

SPEAR
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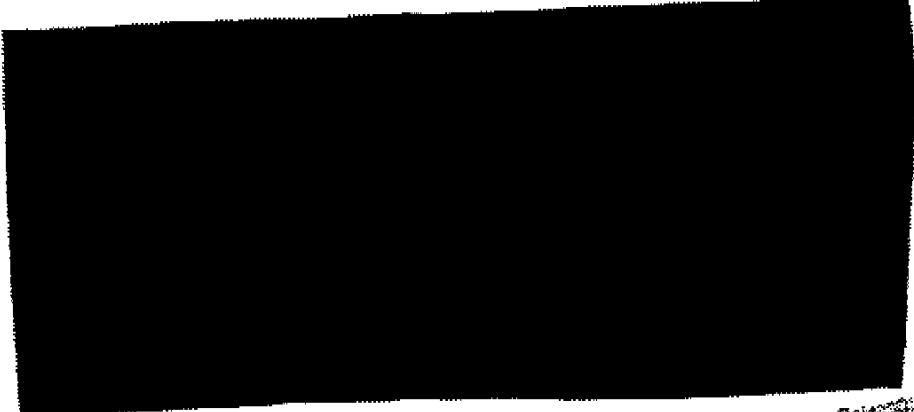
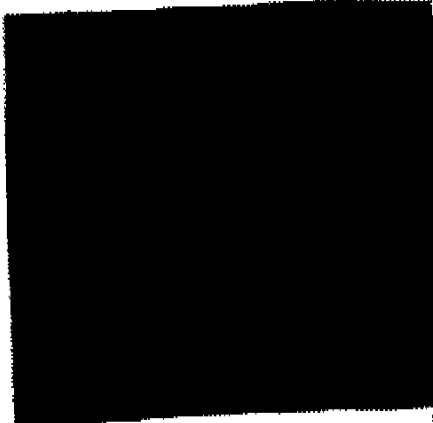
Western Hemisphere

PRESSURE GROWING FOR BOLIVIAN JUNTA CHIEF'S RESIGNATION

There is increasing pressure on General Barrientos to resign from the junta he now heads by 26 March if he intends to remain a candidate for the Bolivian presidency in elections set for September. The case for resignation is based on a constitutional requirement that presidential candidates who hold public office resign 180 days before the election date.

Opposition parties and discontented labor groups are spearheading the drive to get Barrientos to step down. However, many Bolivians who are not politically opposed to Barrientos--including some army officers--agree that he should comply with the constitution. Thus far, Barrientos has refused to do so on the grounds that the requirement does not apply to him as head of an interim government. In reality, he fears

that should he resign, commander of the armed forces General Ovando would impose a military dictatorship.



N.A.

Approved for Release
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