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R 161637Z JAN 97  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY LIMA  
AMEMBASSY QUITO

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OFFICIAL INFORMAL

E.O. 12958: DECL: 991231  
TAGS: AMGT BL CO EC PE VE  
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL INFORMAL

FOR AMBASSADOR - DCM - POL - ECON  
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FOLLOWING IS THE ASDAR FOR JANUARY 15, 1996  
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(C) PERU: MRTA TERRORISTS IN URUGUAY. PRM BELIEVES  
UNHCR WILL GO SLOW ON DECIDING HOW TO HANDLE THE TWO MRTA

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TERRORISTS RELEASED BY THE GOU, BUT WARNS THAT IF UNHCR DECLARES THEM TO BE "REFUGEES", IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR THE GOU TO EXPEL THEM TO A COUNTRY FROM WHICH THEY CAN BE EXTRADITED TO PERU FOR PROSECUTION. THE US REP TO UNHCR/GENEVA IS COUNSELLING AGAINST HASTE ON UNHCR'S PART AND BELIEVES IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO POSTPONE ACTION LONG ENOUGH TO ALLOW RESOLUTION OF THE HOSTAGE CRISIS IN LIMA.

(C) VENEZUELA: GOV ARREARS TO USG. AN EB MEMO SENT TO THE PARIS CLUB FOR NEXT WEEK'S CLUB MEETING SHOWS THAT THE GOV IS \$3 MILLION IN ARREARS TO ALL U.S. AGENCIES. THE BULK IS \$2.5 MILLION OWED TO THE CREDIT COMMODITY CORPORATION. FRANCE IS EXPECTED TO SLAM THE GOV VERY HARD FOR NOT COVERING FRENCH ARREARS (AMOUNT UNKNOWN). CLUB CREDITORS ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE A HARD LINE WITH THE GOV GIVEN THE GOC'S 1996 OIL WINDFALL. BY FAILING TO REPAY ITS ARREARS, THE GOV IS TECHNICALLY OUT OF COMPLIANCE WITH ITS IMF AGREEMENT.

(C) VENEZUELA: DOE PUSHES USTR ON BIT/IPR DE-LINKAGE. WE RECEIVED TODAY A COPY OF A 12/12 LETTER FROM DOE DEPUTY SECRETARY CHARLES CURTIS TO CHARLENE BARSHEFSKY ASKING USTR TO "PROCEED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WITH

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NEGOTIATIONS" TO COMPLETE A BILATERAL INVESTMENT TREATY (BIT). HE SAID A BIT "WOULD ENHANCE THE PROTECTION AVAILABLE TO U.S. INVESTORS ... BY ENSURING THAT PAST (VENEZUELAN) PRACTICES WHICH PLACED GREATER RISK ON OUR INVESTORS WILL NOT BE REPEATED." THE LETTER NOTED THAT AMOCO, EXXON AND TEXACO ALL HAVE WRITTEN DOE TO URGE RESTARTING BIT TALKS. HE ALSO ASKED FOR AN EXCEPTION TO THE BIT/IPR LINKAGE BECAUSE OF THE SIZE (\$10-15 BILLION) AND RAPIDLY EVOLVING OIL MARKET IN VENEZUELA.

(C) BOLIVIA: SANCHEZ BERZAIN RETURNING TO LEAD COUNTERDRUG EFFORT. PRESIDENT SANCHEZ DE LOZADO HAS RE-DESIGNATED CARLOS SANCHEZ BERZAIN AS MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT. SANCHEZ BERZAIN HAD RESIGNED IN DECEMBER IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO RUN IN THE 1997 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. BOLIVIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. COSSIO DESCRIBED EX-JUSTICE MINISTER BLATTMANN'S SELECTION AS THE MNR PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE AND SANCHEZ BERZAIN'S RETURN AS GOOD NEWS FOR THE COUNTERNARCOTICS EFFORT. HE

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ALSO INDICATED THAT CURRENT MINGOV ANAYA WILL BECAME HUMAN DEVELOPMENT MINISTER.

(C) BOLIVIA: A SANCHEZ DE LOZADA TRIP TO WASHINGTON? EMBASSY LA PAZ HAS ENDORSED RECENT REQUESTS BY FM ARANIBAR AND AMB. COSSIO THAT PRESIDENT SANCHEZ DE LOZADA BE INVITED TO WASHINGTON FOR AN OFFICE CALL AT THE WHITE HOUSE IN THE SPRING. AMB. KAMMAN ALSO RECOMMENDS A FOLLOW-UP MEETING WITH SECRETARY-DESIGNATE ALBRIGHT, WITH WHOM GONI MET IN COCHABAMBA IN SEPTEMBER.

CHRISTOPHER

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