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Bolivian Congress Approves Extradition Request To U.S. For D.e.a. Agent

by Erika Harding
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On July 15, the congress approved a request to the US government for extradition of Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agent Brian Donaldson. Legislators wish to see Donaldson face trial in Bolivia for the recent shooting of a citizen. (See NotiSur 07/21/92 for previous coverage of shooting incident in Santa Cruz.) According to local news reports, two senior police officers in Santa Cruz were fired for having released Donaldson from custody at the request of Marilyn McKenny, US consul in La Paz. According to McKenny, Donaldson was freed by the National Police following an investigation indicating that the shooting was accidental. She added that Donaldson was expelled from Bolivia for violating DEA regulations. Anti-US sentiment in Bolivia has reportedly escalated as a result of the Donaldson case, the recent extradition to the US of drug trafficking suspect Asunta Roca Suarez, the presence of US troops in the Amazon region, and confusion surrounding recent activities by US military personnel near Santa Cruz. [See article on US military personnel presence in the Amazon region in current issue of NotiSur (07/28/92).] (Source: Notimex, 07/15/92)

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