

Press Release

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**U.S. Department of State Assistant Secretary for Economic and
Business Affairs visited Bolivia**

U.S. Department of State Assistant Secretary for Economic and Business Affairs E. Anthony Wayne visited Bolivia for a day to exchange impressions with top Bolivian government authorities about the economic situation of the country. This exchange included perspectives on natural gas exports, the government's financial and economic plan, and the proposed Free Trade Agreement between the two countries.

Secretary Wayne met with President Carlos Mesa in the Palace of Government and talked with cabinet ministers and journalists specialized in economic issues. He also visited Orbol, a company manufacturing gold jewelry that is exported to the United States under the Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act (ATPDEA). The company expects to increase its exports to the U.S. in 20% this year.