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BOLIVIA: US Interests Face Growing Terrorist Threat

The attacks on 10 October against the US Marine House and the John F. Kennedy Memorial in La Paz by the Nestor Paz Zamora Commission may signal a renewal of terrorist attacks against US interests in Bolivia. The group issued a communique on Friday charging the government with narcotics corruption and calling for the expulsion of the US Ambassador, the removal of all US troops, and the departure of two US-owned oil companies. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] US interest in the minerals sector had been increasing; several investment deals have been signed this year. [REDACTED]

Comment: The attacks are the first against US interests this year; there were five such incidents last year. The opposition of leftist groups to increasing US involvement in the antinarcotics program and in the economy may prompt more attacks against US interests. Although US Government interests are the most likely targets, US businesses and private citizens also may face an increased risk of kidnapping, attacks, and extortion. [REDACTED]

Bolivia: Nestor Paz Zamora Commission

The Nestor Paz Zamora Commission is named after President Paz Zamora's brother, a member of the National Liberation Army—a disbanded Communist revolutionary group that followed Che Guevarra's teachings. Nestor Paz Zamora was killed during a Bolivian counterterrorism operation in 1970. Although little is known about the group, last week's communique and attacks are similar to the methods of the Zarate Willka terrorist group. This group was responsible for the bombing of Secretary of State Shultz's motorcade in August 1988, the assassination of two US Mormon missionaries in May 1989, and the bombing of the US Embassy in La Paz in December 1989. Bolivian security personnel and press have speculated that the Nestor Paz Zamora Commission may be closely linked to, or another name for, Zarate Willka, which often assumes other names.

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