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COMMUNICATION RECEIVED BY THE AGENCY  
FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF BOLIVIA

The text of a communication dated 21 September 1987 which the Agency has received from the Permanent Mission of Bolivia is reproduced below for the information of delegates.

"The Permanent Mission of Bolivia to the Office of the United Nations in Vienna presents its respects to the International Atomic Energy Agency and makes reference to the state of Bolivia's financial contribution to the Agency, on the occasion of the thirty-first regular session of its General Conference.

"In that connection, this Permanent Mission wishes to inform you that the Government of Bolivia is in a critical economic situation owing to the burden of its foreign debt, which stands at approximately US \$4000 million (130% of Bolivia's gross internal product - a debt ratio which, if not the highest in the world, is at least among the highest). This situation has led the Bolivian Government to suspend temporarily even the payments to service its commercial foreign debt, which account for 50% of central Government revenue. Furthermore, the recent fall in the price of tin and natural gas, two of Bolivia's main exports, on the international market, has obliged the Government to shut down the major part of the state mining sector, at great social and political cost.

"Bolivia's foreign debt cannot be managed within the present economic context. Suffice it to recall that the Bolivian per capita income has fallen by 40% in the past four years and has continued to fall in the past half-year.

"Despite such constraints, Bolivia has been making the greatest possible efforts toward economic recovery and has currently been able to meet the major part of its obligations to the organizations of the United Nations system.

"In view of the above, the Government of Bolivia, through its Permanent Mission, requests the Agency that Article XIX.A of the Statute not be applied in respect of Bolivia during the thirty-first regular session of the General Conference of the IAEA."

