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**Bolivia's Evo Calls US 'Military Empire,' Slams US-Chile Naval Operations**

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The maneuvers, which began on July 1, include anti-terrain and anti-submarine operations.

Bolivian President Evo Morales slammed the joint naval operations between the U.S. and Chile, called Teamwork South 2017, which started off the coast of Chile Saturday.

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Calling Chile the "Cain of South America" on Twitter, the Bolivian president said Sunday the "(U.S.) military empire" and the "small Israel of South America" are training to continue invading peaceful peoples.

"Joint maneuvers Teamwork South 2017: When brothers learn kill together," Morales said in a tweet, adding, "USA-Chile with naval operations Teamwork South 2017: Colonies learning from their masters."

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TWS-17 is a bi-annual Chile-United States naval exercise that conducts training sessions in "intermediate and advanced anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare operations," the U.S.

navy's website stated.

The maneuvers, which began on July 1, include anti-terrain and anti-submarine operations. Some fleets and equipment involved in TWS-17 exercises are from the United States Southern Command Naval Forces Fourth Fleet along with the destroyer USS Chafee (DDG90), that will carry two helicopters, a fast attack submarine, and two P-8A Orion aircraft. The Destroyer 40 Squadron and the Combined Task Force 46 are also involved.

The relationship between La Paz and Santiago has been tense since Chile invaded Bolivia in 1879, taking nearly 250 miles of its coast and 74,500 square miles of its rich mineral territories. This conflict between the two countries is currently at the International Court of Justice in the Hague.

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