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John Neagle

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Bolivian President Rearranges Cabinet; Austerity Program To Continue "without Modifications"

by John Neagle

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On Sept. 20, Bolivian President Victor Paz Estenssoro reorganized his cabinet and announced that the government would continue "without modifications" its economic stabilization program. The cabinet reshuffling was triggered by the resignation of Planning Minister Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, a major supporter of the austerity program. Sanchez de Lozada resigned in order to launch his campaign to be nominated as presidential candidate of the ruling party, the Revolutionary Nationalist Movement (MNR). Estenssoro appointed economist Fernando Romero to replace Sanchez de Lozada. Under Bolivia's constitution, presidential candidates who occupy public office must leave their posts at least eight before the elections. The presidential elections are scheduled for May 1989. President Estenssoro reconfirmed 13 of his ministers, including Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal. Among the cabinet members replaced were the ministers of Industry and Commerce, and Labor. (Basic data from AP, 09/20/88)

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