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John Neagle

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## **Bolivia: Ruling Party Breaks Political Pact**

*by John Neagle*

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Bolivia's ruling party, the Revolutionary Nationalist Movement (MNR), unilaterally decided to break a pact to establish and observe democracy with the Nationalist Democratic Action (ADN). Protagonists and observers say that the rupture constitutes a "political earthquake." The pact was signed on Oct. 15, 1985 by President Victor Paz Estenssoro and Gen. Hugo Banzer, ADN leader and former president (1971-78). In the last presidential elections, Banzer received the largest number of votes cast, and Estenssoro, the second largest. Under the Bolivian constitution, the president must receive an absolute majority of all ballots. Since Banzer received less than 51% of the votes, the Bolivian congress performed as the electorate in a run-off. Estenssoro was elected. The pact between the two parties was in effect for three years, three months and 24 days. Many Bolivian analysts have indicated that the pact became the key factor in the country's political and economic stability. (Basic data from AFP, 02/10/89)

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