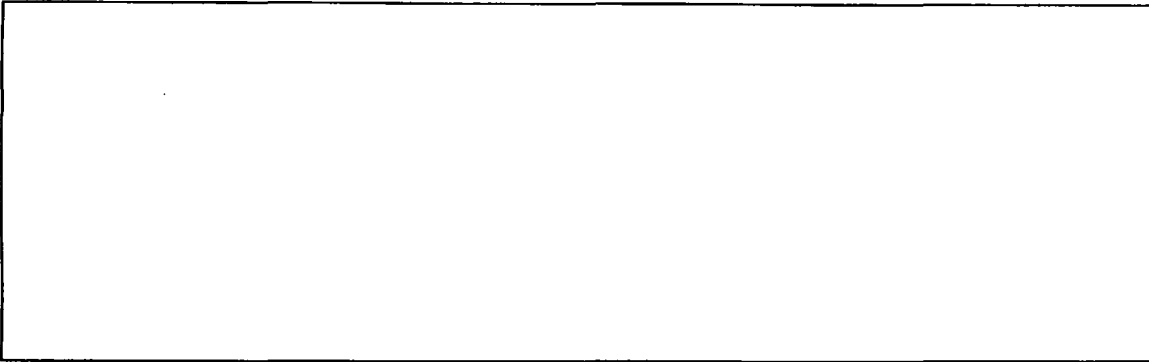
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COCA ERADICATION: MOSTLY COMPLETE, BUT NEXT STEPS TOUGH

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 04 OF 09 LA PAZ 002723

STATE FOR WHA, WHA/AND, INL, EB AND DRL
NSC FOR AMBASSADOR MAISTO

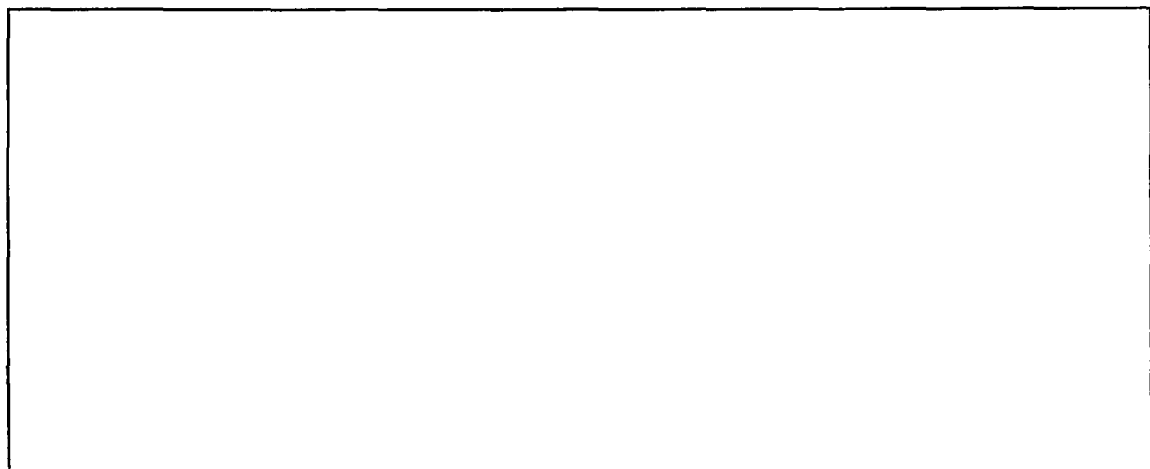
E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/26/2012
TAGS: PREL, SNAR, ECON, ETRD, ENRG, PGOV, PHUM, BL
SUBJECT: SCENESETTER: BOLIVIA'S AUGUST 6 TRANSITION, THE
CHALLENGES AHEAD, AND THE U.S. ROLE

12. (SBU) WHEN PRESIDENT BANZER ANNOUNCED THE BEGINNING OF
PLAN DIGNITY IN 1997, BOLIVIA WAS A MAJOR PRODUCER OF COCA
AND UP TO A THIRD OF THE COCAINE ON THE STREETS OF THE U.S.
WAS BOLIVIAN BASED. TODAY, BOLIVIA IS AN INSIGNIFICANT
PLAYER IN THE COCAINE TRADE. IT HAS ERADICATED OVER 50,000
HECTARES OF COCA AND STILL MAINTAINS AN AGGRESSIVE
ERADICATION PROGRAM. WHILE REPLANTING CONTINUES IN THE
CHAPARE REGION OF COCHABAMBA, WE ESTIMATE A CONTINUING SMALL
NET REDUCTION IN COCA. WHAT REMAINS OF BOLIVIAN COCA AND
COCA PASTE NOW SUPPLIES THE GROWING MARKET IN BRAZIL
(SUPPLEMENTED BY SOME PERUVIAN COCA PASTE TRANSITING
BOLIVIA). INTERDICTION PROGRAMS IN THE CHAPARE, [REDACTED]



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[REDACTED] CONTINUE TO TURN
UP LARGE NUMBERS OF LABS, MASURATION PITS, AND PRECURSOR
CHEMICALS, BUT THE PRODUCT THAT CROSSES BOLIVIA'S FRONTIERS
DOES NOT REACH THE U.S.



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DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC
SECDEF WASHINGTON DC

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STATE FOR WHA, WHA/AND, INL, EB AND DRL
NSC FOR AMBASSADOR MAISTO

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/26/2012

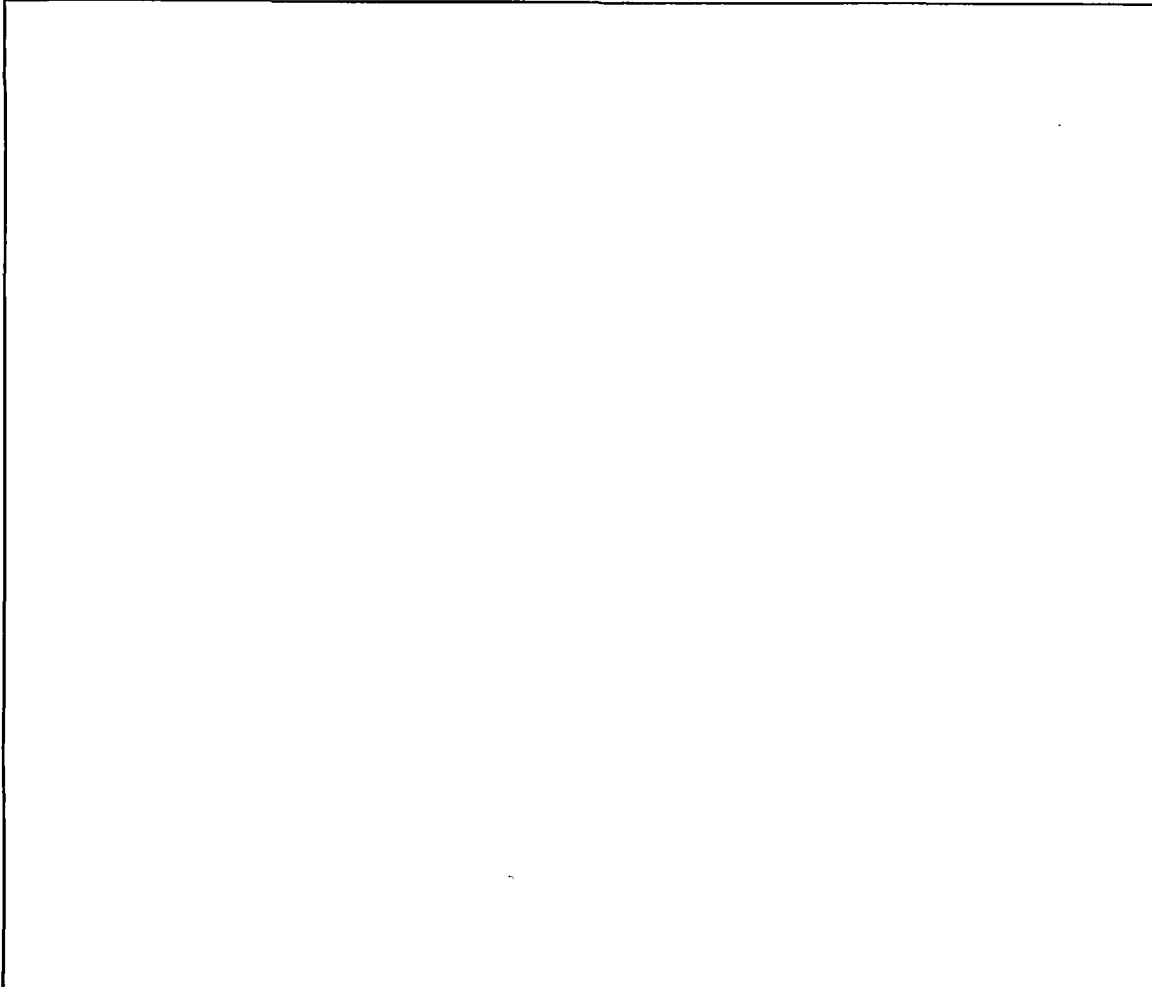
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ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT: THE STRATEGY'S OTHER KEY LEG

17. (SBU) PROVIDING VIABLE, LICIT ALTERNATIVES FOR FORMER
COCA FARMERS REMAINS CRITICAL TO THE SUSTAINABILITY OF
ERADICATION SUCCESSES. THE USG'S INVESTMENT IN ALTERNATIVE
DEVELOPMENT (AD) IN BOLIVIA WILL COME TO NEARLY USD 153
MILLION FROM 1999 THROUGH FY-2004.

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[REDACTED] AD PROGRAMS ARE AIMED
TO DIMINISH PLANTINGS IN THE YUNGAS REGION OF LA PAZ [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] PROVIDING FOR

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TRADITIONAL COCA CONSUMPTION) TO A LEVEL CONSISTENT WITH BOLIVIAN DEMAND FOR TRADITIONAL USES (MEDICINES, TEA, CHEWING AND RITUAL CONSUMPTION).

18. (SBU) IN THE LAST DECADE, LICIT CROP CULTIVATION IN THE CHAPARE HAS TAKEN OFF, INCREASING THREEFOLD TO ALMOST 300,000 ACRES. THE PROGRAM HAS HAD TO OVERCOME SIGNIFICANT OBSTACLES, INCLUDING THE GENERAL LACK OF AGRICULTURAL KNOWLEDGE AMONG THE COCA FARMERS (MANY OF THEM FORMER MINERS
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 AND IMMIGRANTS FROM THE VERY DIFFERENT BOLIVIAN HIGHLANDS) AND SIGNIFICANT VARIETY IN THE SOILS OF THE CHAPARE, MAKING PARTICULAR PRODUCTS APPROPRIATE IN SOME AREAS AND FAILURES IN OTHERS. IN ADDITION, BOLIVIA AND ITS INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS HAVE STRUGGLED TO DEVELOP FOREIGN MARKETS FOR A VARIETY OF AD CROPS INCLUDING PALM HEARTS, BANANAS, PINEAPPLES, PAPAYA, PEPPER, AND COFFEE (IN THE YUNGAS). ARGENTINA HAS BEEN THE MOST IMPORTANT MARKET FOR BOLIVIAN AD PRODUCTS. THE PROFOUND CRISIS THERE HAS NOT SURPRISINGLY HAD A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON AD EXPORTS, PARTICULARLY MORE DISCRETIONARY ITEMS LIKE PALM HEARTS. A FURTHER COMPLICATING FACTOR DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS HAS BEEN THE MARKET DISRUPTION PROVOKED BY COCALERO PROTESTERS, WHO OFTEN BLOCK ROADS CONNECTING THE CHAPARE WITH ITS DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN MARKETS. DESPITE THE CHALLENGES, EX-COCALERO CHAPARE FARM FAMILIES WORKING WITH AD CROPS EARN A PER CAPITA INCOME OF ABOUT USD 2,371 COMPARED WITH AVERAGE RURAL INCOMES OF USD 994 IN THE REST OF BOLIVIA.

19. (SBU) USAID PROJECTS ARE RESPONDING TO MARKET CHALLENGES BY MODIFYING SOME CHAPARE PRODUCTS FOR THE BOLIVIAN MARKET. THE CHAPARE'S BANANAS ARE ENTERING ALL MAJOR METROPOLITAN CENTERS, INCLUDING SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAMS IN LA PAZ AND EL ALTO. AT THE SAME TIME, BOLIVIA IS WORKING TO ESTABLISH NEW MARKETS IN EUROPE AND THE U.S. FOR DRIED BANANAS, PAPAYAS AND

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 ACTION INL-00

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	EB-00	EXIM-01	OIGO-00	E-00	FAAE-00	VC-00	FRB-00

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THE ECONOMY: JUST PLAIN POOR

20. (U) LANDLOCKED BOLIVIA, WITH A PER CAPITA GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) OF APPROXIMATELY USD 935 IN 2001 (GDP OF USD 8.1 BILLION), IS THE POOREST COUNTRY IN SOUTH AMERICA. WELL-KNOWN IN THE PAST FOR ITS CHRONIC ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INSTABILITY, BOLIVIA HAS MADE GOOD PROGRESS OVER THE LAST 17 YEARS. ANTI-INFLATIONARY AND MARKET-BASED POLICIES IMPLEMENTED IN 1985 SLASHED INFLATION TO SINGLE DIGITS AND STIMULATED RESPECTABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH. SOCIAL INDICATORS

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 SUCH AS INFANT MORTALITY, LITERACY AND LIFE EXPECTANCY, WHILE STILL WORSE THAN THOSE IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, HAVE IMPROVED SIGNIFICANTLY. THE GOVERNMENT'S PRIVATIZATION AND "POPULAR PARTICIPATION" PROGRAMS IN THE MID-1990S INCREASED INVESTMENT, ECONOMIC GROWTH, AND SOCIAL EQUITY, THOUGH DYNAMIC GROWTH WAS SHORT-LIVED DUE TO A SEVERE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN IN THE REGION STARTING IN 1998-99. DESPITE ITS PROGRESS, BOLIVIA STILL FACES MANY DAUNTING CHALLENGES TO DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING EXTENSIVE POVERTY, PERSISTENT DISPARITY IN INCOME DISTRIBUTION, LIMITED EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, AND INADEQUATE SOCIAL AND PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.

21. (U) IN 2001, BOLIVIA EXPERIENCED GDP GROWTH OF 1.2 PERCENT, A BUDGET DEFICIT OF 6.5 PERCENT OF GDP, AND NEGLIGIBLE INFLATION. AS A RESULT OF THE BUDGET DEFICIT, BOLIVIA HAD DIFFICULTY MEETING SEVERAL TARGETS ESTABLISHED IN ITS LATEST INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF) AGREEMENT, WHICH HAS SINCE EXPIRED. EXTERNAL DEBT IS USD 4.7 BILLION, THOUGH THE HEAVILY INDEBTED POOR COUNTRIES (HIPC) DEBT RELIEF PROGRAM MAKES THE INTERNATIONAL DEBT SERVICE BURDEN MORE MANAGEABLE. THE TRADE DEFICIT WAS \$440 MILLION IN 2001, DOWN FROM \$583 MILLION IN 2000, MOSTLY DUE TO RELATIVELY LOWER IMPORTS. AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS, PRINCIPALLY SOY PRODUCTS TO THE ANDEAN COMMUNITY, ARE EXPANDING. WHILE LOW WORLD PRICES IN TIN, SILVER, ZINC, AND GOLD HAVE HURT BOLIVIA'S EXTENSIVE MINING INDUSTRY, IT CONTINUES TO BE AN IMPORTANT SECTOR FOR INVESTMENT AND EMPLOYMENT.

GAS: THE NEXT RESOURCE BOOM?

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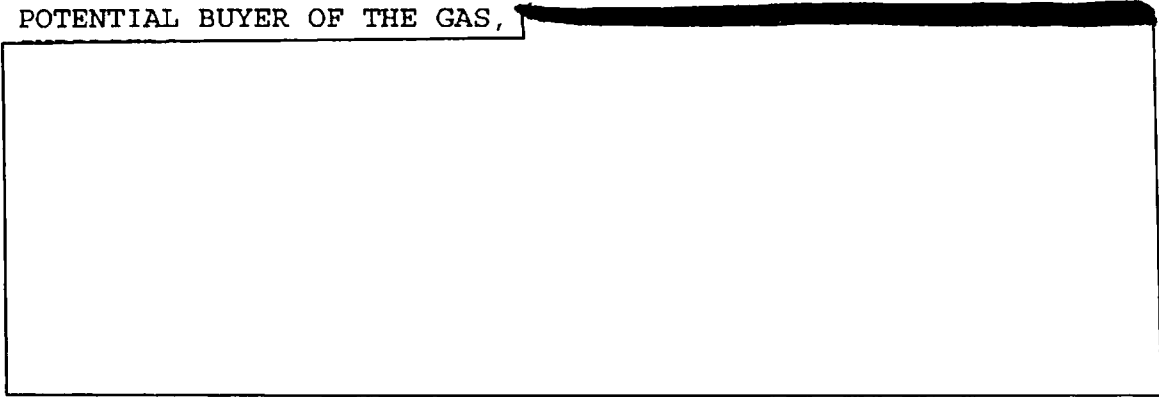
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22. (SBU) THE MOST DYNAMIC SECTOR IN BOLIVIA TODAY IS HYDROCARBONS. A MAJOR GAS PIPELINE TO BRAZIL BEGAN OPERATING IN 1999 AND IS NOW A MAJOR REVENUE EARNER FOR THE GOB. RECENT DISCOVERIES OF NATURAL GAS HAVE GIVEN BOLIVIA THE SECOND LARGEST RESERVES IN SOUTH AMERICA. AN INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM COMPOSED OF BRITISH GAS, BRITISH PETROLEUM, AND REPSOL-YPF (SPANISH-ARGENTINE) IS DEVELOPING A USD 5 BILLION PROJECT TO EXPORT LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS (LNG) VIA CHILE TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. HISTORIC RIVALRIES BETWEEN BOLIVIA AND CHILE, WHICH TOOK CONTROL OF BOLIVIA'S COAST IN 1879, MAY COMPLICATE THE PROJECT. SAN DIEGO ENERGY GIANT SEMPRA IS A POTENTIAL BUYER OF THE GAS,



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NSC WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
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USCINCSO MIAMI FL
USDOC WASHDC 1237
DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC
SECDEF WASHINGTON DC

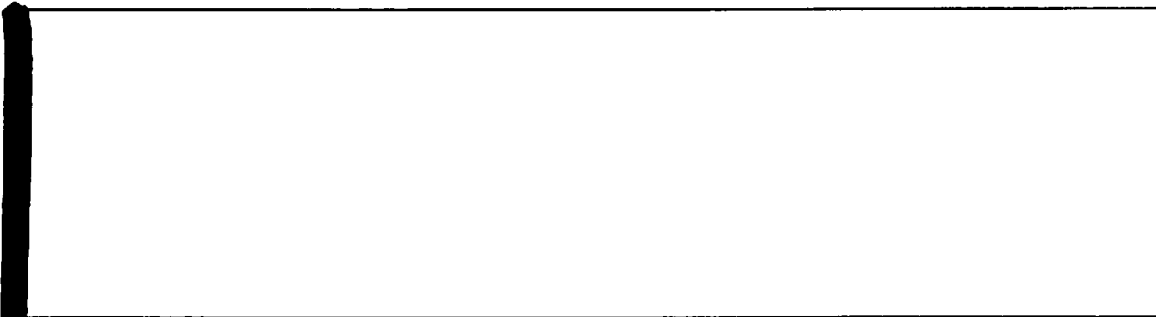
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DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 07 OF 09 LA PAZ 002723

STATE FOR WHA, WHA/AND, INL, EB AND DRL
NSC FOR AMBASSADOR MAISTO

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/26/2012
TAGS: PREL, SNAR, ECON, ETRD, ENRG, PGOV, PHUM, BL
SUBJECT: SCENESETTER: BOLIVIA'S AUGUST 6 TRANSITION, THE
CHALLENGES AHEAD, AND THE U.S. ROLE



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THE U.S. ROLE

ONGOING DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

23. (U) THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN A CONSISTENT AND LONGTIME
PARTNER OF BOLIVIA, WITH OUR FIRST ASSISTANCE DATING FROM THE

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 1940S AND NOW TOTALING USD 2.4 BILLION IN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (DA), ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUNDS, AND FOOD AID. THE ANNUAL DA PROGRAM IS AROUND USD 100 MILLION, MAKING BOLIVIA ONE OF USAID'S LARGEST PROGRAMS IN THE HEMISPHERE. CURRENT USAID PROGRAMS FOCUS ON ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH, DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE, THE ENVIRONMENT, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

24. (U) USAID'S HEALTH, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND PL-480 TITLE II FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMS MAKE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO ALLEVIATING POVERTY AND BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR MORE EQUITABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH -- GOALS THAT WILL ALSO BE CRUCIAL TO SUSTAINING BOLIVIA'S DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM AND TO SUPPORTING A SUSTAINABLE COUNTER-NARCOTICS PROGRAM. ALTHOUGH BOLIVIA'S LOW POPULATION DENSITY HAS HELPED PRESERVE EXTENSIVE FORESTS AND GLOBALLY IMPORTANT ECOSYSTEMS, ECONOMIC PRESSURES (PRIMARILY SUBSISTENCE FARMERS, BUT ALSO HYDROCARBONS AND MINERAL EXPLOITATION) COUPLED WITH DEFICIENT LAND-TITLING IS PUTTING NEW PRESSURE ON VULNERABLE FORESTS AND NATIONAL PARKS. USAID'S ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM WORKS TO IMPROVE THE CAPACITY OF GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES AND COMMUNITIES TO APPROPRIATELY REGULATE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. FINALLY, A ROBUST DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE PROGRAM HAS GIVEN CRUCIAL SUPPORT TO BOLIVIAN EFFORTS TO DECENTRALIZE GOVERNMENT (ULTIMATELY MAKING IT MORE ACCOUNTABLE), TO IMPROVING EFFICIENCY AND TRANSPARENCY IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM, AND IMPROVING THE CAPACITY OF THE CONGRESS TO RESPOND TO CONSTITUENT NEEDS.

25. (SBU) BEYOND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, DOD CONTINUES TO PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT FOR PROFESSIONALIZATION OF THE
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 BOLIVIAN ARMED FORCES, INCLUDING HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING. THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE'S ICITAP PROGRAM, U.S. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE HAS GONE TO IMPROVING POLICE TRAINING AND INVESTIGATORY SKILLS. WE HAVE ALSO HELPED DEVELOP AN OVERSIGHT MECHANISM AND AN IMPROVED, DRAFT BASIC LAW TO GOVERN POLICE ACTIVITIES. IF IMPLEMENTED BY THE NEXT GOVERNMENT, THESE LEGAL AND REGULATORY STRUCTURES COULD MAKE A START ON REDUCING [REDACTED] POLICE CORRUPTION.

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NEW DEPARTURES FOR U.S.-BOLIVIA COOPERATION

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26. (SBU) THE MNR CAMPAIGN PLATFORM IS BUILT AROUND THREE MAJOR THEMES: ECONOMIC REACTIVATION, COMBATING GOVERNMENT CORRUPTION, AND OVERCOMING SOCIETAL AND LEGAL EXCLUSIONS FLOWING FROM RACE OR CLASS. THE THRUST OF THE MNR PLATFORM IS ECHOED IN THE MNR-MIR "PLAN BOLIVIA" ANNOUNCED ON JULY 25. MISSION ACTIVITIES ALREADY SUPPORT THE CENTRAL MNR GOALS IN MULTIPLE WAYS, BUT WE WILL BE ATTENTIVE TO CONCRETE STEPS THE NEW GOVERNMENT TAKES AND WAYS IN WHICH WE MIGHT BOLSTER THEIR EFFORTS. SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH AS WELL AS EFFECTIVE ACTION AGAINST GOVERNMENT CORRUPTION WILL REQUIRE LEGAL AND REGULATORY CHANGES. U.S. ASSISTANCE IN BOTH OF THESE AREAS MAY INVOLVE SHARING BEST PRACTICES,

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 08 OF 09 LA PAZ 002723

STATE FOR WHA, WHA/AND, INL, EB AND DRL
NSC FOR AMBASSADOR MAISTO

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/26/2012
TAGS: PREL, SNAR, ECON, ETRD, ENRG, PGOV, PHUM, BL
SUBJECT: SCENESETTER: BOLIVIA'S AUGUST 6 TRANSITION, THE
CHALLENGES AHEAD, AND THE U.S. ROLE

SUPPORTING GOVERNMENT-CIVIL SOCIETY CONSULTATIONS ON NEW
PROPOSALS, AND PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE DRAFTING
AND IMPLEMENTING OF NEW RULES.

27. (SBU) A PLANNED USAID POLITICAL PARTY REFORM PROJECT AIMS
AT IMPLEMENTING AN EXISTING BOLIVIAN LAW THAT WOULD MAKE
INTERNAL PARTY PROCEDURES MORE DEMOCRATIC AND TRANSPARENT.
THE PROJECT SHOULD DOVETAIL WITH THE MNR'S INCLUSIVENESS
PLANK AND, OVER THE LONG-RUN, HELP BUILD MODERATE,
PRO-DEMOCRACY POLITICAL PARTIES THAT CAN SERVE AS A
COUNTER-WEIGHT TO THE RADICAL MAS OR ITS SUCCESSORS.



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THAT SAID, OUR LONG TERM GOAL IS FOR
CITIZENS TO CHANNEL THEIR POLITICAL MESSAGES THROUGH ELECTED
REPRESENTATIVES RATHER THAN THROUGH STREET PROTEST. EMPOWERED
LEGISLATORS WILL BE REQUIRED FOR THAT TO BE VIABLE.

COLLABORATION AND POLICY ADVOCACY

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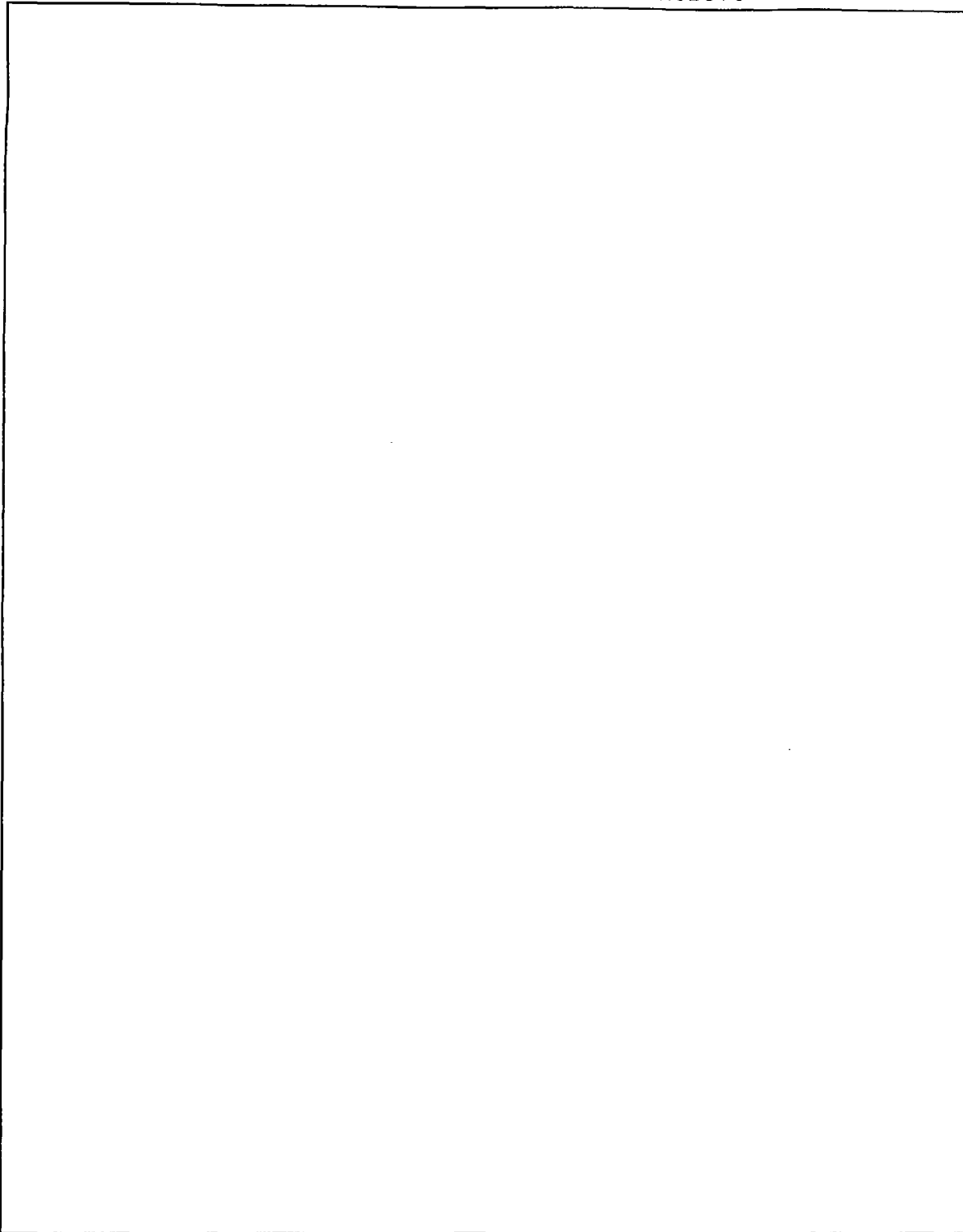
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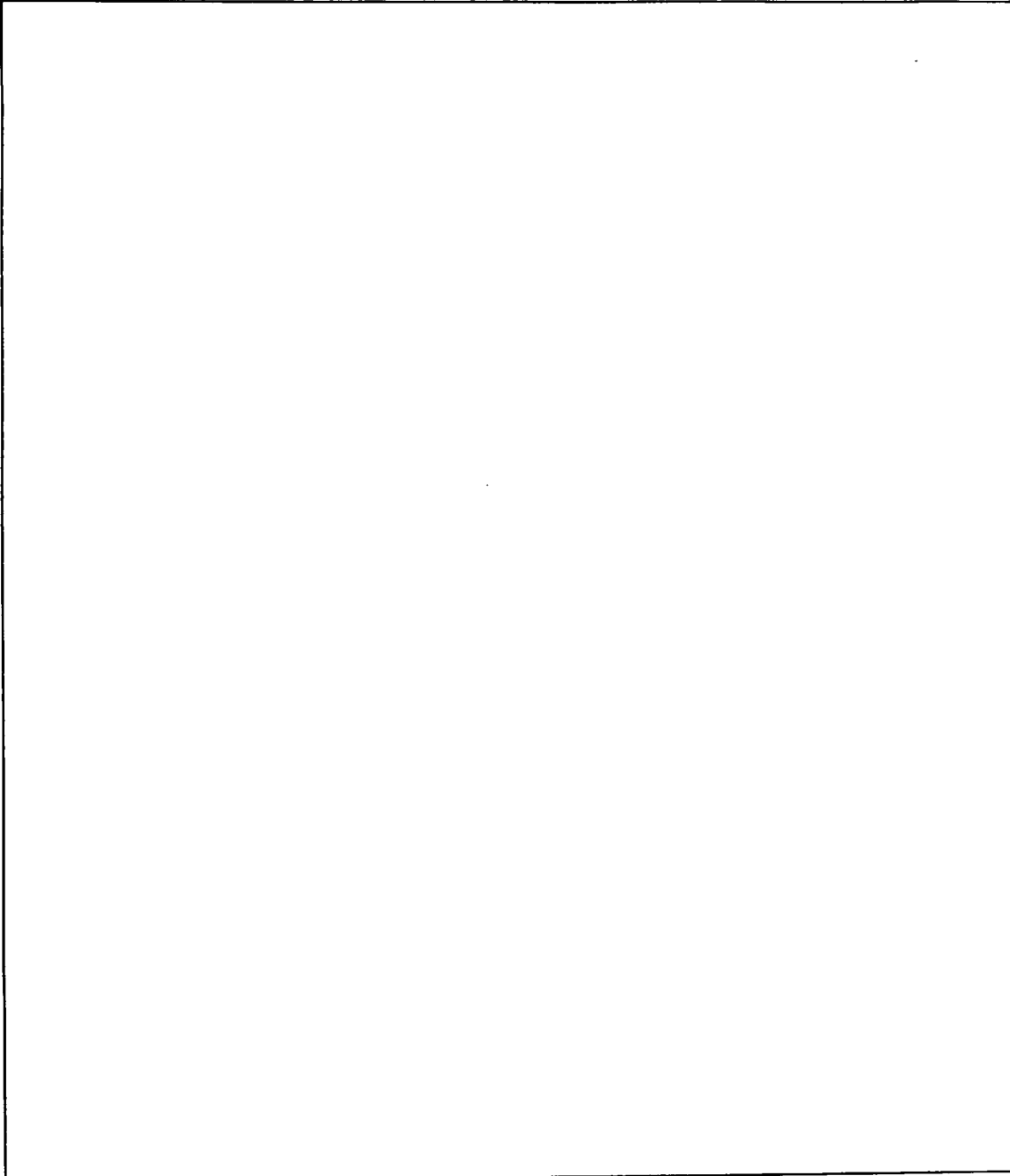
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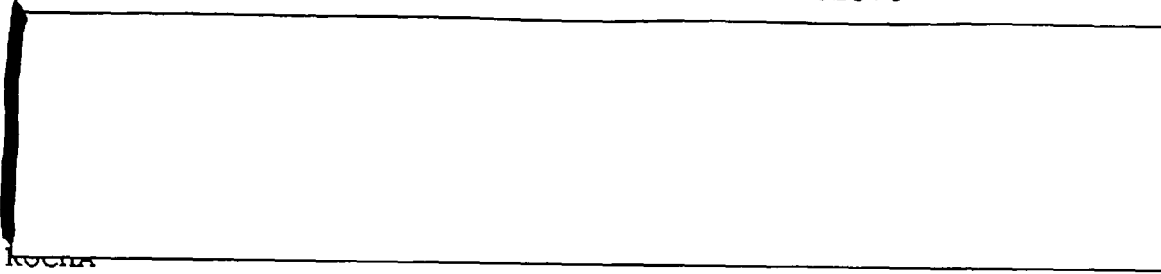
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