

MEMORANDUM

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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Monday, October 9, 1967 -- 6:10 p.m.

Mr. President:

This tentative information that the Bolivians got Che Guevara will interest you. It is not yet confirmed. The Bolivian unit engaged is the one we have been training for some time and has just entered the field of action.

"1. President Barrientos at 10:00 a.m., October 9, told a group of newsmen, but not for publication until further notice, that Che Guevara is dead.

2. No further confirmation or details as yet."

"Presencia, October 9, reports capture "Che" Guevara. Guerrillas reported lost three dead and two seriously wounded and captured, including "Che" in six hour firefight on October 8 with unit of 2nd Rangers, seven kilometers north of Higuera. Bolivian armed forces losses two dead and four wounded. General Ovando reportedly proceeding to Vallegrande today at head of investigating team for purpose of identifying guerrilla dead and captured.

"Comment: This confirms Bolivian armed forces conviction that "Che" Guevara earlier seriously wounded or ill and among captured. Among dead are believed to be two Cubans, "Antonio" and "Arturo", not otherwise identified. Also captured is said to be Bolivian "Willy" (identified as Simon Cuba). Due to nightfall, evacuation of dead and wounded guerrillas deferred until morning, October 9. Bolivian armed forces believes Rangers have surrounded guerrilla force boxed into canyon and expect to eliminate them soon."

Walt Rostow

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