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Document Number: 1991SANTIA02319

Page: 1

Channel: n/a

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SANTIA 02319 01 OF 13 281945Z
ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	EB-01	HA-09
	H-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	JUSE-00	LAB-04	L-03
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	PA-02	PRS-01	P-02	RP-10
	SIL-01	SP-01	SR-01	SS-01	STR-18	TRSE-00	/080W
-----5349BB					281958Z /44 38		

O 281842Z MAR 91
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0733
INFO RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
USIA WASHDC 3649
JCS WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS
CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 13 SANTIAGO 02319

SAN JOSE FOR RAJO, C. CIRA

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREL, PHUM
SUBJ: EX-DINA CHIEF CONTRERAS' COMMENTS ON HUMAN
RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, THE LETELIER CASE AND DINA

REF: SANTIAGO 2289

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Chile Project (#S199900030)

U.S. Department of State

Release ☒ Excise ☐ Deny ☐

Declassify: In Part ☐ In Full ☐

Exemption(s) ☐

PAGE 02 SANTIA 02319 01 OF 13 281945Z

1. REFTTEL PROVIDED A SUMMARY OF A MARCH 25 TV
INTERVIEW WITH GENERAL MANUEL CONTRERAS, EX-DIRECTOR
OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTORATE (DINA), CHILE'S
INTERNAL SECURITY FORCE BETWEEN 1974 AND 1978.
BELOW IS AN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF THE TRANSCRIPT:

BEGIN TEXT:

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 1

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1991SANTIA02319

Page: 2

Channel: n/a

Q: GENERAL, TO A GREAT SECTOR OF CHILEAN PUBLIC OPINION, YOU ARE THE INTELLECTUAL AGENT, AT LEAST, OF GRAVE VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS, REPRESSIONS AND EXECUTIONS DURING THE FIRST YEARS OF THE PAST GOVERNMENT. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION IN THAT RESPECT?

A: FALSE PROPAGANDA AND ILL-INTENTIONED RUMORS THROUGH AN ADDICTED PRESS ARE ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL WEAPONS USED TO DISCREDIT A PERSON'S REPUTATION, ACCORDING TO "CHE" GUEVARA'S MANUAL. THAT IS WHY I AM NOT SURPRISED THAT THE MARXISTS, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE FREEDOM THEY HAVE HAD TO USE THE PRESS, HAVE COME TO SAY THAT AND MANY MORE THINGS. SO MUCH SO, THAT THEY WILL HAVE TO SAY IT, BECAUSE WITHIN FOUR YEARS WE WON THEIR SUBVERSIVE WAR. AND FURTHERMORE, THE REWARD WHICH I HAVE RECEIVED DURING THESE YEARS HAS BEEN 18 ATTACKS AGAINST ME.

Q: BUT, NEVERTHELESS, THE RETTIG COMMISSION JUDGED THAT AN INTERNAL WAR DID NOT EXIST IN CHILE.

A: THE RETTIG COMMISSION, TO ME, IS A HALF-TRUTH.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SANTIA 02319 01 OF 13 281945Z

Q: WHY HALF?

A: I ADHERE FULLY TO THE STATEMENT BY THE COUNCIL OF RETIRED ARMY GENERALS: IT IS A HALF-TRUTH SEEN FROM TWO VIEWPOINTS: FIRST OF ALL, THEY DID NOT TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ANYTHING THAT HAPPENED BEFORE SEPTEMBER 11 (1973) AND DID NOT CONSIDER ANYTHING OF WHAT THEY WERE OFFERED WHICH WERE NOT MARXIST STATEMENTS. EVEN DOCUMENTS OF THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT THEY DID NOT ACCEPT.

Q: BUT DOES THAT JUSTIFY ONE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED AND TWENTY TWO DEAD AND MORE THAN 950 DISAPPEARED?

A: NOTHING JUSTIFIES THE DEATHS UNLESS A WAR EXISTS. IN A WAR THERE ARE DEAD, INJURED, MISSING AND PRISONERS, BUT THERE ARE NO DETAINED/DISAPPEARED.

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 2

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1991SANTIA02319

Page: 3

Channel: n/a

Q: YOU DO NOT ADMIT THAT THERE WERE
DETAINED/DISAPPEARED?

A: THERE ARE NO DETAINED/DISAPPEARED IN A SUBVERSIVE
WAR, AND THIS WAS A SUBVERSIVE WAR. BECAUSE WHEN WE
TOOK POWER ON SEPTEMBER 11, CALL IT A COUP, CALL IT
REVOLUTION, OR CALL IT WHAT YOU LIKE... BECAUSE THE
DAY WE WE TOOK POWER, HERE IN CHILE THERE WAS SUCH AN
ACCUMULATION OF ACTIVITIES WHICH CORRESPONDED TO THE
THIRD PHASE OF THE SUBVERSIVE WAR, THAT IT WAS
IMPOSSIBLE TO DENY THEM. THOSE WHO HAVE STAYED WITH
THE IDEA OF SHOWY WARS WITH PRETTY UNIFORMS AND
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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 SANTIA 02319 01 OF 13 281945Z
CHIVALRY, WITH WHITE GLOVES AND DECLARATIONS OF WAR
AS IN THE LAST CENTURY, ARE BACKWARD. AND THAT IS
THE RETTIG COMMISSION.

Q: NEVERTHELESS, PUBLIC OPINION BELIEVES THE RETTIG
COMMISSION AND NOT WHAT YOU ARE SAYING AT THIS
MOMENT.

A: PUBLIC OPINION HAD NOT HEARD ME UNTIL THIS
MOMENT.

UNCLASSIFIED

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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SANTIA 02319 02 OF 13 281946Z
ACTION ARA-01

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 AID-01 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 EB-01 HA-09

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 3

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1991SANTIA02319

Page: 4

Channel: n/a

H-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	JUSE-00	LAB-04	L-03
NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	PA-02	PRS-01	P-02	RP-10
SIL-01	SP-01	SR-01	SS-01	STR-18	TRSE-00	/080W
-----5349BC				281958Z /44 38		

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AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
USIA WASHDC 3650
JCS WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS
CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 13 SANTIAGO 02319

SAN JOSE FOR RAJO, C. CIRA

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREL, PHUM
SUBJ: EX-DINA CHIEF CONTRERAS' COMMENTS ON HUMAN

Q: BUT, DO YOU THINK THAT YOU CAN CHANGE THAT
OPINION?

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SANTIA 02319 02 OF 13 281946Z

A: I DON'T KNOW IF I WILL CHANGE IT, BUT AT LEAST
SOME ASPECTS WILL BE MADE CLEAR WHEN THIS APPEARS IN
THE PRESS TOMORROW.

Q: AS FOR THE ORLANDO LETELIER CRIME. THERE WAS NO
SUBVERSIVE WAR THERE AND NEVERTHELESS HE WAS MURDERED
IN THE HEART OF WASHINGTON WITH HIS SECRETARY, AND
THE DINA IS ACCUSED OF BEING THE AUTHOR OF THE DEED.

A: WHAT YOU ARE SAYING IS DRAWN FROM INFORMATION,
ABSOLUTELY ILLEGAL, FROM THE RETTIG COMMISSION,
INASMUCH AS I AM RESPECTFUL OF THE LAW. THEY WERE
NOT, THEY PLACED THEMSELVES ABOVE THE CHILEAN COURTS

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 4

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1991SANTIA02319

Page: 5

Channel: n/a

OF JUSTICE, THEY TRAMPLED ON THE JUDICIAL POWER BY SAYING THAT THE DINA AND DINA AGENTS HAD TAKEN PART IN THE DEATH OF MR. ORLANDO LETELIER, IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT ALREADY ON THREE OCCASIONS MILITARY JUSTICE HAD CLOSED THE CASE AND (THE CASE) IS AT THIS MOMENT AWAITING A DECISION IN THE MILITARY COURT. (EXPLANATORY NOTE: THE MILITARY APPEALS COURT IS CURRENTLY CONSIDERING A PETITION TO KEEP THE LETELIER CASE OPEN. END NOTE.) THEREFORE, THE RETTIG COMMISSION CANNOT STAND AS A SUPERIOR COURT, AS THIS CORRESPONDS TO THE COURTS OF JUSTICE.
Q: AS FOR MICHAEL TOWNLEY, DINA AGENT, AND CAPTAIN ARMANDO FERNANDEZ LARIOS, THEY CONFESSED THAT THEY TRAVELLED TO THE UNITED STATES TO COMMIT THIS ATTACK.

A: AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS TAKEN TO THE UNITED STATES
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SANTIA 02319 02 OF 13 281946Z
BY FORCE, AND WHO RECEIVES A COMPENSATION REGARDING THE SENTENCE WHICH HE WILL GET, MINIMAL OR NONE AT ALL, WILL LOGICALLY SAY ANYTHING.

Q: BUT HE WAS A VERY GOOD COLLABORATOR OF YOURS.

A: WHO?

Q: TOWNLEY.

A: TOWNLEY WAS A VERY GOOD COLLABORATOR OF OURS WHEN WE NEEDED INFORMATION AND WHEN WE NEEDED ELECTRONIC ELEMENTS WHICH NO ONE WOULD SELL TO US IN THE UNITED STATES; HE BROUGHT THEM FROM THE VERY SAME UNITED STATES, FROM THE STORES WHICH SELL ONLY TO THE CIA AND FBI.

Q: THAT IS TO SAY, YOU HAD THE CIA'S AUTHORIZATION TO BRING ALL THOSE ELEMENTS?

A: I DIDN'T HAVE ANYONE'S AUTHORIZATION. TOWNLEY MAYBE YES.

Q: AND REGARDING FERNANDEZ LARIOS?

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 5

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1991SANTIA02319

Page: 6
Channel: n/a

A: FERNANDEZ LARIOS WAS AN OFFICER WHO DID NOT SAY ANYTHING NEW IN THE UNITED STATES. OUTSIDE OF HIS COMPENSATION, HE WAS TAKEN FROM HERE FOR OTHER REASONS, NOT BECAUSE OF THE LETELIER PROBLEM.

Q: WHAT REASONS?

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 SANTIA 02319 02 OF 13 281946Z

A: HE DESERTED. HE WAS TAKEN FROM CHILE SUPPORTED BY A HIGH AUTHORITY OF THIS GOVERNMENT...

Q: WHICH AUTHORITY, GENERAL?

A: WE AREN'T GOING TO GIVE NAMES, ACCORDING TO THE CONCEPT OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, OF NOT GIVING NAMES IN THESE CASES. AND HE RELIED ON THAT SUPPORT TO DESERT AND TO GO THE UNITED STATES.

UNCLASSIFIED

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SANTIA 02319 03 OF 13 281947Z
ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	EB-01	HA-09
	H-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	JUSE-00	LAB-04	L-03
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	PA-02	PRS-01	P-02	RP-10
	SIL-01	SP-01	SR-01	SS-01	STR-18	TRSE-00	/080W
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O 281842Z MAR 91
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 6

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1991SANTIA02319

Page: 7

Channel: n/a

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0735
INFO RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
USIA WASHDC 3651
JCS WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS
CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK

UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 13 SANTIAGO 02319

SAN JOSE FOR RAJO, C. CIRA

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREL, PHUM
SUBJ: EX-DINA CHIEF CONTRERAS' COMMENTS ON HUMAN

Q: BUT, CONCERNING THE MURDER OF ORLANDO LETELIER
ITSELF, UNITED STATES JUSTICE ESTABLISHED THAT YOU
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SANTIA 02319 03 OF 13 281947Z
AND COLONEL (PEDRO) ESPINOZA WERE, AT LEAST
INTELLECTUALLY, INVOLVED IN THAT DEED. THEY
REQUESTED YOUR EXTRADITION.

A: UNITED STATES JUSTICE CAN SAY ANYTHING. AND, AS
I SAID ON ANOTHER OCCASION, THE CRIMINALS ARE THERE.
THE CRIMINALS WHO PLANNED THIS ARE THERE AND I CAN
HELP YOU FIND THEM WHENEVER YOU LIKE. EVEN MORE, IS
A MATTER OF READING THE BOOK "LABYRINTH", WRITTEN BY
MR. (EUGENE) PROPPER, WHO WAS THE PROSECUTOR. IT
SHOWS CLEARLY WHO WERE THE CRIMINALS WHO KILLED
LETELIER.

Q: BUT IF YOU THINK THAT THE DINA HAS ABSOLUTELY
NOTHING TO DO WITH THE ORLANDO LETELIER CRIME' WHY
DIDN'T YOU TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES TO TESTIFY
BEFORE THE (DISTRICT OF) COLUMBIA COURT?

A: WHEN THE COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ASKED
ME TO TESTIFY, I WAS IN PRISON FOR FOURTEEN MONTHS,

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 7

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1991SANTIA02319

Page: 8

Channel: n/a

AS ALL OF CHILE CAN REMEMBER, DUE TO THE EXTRADITION PROCESS.

Q: WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO GO TO THE UNITED STATES TO TESTIFY?

A: I WAS ALWAYS WILLING TO GO TO THE UNITED STATES TO TESTIFY, BUT UNDER NORMAL CONDITIONS BECAUSE I DO NOT BELIEVE IN UNITED STATES JUSTICE.

Q: YOU DO NOT BELIEVE IN UNITED STATES JUSTICE?
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SANTIA 02319 03 OF 13 281947Z

A: NO, ABSOLUTELY NOT.

Q: WELL, AND NOW THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS REQUESTED THAT A VISITING JUDGE OF THE SUPREME COURT SHOULD CONTINUE INVESTIGATING THE CASE OF THE PASSPORTS AND THE HOMICIDE OF ORLANDO LETELIER, ARE YOU WILLING TO COLLABORATE AND APPEAR BEFORE THE COURTS?

A: I ASKED FOR A REOPENING OF MR. LETELIER'S CASE SOME TIME AGO. I WAS TOLD I WAS NOT A PARTY. IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS THERE WAS A DEFINITIVE SUSPENSION OF PROCEEDINGS, BECAUSE THERE WAS REALLY NOTHING NEW IN THAT RESPECT. AND IF THE GOVERNMENT REQUESTS A VISITING JUDGE IT MUST HAVE REASONS THAT ARE VERY CONVINCING OR SOMETHING NEW UNKNOWN TO ANYONE.

Q: AS FOR THE PRATS CASE, IN 1974 HE DIED TOGETHER WITH HIS WIFE IN A WAY WHICH IS VERY SIMILAR TO HOW ORLANDO LETELIER AND RONNIE MOFFITT DIED. DON'T YOU THINK THAT THERE IS THE SAME HAND THERE?

A: IN EFFECT, HE DIES IN A VERY SIMILAR MANNER AND I COULDN'T TELL YOU IF IT IS THE SAME HAND OR NOT. BUT, I CAN TELL YOU ONE THING: THE RETTIG COMMISSION VERY LIGHTLY ACCUSES THE DINA OF HAVING KILLED THE GENERAL COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE ARMY. FOR US A COMMANDER IN CHIEF IS SACRED, AND WE WILL NEVER ALLOW THAT HE BE EVEN TOUCHED. IT TURNS OUT THAT MR. TOWNLEY WHO APPEARS, ACCORDING TO THE GENTLEMEN OF THE RETTIG COMMISSION, AS BEING PRINCIPALLY

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 8

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1991SANTIA02319

Page: 9

Channel: n/a

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 SANTIA 02319 03 OF 13 281947Z
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF GENERAL PRATS ON
SEPTEMBER 30, 1974, DID NOT BELONG TO THE DINA, WAS
NOT A DINA INFORMER, WAS NOT A SUPPLIER OF ELECTRONIC
ELEMENTS FOR THE DINA, AND NEITHER DID WE KNOW HIM IN
THE DINA. IN HIS STATEMENT DURING THE LEGAL PROCESS
BEING FOLLOWED HERE IN CHILE, 192-78, MR. TOWNLEY
DECLARED THAT IN CHILE HE HAD MET DINA ELECTRONIC
PERSONNEL AT THE END OF NOVEMBER OF 1974 AND GENERAL
PRATS DIED IN SEPTEMBER.

Q: GENERAL, ARE YOU A CATHOLIC?

UNCLASSIFIED

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SANTIA 02319 04 OF 13 281947Z
ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	EB-01	HA-09
	H-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	JUSE-00	LAB-04	L-03
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	PA-02	PRS-01	P-02	RP-10
	SIL-01	SP-01	SR-01	SS-01	STR-18	TRSE-00	/080W
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O 281842Z MAR 91
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0736
INFO RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 9

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1991SANTIA02319

Page: 10

Channel: n/a

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
USIA WASHDC 3652
JCS WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS
CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK

UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 13 SANTIAGO 02319

SAN JOSE FOR RAJO, C. CIRA

E.O. 12356: N/A
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A: A PRACTICING CATHOLIC.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SANTIA 02319 04 OF 13 281947Z
Q: THAT IS TO SAY, YOU SWEAR THAT NEITHER THE DINA
NOR YOURSELF HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE LETELIER
CASE?

A: I SWEAR IT.

Q: ANOTHER SUBJECT IS THAT OF THE
DETAINED/DISAPPEARED. 957 CASES ARE MENTIONED. WE
HAVE SEEN THE DISCOVERY OF BODIES WHICH HAD BEEN
BURIED SECRETLY. WHAT RESPONSIBILITY DOES THE DINA
HAVE IN THIS?

A: DINA DOES NOT HAVE RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS EVEN IF
THEY (THE RETTIG COMMISSION) TELL US ONE HUNDRED
THOUSAND TIMES THAT IT IS LIKE THIS. ALSO, THE
RETTIG COMMISSION HAD THE CELERITY TO SEND ME A
LETTER AT THE END OF DECEMBER, IT ARRIVED IN JANUARY,
SO THAT I WOULD TELL THEM HOW THE DIRECTOR OF THE
EX-CNI,--I WAS THE DIRECTOR OF THE DINA AND NOT OF
THE CNI--THAT I WOULD TELL THEM WHAT I MIGHT KNOW OF
957 DETAINED/DISAPPEARED AND THEY SENT ME A LIST OF
DISAPPEARED WHICH INCLUDED A NUMBER OF PEOPLE LISTED
MORE THAN ONCE, AND WHICH IN AOTHER PART ASSIGNED
389 DISAPPEARANCES TO DINA. AND IT TURNS OUT THAT
NOW IN THE RETTIG REPORT THEY ASSIGN 302 TO US. THEY

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 10

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1991SANTIA02319

Page: 11
Channel: n/a

LOWERED OURS BY SIXTY SOME.

Q: IF YOU SAY THAT DINA DID NOT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE DETAINED/DISAPPEARED, FOR WHAT REASON DID YOU, AS THE EX-DIRECTOR, NOT VISIT THE RETTIG COMMISSION, AS DID MANY PEOPLE, TO MAKE KNOWN YOUR
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SANTIA 02319 04 OF 13 281947Z
VERSION?

A: BECAUSE I HAVE TO BE INVITED TO A PLACE. I DO NOT LIKE TO ARRIVE LIKE A PARACHUTIST.

Q: BUT THEY CONSULTED YOU.

A: NO, THEY SENT ME A LETTER SAYING, INFORM US ABOUT THESE DETAINED/DISAPPEARED AND NOTHING ELSE. I RECEIVED IT TOWARDS THE END OF JANUARY.

Q: WHY DO YOU THINK THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE RETTIG COMMISSION ARE PARTIAL?

A: I BELIEVE IN THE IMPARTIALITY OF THE RETTIG COMMISSION, EXCEPT FOR THREE. BUT I DO NOT BELIEVE IN THE POSSIBILITY THAT THEY CAN JUDGE. IN 35 MINUTES THEY, AS ONE PRESTIGIOUS POLITICIAN SAID, JUDGED, ACCUSED AND CONDEMNED A LOT OF PEOPLE FROM THE INTELLIGENCE OFFICE, FROM DINA. I DO NOT BELIEVE IN THEM, BECAUSE OF THEIR PARTIALITY. FIRST, IN A MAN THAT SOME YEARS AGO WAS A LAWYER FOR HIS NIECE WHEN HIS RELATIVE WAS KILLED IN A FIGHT WITH DINA. I WILL NOT GIVE HIS NAME. AFTERWARDS, THIS SAME MAN WAS DETAINED BY DINA AND EXPELLED BY DINA. THIS SAME MAN IS TODAY A LAWYER ON THE LETELIER CASE. HE CANNOT BE IMPARTIAL WITH THE DINA.

A SECOND MAN WAS ALSO DETAINED, HE AND A LARGE PART OF HIS FAMILY, ACCUSED OF COLLABORATING WITH EXTREMISTS IN THAT TIME, WERE EXPELLED FROM THE COUNTRY BY ORDERS FROM ABOVE, NOT BECAUSE OF DINA.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 11

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1991SANTIA02319

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 12
Channel: n/a

PAGE 04 SANTIA 02319 04 OF 13 281947Z
NEITHER CAN THIS MAN BE IMPARTIAL.
AND THIRD IS AN EX-MINISTER OF THE PREVIOUS
GOVERNMENT WHO I ACCUSED OF ABUSING THE CONSTITUTION
FOR TRYING TO HAVE THOSE OFFICIALS WHO WERE SUBMITTED
FOR THE EXTRADITION PROCESS EXTRADITED TO THE UNITED
STATES.

Q: RETURNING TO THE SUBJECT OF DETAINED/DISAPPEARED,
THERE ARE A NUMBER OF CONCRETE CASES IN WHICH IT WAS
EFFECTIVELY ESTABLISHED THAT THESE PEOPLE WERE
EXECUTED WITHOUT HAVING BEEN TRIED, AND WERE EVEN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SANTIA 02319 05 OF 13 281948Z
ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	EB-01	HA-09
	H-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	JUSE-00	LAB-04	L-03
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	PA-02	PRS-01	P-02	RP-10
	SIL-01	SP-01	SR-01	SS-01	STR-18	TRSE-00	/080W
-----5349D4 281959Z /44 38							

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AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
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AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
USIA WASHDC 3653
JCS WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS
CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 12

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1991SANTIA02319

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 13
Channel: n/a

UNCLAS SECTION 05 OF 13 SANTIAGO 02319

SAN JOSE FOR RAJO, C. CIRA

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREL, PHUM
SUBJ: EX-DINA CHIEF CONTRERAS' COMMENTS ON HUMAN

BURIED CLANDESTINELY, SPECIFICALLY THE CASE OF
PISAGUA. WHAT DO YOU THINK WITH RESPECT TO THIS?
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SANTIA 02319 05 OF 13 281948Z

A: THE PISAGUA INCIDENT DOES NOT PERTAIN TO ME. IT
IS THE ARMY'S PROBLEM.

Q: WHAT IS YOUR OPINION, YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE
ARMY?

A: MY OPINION IS VERY CLEAR, THERE WAS A WAR HERE.

Q: AND THE WAR JUSTIFIED THIS, TO BURY BODIES
CLANDESTINELY.

A: NO ONE HAS BEEN BURIED CLANDESTINELY.

Q: AND THOSE IN PISAGUA.

A: THEY AREN'T CLANDESTINE BURIALS. IN WAR THE DEAD
ARE BURIED IN ISOLATED TOMBS, WHICH IS A TERM THAT IS
USED IN OUR REGULATIONS, OR IN BATTLEFIELD
CEMETERIES. ALL THE DEAD OF PISAGUA WERE BURIED IN A
BATTLEFIELD CEMETERY, NEXT TO A NORMAL CEMETERY.

Q: AND WHY WERE THE FAMILIES NOT NOTIFIED?

A: EVERYONE WAS NOTIFIED

Q: THAT IS NOT SO, GENERAL.

A: THIS IS WHAT WAS CLAIMED BY THE COMMANDER IN
CHIEF OF THE SIXTH DIVISION FROM THAT TIME, AND I
BELIEVE HIM.

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 13

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1991SANTIA02319

Page: 14
Channel: n/a

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SANTIA 02319 05 OF 13 281948Z
Q: GENERAL, TELL ME SOMETHING, GENERAL PINOCHET,
YOUR SUPERIOR WHEN YOU WERE IN DINA, HE ALWAYS SAID
THAT NOT A LEAF MOVED IN CHILE WITHOUT HIM KNOWING
ABOUT IT. DID HE KNOW OF ALL OF DINA'S ACTIVITIES?

A: HE KNEW OF EVERYTHING THAT I TOLD HIM, OF WHAT
DINA WAS DOING.

Q: WHAT DID YOU TELL HIM?

A: EVERYTHING THAT DINA DID.

Q: ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING?

A: OF COURSE.

Q: THAT'S TO SAY, GENERAL PINOCHET WAS CONSCIOUS OF
WHAT WAS HAPPENING?

A: GENERAL PINOCHET WAS AWARE OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING,
BUT NOT OF WHAT YOU ARE THINKING ABOUT: THE
DETAINED/DISAPPEARED.

Q: IT ISN'T WHAT I THINK, BUT WHAT THE GENERAL
PUBLIC THINKS.

A: I'M NOT INTERESTED IN THE PUBLIC OPINION THAT IS
LED BY THE OPINION OF A MARXIST PRESS. I'M
INTERESTED IN WHAT THE PUBLIC THINKS LED BY
INSTRUMENTS OF AN INDEPENDENT PRESS.

Q: GENERAL PINOCHET NEVER TOLD YOU ABOUT THE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 SANTIA 02319 05 OF 13 281948Z
SERIOUSNESS OF THESE DEEDS, THAT PEOPLE WOULD BE
ACCUSED, THAT THERE WOULD BE ASSERTIONS AGAINST ALL
OF YOU AT DINA?

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 14

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1991SANTIA02319

Page: 15

Channel: n/a

A: I WAS NEVER TOLD THAT THERE WERE ACCUSATIONS
AGAINST DINA.

Q: AND IN THE LETELIER CASE? BECAUSE HERE IS WHERE
DINA BEGINS TO DIE.

A: IN THE LETELIER CASE, THERE WASN'T A STATEMENT AT

UNCLASSIFIED

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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SANTIA 02319 06 OF 13 281949Z
ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	EB-01	HA-09
	H-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	JUSE-00	LAB-04	L-03
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	PA-02	PRS-01	P-02	RP-10
	SIL-01	SP-01	SR-01	SS-01	STR-18	TRSE-00	/080W
-----5349D6					281959Z /44 38		

O 281842Z MAR 91
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0738
INFO RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
USIA WASHDC 3654
JCS WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS
CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK

UNCLAS SECTION 06 OF 13 SANTIAGO 02319

SAN JOSE FOR RAJO, C. CIRA

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 15

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1991SANTIA02319

Page: 16

Channel: n/a

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREL, PHUM
SUBJ: EX-DINA CHIEF CONTRERAS' COMMENTS ON HUMAN

ANY MOMENT DECLARING THAT WE HAD ANY RESPONSIBILITY.
THE LETELIER CASE APPEARED IN CHILE IN '78. I WASN'T
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SANTIA 02319 06 OF 13 281949Z
IN THE DINA.

Q: AT ANY RATE, WHAT IS YOUR PRESENT RELATIONSHIP
WITH GENERAL PINOCHET?

A: THE NORMAL ONES BETWEEN A GENERAL COMMANDER IN
CHIEF OF THE ARMY WITH A RETIRED GENERAL OF THE CORPS
OF GENERALS AND ADMIRALS.

Q: DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF A FRIEND OF HIS?

A: ALL MY LIFE I'VE CONSIDERED MYSELF A SUBORDINATE
OF GENERAL PINOCHET.

Q: DO YOU KEEP A PERMANENT CONTACT WITH HIM?

A: I HAVE PERIODIC CONTACT WITH HIM. WHEN HE IS
WITH US IN THE CORPS OF GENERALS AND ADMIRALS, OR
WHEN WE MEET IN ANY OTHER OCCASION.

Q: IN RELATION TO THE RETTIG REPORT, THE PREVIOUS
COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE FACH (FUERZA AEREA DE CHILE
- CHILEAN AIR FORCE), GUSTAVO LEIGH, SAID HE
PERSONALLY ASSUMED ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR VIOLATIONS
OF HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH MIGHT HAVE OCCURRED DURING THE
PERIOD HE WAS IN THE INSTITUTION. DO YOU DO THE SAME
AS REGARDS DINA?

A: CERTAINLY. I ASSUME ANY RESPONSIBILITY WHICH
EXISTS IN THE DINA. IN ALL SENSES.

Q: AS REGARDS THE RETTIG REPORT, GENERAL STANGE,
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 16

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1991SANTIA02319

Page: 17
Channel: n/a

PAGE 03 SANTIA 02319 06 OF 13 281949Z
DIRECTOR OF CARABINEROS (CHILEAN NATIONAL POLICE),
ALSO STATED THAT IT WAS NECESSARY - AGREEING IN THIS
WITH THE COMMISSION - THAT, IN ORDER TO BE FAMILIAR
WITH THEM, ALL EVIDENCE REGARDING VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN
RIGHTS, INDICTING EXECUTIONS AND DISAPPEARANCES,
SHOULD BE DELIVERED TO THE ORDINARY COURT OF
JUSTICE. DO YOU SUPPORT THIS?

A: ANYONE CAN SAY WHAT HE LIKES AT THIS TIME, WHEN
WE HAVE DEMOCRACY.

Q: YES, BUT I'M ASKING YOU WHETHER YOU SUPPORT
THIS...

A: I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU: WE HAVE A PARTICIPATION OF
FOUR YEARS, WHICH HAS DURING THE FIRST YEARS. AN
AMNESTY LAW EXISTS, AND WE ARE OUT OF THE REST OF THE
PROBLEM.

Q: THAT IS TO SAY, YOU DO NOT AGREE THAT THE AMNESTY
LAW SHOULD BE DEROGATED?

A: WHETHER I AM OR NOT IN AGREEMENT IS NOT MY
PROBLEM.

Q: I ASK YOU GENERAL, ARE YOU OR ARE YOU NOT IN
AGREEMENT?

A: THAT EVERYTHING THAT GOES TO THE COURTS OF
JUSTICE AFTER '78.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 SANTIA 02319 06 OF 13 281949Z
Q: IN OTHER WORDS, THE AMNESTY LAW SHOULD CONTINUE?

A: OF COURSE IT SHOULD.

Q: WHY? ARE YOU AFRAID OF THE AMNESTY LAW?

A: WHY SHOULD I BE AFRAID OF IT. I'M ONLY SAYING
THAT I'M RESPECTFUL OF THE LAWS, THAT'S ALL.

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 17

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1991SANTIA02319

Page: 18
Channel: n/a

Q: GENERAL, THERE WAS A SPECIFIC CASE IN THE LAST
FEW DAYS. AN EX DINA AGENT, PREVIOUSLY A SOCIALIST
ACTIVIST, LUZ ARCE SANDOVAL, MAKES QUITE A LENGTHY

UNCLASSIFIED

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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SANTIA 02319 07 OF 13 281950Z
ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	EB-01	HA-09
	H-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	JUSE-00	LAB-04	L-03
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	PA-02	PRS-01	P-02	RP-10
	SIL-01	SP-01	SR-01	SS-01	STR-18	TRSE-00	/080W
-----5349E1 282000Z /44 38							

O 281842Z MAR 91
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0739
INFO RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
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JCS WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS
CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK

UNCLAS SECTION 07 OF 13 SANTIAGO 02319

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SUBJ: EX-DINA CHIEF CONTRERAS' COMMENTS ON HUMAN

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 18

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1991SANTIA02319

Page: 19

Channel: n/a

STATEMENT REGARDING THE TIME SHE WAS DETAINED, AND
SUBSEQUENTLY BECAME AN INFORMANT WORKING WITH YOU.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SANTIA 02319 07 OF 13 281950Z
WHAT IS TRUE, FIRST, THAT LUZ ARCE, THROUGH (ROLF)
WENDEROTH, WHO WORKED IN THE DINA, INDICATED THAT YOU
HAD WRITTEN YOUR CONFESSIONS WHEN YOU WERE BEING HELD
FOR ONE YEAR IN THE MILITARY HOSPITAL DUE TO THE
LETELIER CASE, THAT THREE OF THESE (COPIES) ARE
OUTSIDE OF CHILE, THAT YOU HAD GIVEN A FOURTH TO
WENDEROTH AND A FIFTH MIGHT BE IN "COLONIA DIGNIDAD".

A: NATURALLY, THE ONLY THING NOT SAID IS THAT SHE
WAS SENT TO GERMANY TOGETHER WITH 40 TRUNKS WHICH I
SENT IN '78 FROM PUNTA ARENAS.

Q: BUT WAS THAT TRUE OR NOT?

A: THAT'S WHAT I'M TELLING YOU, THAT WAS THE ONLY
THING LACKING TO MAKE EVERYTHING TRUE.

Q: DO THOSE TRUNKS EXIST?

A: HOW COULD THAT HAPPEN| WHERE AM I GOING TO SEND
40 TRUNKS WITH ALL OF DINA'S DOCUMENTATION?

Q: AND WHERE ARE ALL OF DINA'S ARCHIVES?

A: I HAD TWO HOURS TO HAND OVER DINA.

Q: BUT IT SEEMS THAT GENERAL (ODLANIER) MENA DIDN'T
FIND ANYTHING WHEN HE TOOK OVER.

A: I HAD TWO HOURS TO HAND OVER DINA. THAT WAS THE
TIME LIMIT I WAS GIVEN. YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT IN
TWO HOURS I COULDN'T MAKE ALL OF DINA'S DOCUMENTATION
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SANTIA 02319 07 OF 13 281950Z
DISAPPEAR. SO DON'T ASK ME FOR DINA'S
DOCUMENTATION. IT REMAINED THERE.

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 19

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1991SANTIA02319

Page: 20

Channel: n/a

Q: WHAT DO YOU THINK OF SENATOR JAIME GUZMAN WHO BEING A MAN VERY CLOSE TO GENERAL PINOCHET IN THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT, STATED THAT YOU WERE A RUN-AWAY AND WILD HORSE, WHO HAD TO HAVE A BIT PUT ON?

A: MR. GUZMAN PROBABLY THOUGHT HE HAD TO PUT ALL ARMY OFFICERS IN A CORRAL, SOMETHING WHICH HE DID NOT SUCCEED IN DOING, NOT TO ME NOR TO ANYONE ELSE.

Q: BUT DIDN'T HE WIN THE FIGHT, BECAUSE HE WAS INFLUENTIAL IN YOUR DEPARTURE FROM DINA AND IN DINA'S DEMISE?

A: MR. GUZMAN NEVER HAD INFLUENCE ON THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC FOR DINA TO END. DINA DID NOT DIE NOR WAS IT FINISHED BY THE INSISTENCE OR THE PRESSURE FROM ABROAD OR FROM CHILEANS. DINA WAS CHANGED TO THE CENTRO NACIONAL DE INFORMACIONES, CNI (NATIONAL INFORMATION CENTER) BECAUSE THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, THE PRESENT COMMANDER IN CHIEF, DETERMINED THAT ITS MISSION HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED, AND HAVING ACCOMPLISHED ITS MISSION IT WAS NECESSARY TO MOVE ON TO ANOTHER ORGANIZATION. SO MUCH SO, HE GAVE ME THE ORDER HIMSELF TO DO IT AND I MYSELF MADE DINA AND I ORGANIZED THE CNI AND FOR THREE MONTHS I WAS ITS FIRST DIRECTOR.

Q: LET'S GO BACK AGAIN, GENERAL, TO THE CASE OF LUZ ARCE, QUITE A SPECIAL CASE WHICH CALLS FOR
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 SANTIA 02319 07 OF 13 281950Z
ATTENTION. WHY DID SHE START WORKING WITH YOU,
CONSIDERING SHE WAS ARRESTED, AND A SOCIALIST?

A: LUZ ARCE IS A WOMAN WHO BELONGED TO THE GAP (GRUPO DE AMIGOS PERSONALES - GROUP OF PERSONAL FRIENDS), SHE BELONGED TO THE SOCIALIST PARTY, AND WAS A WOMAN WHO ACTED IN THE SUBVERSIVE WAR QUITE FREQUENTLY. SHE RECEIVED BULLET WOUNDS WHEN WE DETAINED HER FOR THE SECOND TIME BECAUSE SHE WAS WORKING WITH A GUERRILLA UNIT.

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 20

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1991SANTIA02319

Page: 21
Channel: n/a

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SANTIA 02319 08 OF 13 281950Z
ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	EB-01	HA-09
	H-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	JUSE-00	LAB-04	L-03
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	PA-02	PRS-01	P-02	RP-10
	SIL-01	SP-01	SR-01	SS-01	STR-18	TRSE-00	/080W
-----5349E2 282000Z /44 38							

O 281842Z MAR 91
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0740
INFO RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
USIA WASHDC 3656
JCS WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS
CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK

UNCLAS SECTION 08 OF 13 SANTIAGO 02319

SAN JOSE FOR RAJO, C. CIRA

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREL, PHUM
SUBJ: EX-DINA CHIEF CONTRERAS' COMMENTS ON HUMAN

Q: BUT SHE SAYS THAT SHE WAS SHOT IN LONDON STREET.

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 21

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SANTIA 02319 08 OF 13 281950Z
A: THAT'S NOT TRUE. SHE HAS SHOT IN A CLASH WITH A
DINA PATROL, SO MUCH SO, THAT PART OF WHAT SHE SAYS
IS TRUE AND PART IS FALSE. SHE WAS TAKEN TO HOSPITAL
AND HEALED. IF WE HADN'T BEEN HUMAN WE WOULD HAVE
LEFT HER TO BLEED TO DEATH.

Q: IS THAT WHEN YOU TOLD HER YOU WERE THE CHIEF OF
ALL DETAINEES?

A: I DIDN'T TALK TO HER IN THE HOSPITAL. NEVER.

Q: YOU NEVER SPOKE TO HER?

A: NEVER. LUZ ARCE WAS AN EXCELLENT "MEDIUM". NOT
FOR SPIRITISM, BUT FOR HYPNOTISM. SHE WORKED WITH A
TEAM, SHE HYPNOTIZED AND WAS ABLE TO GET INFORMATION
FROM ALL THE DETAINEES THAT WERE THERE.

Q: AND WITHOUT TORTURE?

A: NO TYPE OF TORTURE. SHE HYPNOTIZED, MENTALLY
TRANSFERRING TO ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL AND WORKED
PERFECTLY WELL OBTAINING INFORMATION.

Q: EXCUSE ME, BUT YOU ASSERT THAT THERE WAS NO
TORTURING IN THE DINA?

A: NO, THERE WAS NEVER ANY TORTURING DONE IN THE
SENSE YOU ARE INDICATING. NOW, IF THEY CALL TORTURE
THE INTERROGATION OF A PRISONER, A DETAINEE, THEN
TORTURE IS ALSO THE TREATMENT GIVEN TO THE IRAQI
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SANTIA 02319 08 OF 13 281950Z
PRISONERS OF WAR BY THE AMERICANS WHO CRITICIZE US SO
MUCH, WHO SHOW THEM WITH THEIR HANDS BOUND AND
BLINDFOLDED.

Q: DID DINA DO THE SAME THING?

A: EXACTLY THE SAME. IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING, WE
CONDUCTED OURSELVES BY THE RULES FOR PRISONERS OF

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

WAR.

Q: BUT I IMAGINE THAT THE WAR IN THE PERSIAN GULF WAS NOT THE SAME WAR...

A: IT WASN'T THE SAME BECAUSE THIS ONE WAS A SUBVERSIVE, CLANDESTINE AND CRUEL WAR, FAR WORSE THAN THE PERSIAN GULF WAR.

Q: IN OTHER WORDS, ACCORDING TO WHAT YOU ARE TELLING ME, IN THE SENSE OF A SUBVERSIVE WAR, THAT PERMITTED TORTURE...

A: NO. I NEVER SAID TORTURE SHOULD BE PERMITTED.

Q: BUT WAS THERE TORTURE OR WAS THERE NO TORTURE?

A: THERE WAS NO TORTURE. PRISONERS WERE INTERROGATED, BUT AS MARXIST PRINCIPLES EXIST IN WHICH ALL PRISONERS ONCE FREE MUST SAY THAT THEY WERE TORTURED, ALL ARE GOING TO SAY IT, THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT IT. THAT IS NORMAL.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 SANTIA 02319 08 OF 13 281950Z

Q: GENERAL, YOU TELL ME THAT THE DINA HAS NO RELATION TO THE MURDERS NOR TO THE DETAINED/DISAPPEARED NOR TO TORTURES. A SPECIFIC CASE ALSO RELATED BY LUZ ARCE, LUMI VIDELA: MEMBER OF THE MIR (MOVIMIENTO DE IZQUIERDA REVOLUCIONARIO - LEFTIST REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT), WITH WHOM LUZ ARCE CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN WITH DAYS BEFORE, DETAINED IN THE JOSE DOMINGO CANAS BARRACKS, EVEN GIVING HER HER JACKET, AND LUMI VIDELA TURNS UP MURDERED INSIDE THE ITALIAN EMBASSY.

A: LUZ ARCE SAYS THAT QUOTING OTHER PEOPLE, BECAUSE SHE WAS NEVER, AT ANY MOMENT, IN JOSE DOMINGO CANAS,

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1991SANTIA02319

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 24
Channel: n/a

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SANTIA 02319 09 OF 13 281951Z
ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	EB-01	HA-09
	H-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	JUSE-00	LAB-04	L-03
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	PA-02	PRS-01	P-02	RP-10
	SIL-01	SP-01	SR-01	SS-01	STR-18	TRSE-00	/080W

-----5349E9 282001Z /44 38

O 281842Z MAR 91
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0741
INFO RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
USIA WASHDC 3657
JCS WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS
CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK

UNCLAS SECTION 09 OF 13 SANTIAGO 02319

SAN JOSE FOR RAJO, C. CIRA

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREL, PHUM
SUBJ: EX-DINA CHIEF CONTRERAS' COMMENTS ,ON HUMAN
NEVER.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SANTIA 02319 09 OF 13 281951Z

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 24

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1991SANTIA02319

Page: 25

Channel: n/a

Q: BUT LUMI VIDELA WAS DETAINED OR NOT?

A: LUMI VIDELA TURNED UP IN THE ITALIAN EMBASSY, HOW COULD SHE HAVE BEEN DETAINED IN ONE OF OUR BARRACKS?

Q: BUT YOU NEVER DETAINED HER?

A: WE NEVER DETAINED HER. SHE TURNED UP DEAD INSIDE THE ITALIAN EMBASSY.

Q: WHO ARE THE PERPETRATORS OF THAT CRIME?

A: I HAVE NO IDEA. I DON'T KNOW EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS IN CHILE.

Q: YES, BUT THERE ARE MANY THINGS YOU ARE POINTING OUT, GENERAL, THAT THERE ARE NO DETAINED/DISAPPEARED...

A: NO, THERE ARE PERSONS WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED AS IN ALL WARS, BUT NO DETAINED/DISAPPEARED.

Q: BUT THE PEOPLE YOU DETAINED, DIDN'T YOU MAKE THEM DISAPPEAR?

A: NO| WE DID NOT MAKE THEM DISAPPEAR. NO, BECAUSE YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT IN THE SAME CASE LUZ ARCE RELATES, IF WE WANTED PEOPLE TO DISAPPEAR, WE WOULD SIMPLY LEAVE THEM IN THE STREET TO BLEED TO DEATH, WE WOULD NOT HAVE TAKEN THEM TO THE HOSPITALS OR CLINICS TO SAVE THEM, AS WAS HER CASE. IT WASN'T HER, BECAUSE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SANTIA 02319 09 OF 13 281951Z
SHE IS SAYING A LIE, WHO SAW A NEAR RAPE ON THE 31 OF DECEMBER. IT WAS ANOTHER ONE, BUT THE REST IS TRUE, WE DISCHARGED THE MAN WHO WANTED TO DO IT WITH ANOTHER WOMAN.

Q: BUT DON'T YOU THINK THAT THAT CASE COULD HAVE REPEATED ITSELF MANY TIMES, ABUSE OF POWER?

A: I DON'T THINK IT REPEATED ITSELF MANY TIMES. I ALSO DON'T BELIEVE THAT EVERYONE WAS AS CLEAN AS A WHISTLE. I BELIEVE THAT IT IS POSSIBLE THAT ABUSES

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 25

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

EXISTED AT SOME OPPORTUNITY, BUT I AM TELLING YOU, AS SHE POINTS OUT, WHICH IS PERHAPS MORE CREDIBLE THAN MYSELF AT PRESENT, HOW WE PUNISHED THE INDIVIDUALS THAT AT ONE TIME COMMITTED AN ABUSE.

Q: AND HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THAT LUZ ARCE, TOGETHER WITH TWO OTHER DETAINEES, WERE GIVEN AN APARTMENT IN TOWER 12 OF THE SAN BORJA TOWERS, BEING THAT SHE WAS AN EXTREMIST AS YOU SAY?

A: THE REASON IS VERY SIMPLE. SHE VOLUNTARILY WANTED TO COOPERATE WITH US.

Q: WHY VOLUNTARILY? BECAUSE SHE SAID THAT HER CHOICES WERE "YES OR YES"...

A: THAT IS A FALSE STATEMENT. SHE VOLUNTARILY WANTED TO COOPERATE WITH US FOR A VERY SIMPLE REASON: SHE HAD THE PROBLEM THAT SHE WAS SEPARATED FROM HER SON AND SHE WANTED TO GET TOGETHER WITH HIM AGAIN.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 SANTIA 02319 09 OF 13 281951Z
SHE KNEW THAT FROM THERE SHE WAS GOING TO A PRISON CAMP. SHE ASKED TO COLLABORATE WITH US, WE TESTED HER IN THE FIRST CASE, AND SHE ACTUALLY DID THE JOB AND WENT TO HER APARTMENT WITH HER SON.

Q: DID YOU WORK WITH A LOT OF PEOPLE OF THIS TYPE, I DON'T SAY "MEDIUMS", BUT DETAINEES THAT LATER COLLABORATED?

A: VERY MUCH, VERY MUCH. A LARGE NUMBER. AND UNFORTUNATELY, I IMAGINE THAT A LOT OF THE DISAPPEARED CAME OUT OF THIS.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1991SANTIA02319

Page: 27
Channel: n/a

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SANTIA 02319 10 OF 13 281952Z
ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	EB-01	HA-09
	H-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	JUSE-00	LAB-04	L-03
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	PA-02	PRS-01	P-02	RP-10
	SIL-01	SP-01	SR-01	SS-01	STR-18	TRSE-00	/080W
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O 281842Z MAR 91
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0742
INFO RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
USIA WASHDC 3658
JCS WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS
CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK

UNCLAS SECTION 10 OF 13 SANTIAGO 02319

SAN JOSE FOR RAJO, C. CIRA

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREL, PHUM
SUBJ: EX-DINA CHIEF CONTRERAS' COMMENTS ON HUMAN

Q: ARE YOU SAYING THAT THEY WERE EXECUTED BY PEOPLE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SANTIA 02319 10 OF 13 281952Z
FROM THEIR OWN GROUPS?

A: YOU KNOW THAT CHE GUEVARRA SAID THAT INFORMANTS
AND TRAITORS MUST NOT BE SHOWN ANY MERCY, THEY SHOULD

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 27

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1991SANTIA02319

Page: 28

Channel: n/a

ALL BE KILLED. MANY OF THESE PEOPLE COOPERATED WITH US BECAUSE OF THIS. FOR EXAMPLE, LUZ ARCE, WITH HER KNOWLEDGE OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY, ALMOST ALL OF THEIR MILITANTS FELL INTO OUR HANDS AND WERE TAKEN TO PRISON CAMPS. WE GOT A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF COMMUNISTS, THANKS TO LUZ ARCE. AND SHE HAS NOT BEEN PARDONED, SHE IS STILL CONDEMNED TO DEATH BY THE EXTREMIST GROUPS, AND FOR THAT REASON SHE WAS TAKEN OUT OF THE COUNTRY.

Q: GENERAL, IT MAY NOT CORRESPOND TO YOU, BUT MANY BOOKS HAVE BEEN WRITTEN ON WHAT HAS BEEN CALLED THE "CARAVAN OF DEATH", IN OCTOBER 1973, HEADED BY A PUMA HELICOPTER (SIC) COMMANDED BY SERGIO ARELLANO. IN THIS HELICOPTER WERE VARIOUS OFFICIALS. DURING THEIR TOUR OF VARIOUS CITIES OF THE NORTH AND ONE OF THE SOUTH, 72 PEOPLE DIED. HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THIS?

A: I DON'T HAVE TO EXPLAIN IT, FIRST BECAUSE I DID NOT HAVE TO PARTICIPATE IN ANYTHING LIKE THAT AND I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THE PROBLEM WAS.

Q: BUT IN THIS THERE WERE FOUR PEOPLE THAT LATER WERE PART OF DINA, SERGIO ARREDONDO, CHIMINELLI...

A: SERGIO ARREDONDO WAS NEVER A PART OF DINA.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SANTIA 02319 10 OF 13 281952Z

Q: BUT HE COLLABORATED WITH YOU...

A: NEVER

Q: OKAY, BUT CHIMINELLI, MOREN BRITO...

A: I WILL ONLY SAY TO YOU THAT THE PEOPLE THAT WENT NORTH WERE NOT IN DINA, AND ALSO THAT DINA DID NOT EXIST, AND THAT IS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW THE RETTIG COMMISSION, IN THE HOSTILE AND PARTIAL WAY IT TREATS US, ATTRIBUTES EVEN FIRING SQUAD DEATHS OF THIS TIME TO DINA, JUST AS IT CHARGES DINA WITH EVERYTHING IT CAN, INCLUDING DEATHS IN ARGENTINA.

Q: GENERAL, LET US TALK A BIT ABOUT THE PRESIDENT OF

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 28

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1991SANTIA02319

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 29

Channel: n/a

THE REPUBLIC, MR. PATRICIO AYLWIN. HE, WHEN HE RELEASED THE RETTIG REPORT, IN A VERY CHRISTIAN WAY, ASKED FOR FORGIVENESS IN THE NAME OF ALL CHILEANS BY THE RELATIVES OF THE VICTIMS. ARE YOU DISPOSED TO ASK FOR FORGIVENESS?

A: I HAVE NO REASON TO REPENT OR ASK FORGIVENESS. I THINK THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS TOO BENEVOLENT AND I ALSO THINK THAT HE SHOULD STOP FOOLING HIMSELF ON THIS PROBLEM, BECAUSE UNFORTUNATELY WHAT HE HEALTHILY THOUGHT, THAT THE COUNTRY WOULD PEACEFULLY AND CALMLY, LOOK FOR THE TRUTH, HAS NOT BEEN DONE. THE MARXISTS MOUNTED A STRATEGY IN WHICH THEY IMPLANTED THEIR OWN TRUTH AND THAT IS WHY WE ARE TELLING OUR TRUTH. THE PRESIDENT SHOULD WAKE UP BECAUSE INSTEAD OF ARRIVING AT THE TRUTH, AT RECONCILIATION AND
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 SANTIA 02319 10 OF 13 281952Z
PEACE, WE HAVE ARRIVED AT A HALF TRUTH, AT IRRECONCILIATION AND AT VENGEANCE. AND PROOF OF THIS FACT OF VENGEANCE ARE THE MILITARY DEATHS, OF CARABINEROS AND INVESTIGATIONS POLICE IN THE PAST DAYS.

Q: GENERAL ARE YOU SCARED:

A: I HAVE NEVER BEEN SCARED OF ANYBODY.

Q: BUT WHY DO YOU GO AROUND WITH SO MANY BODYGUARDS, SO MUCH SECURITY?

UNCLASSIFIED

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Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 29

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1991SANTIA02319

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 30
Channel: n/a

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SANTIA 02319 11 OF 13 281953Z
ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	EB-01	HA-09
	H-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	JUSE-00	LAB-04	L-03
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	PA-02	PRS-01	P-02	RP-10
	SIL-01	SP-01	SR-01	SS-01	STR-18	TRSE-00	/080W
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O 281842Z MAR 91
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0743
INFO RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
USIA WASHDC 3659
JCS WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS
CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK

UNCLAS SECTION 11 OF 13 SANTIAGO 02319

SAN JOSE FOR RAJO, C. CIRA

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREL, PHUM
SUBJ: EX-DINA CHIEF CONTRERAS' COMMENTS ON HUMAN

A: I DO NOT GO AROUND WITH MANY BODYGUARDS OR A LOT
OF SECURITY.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SANTIA 02319 11 OF 13 281953Z

Q: YOU LIVE IN THE SOUTH, DON'T YOU?

A: NORMALLY I LIVE IN THE SOUTH, BUT IN SANTIAGO AS
WELL.

Q: DON'T YOU HAVE ANY REGRETS?

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 30

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1991SANTIA02319

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 31

Channel: n/a

A: NONE. I LIVE VERY PEACEFULLY WITH MY CONSCIENCE.

Q: NOW, IF ONCE AGAIN IT WAS THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF SEPTEMBER 11, 1973 AND YOU WERE THE DIRECTOR OF DINA, WOULD YOU ACT IN THE SAME WAY?

A: FIRST OF ALL, I HOPE THAT THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF SEPTEMBER 11 ARE NEVER REPEATED. AND IN ORDER THAT IT NEVER AGAIN IS REPEATED, AS EVERYONE HAS SAID AND I ALSO WILL SAY IT, I HOPE THAT THEY PUT A QUICK END TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBVERSIVE WAR THAT IS NOW BEING WAGED IN THIS COUNTRY. BUT INSTEAD WE ARE RAPIDLY APPROACHING A GUERILLA WAR AND AN OPEN WAR WITH SUBVERSIVES THAT ARE ACTING IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SUBVERSIVES OF PERU.

Q: GENERAL, WHAT DO YOU FEEL WHEN PUBLIC OPINION OR PEOPLE CHARACTERIZE YOU AS AN ASSASSIN?

A: IT MAKES ME SAD TO HEAR THEM, BECAUSE THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY ARE SAYING.

Q: RETURNING TO PRESIDENT AYLWIN, YOU SAY THAT HE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SANTIA 02319 11 OF 13 281953Z
HAS BEEN DECEIVED...

A: I HAVE SAID THAT HE HAS BEEN FOOLING HIMSELF.

Q: BUT THE IMPRESSION THAT YOU LEAVE IS THAT THE DINA HAS THE TRUTH AND THAT ALL THE REST OF PUBLIC OPINION IS WRONG, THE RETTIG COMMISSION IS WRONG...

A: NO, DON'T TAKE THINGS IN ANOTHER WAY. I HAVE NOT SAID THAT ALL OF PUBLIC OPINION IS WRONG, I AM SAYING THAT THE RETTIG COMMISSION WAS DECEIVED BECAUSE A MARXIST STRATEGY WAS DEvised TO PROVIDE IT WITH FALSEHOODS IN DECLARATIONS AND THESE WERE ACCEPTED. AND BY ACCEPTING THESE DECLARATIONS IT ONLY ESTABLISHED HALF OF THE TRUTH. IT DID NOT LISTEN TO OUR SIDE. MOREOVER, A LARGE NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS FROM THE INTERIOR MINISTRY OF THE PAST GOVERNMENT WERE PRESENTED TO THE RETTIG COMMISSION WHICH SAID "THESE PEOPLE WERE FREED." THEY DID NOT GIVE ANY IMPORTANCE

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 31

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1991SANTIA02319

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 32

Channel: n/a

TO THESE DOCUMENTS OR EVEN CONSIDER THEM.

Q: ARE YOU AWARE THAT YOU ARE ONE OF THE MOST HATED PEOPLE IN CHILE?

A: I DON'T BELIEVE I AM ONE OF THE MOST HATED PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY. THE MARXISTS MUST HATE ME BECAUSE I HAVE AN ENORMOUS NUMBER OF FRIENDS. FOR THE MARXISTS I MUST BE VERY HATED, BUT FOR THE REST OF THE PEOPLE I DON'T BELIEVE SO.

Q: BUT CAN YOU PEACEFULLY GO OUT ON THE STREETS?
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 SANTIA 02319 11 OF 13 281953Z

A: I ALWAYS DO.

Q: ALONE?

A: OF COURSE. DOWNTOWN...

Q: AND TO THE MOVIES?

A: I HAVEN'T BEEN TO THE THE MOVIES IN 25 YEARS BECAUSE I DON'T LIKE TO GO TO MOVIES.

UNCLASSIFIED

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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SANTIA 02319 12 OF 13 281954Z
ACTION ARA-01

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 32

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1991SANTIA02319

Page: 33

Channel: n/a

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	EB-01	HA-09
	H-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	JUSE-00	LAB-04	L-03
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	PA-02	PRS-01	P-02	RP-10
	SIL-01	SP-01	SR-01	SS-01	STR-18	TRSE-00	/080W
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O 281842Z MAR 91
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0744
INFO RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
USIA WASHDC 3660
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USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS
CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK

UNCLAS SECTION 12 OF 13 SANTIAGO 02319

SAN JOSE FOR RAJO, C. CIRA

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREL, PHUM
SUBJ: EX-DINA CHIEF CONTRERAS' COMMENTS ON HUMAN

Q: GENERAL, I WOULD LIKE TO READ A PARAGRAPH FROM
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SANTIA 02319 12 OF 13 281954Z
THE RETTIG REPORT REGARDING THE DISAPPEARED DURING
THE ERA IN WHICH YOU WERE IN DINA, 1974-78. IT SAYS
THAT THE ORGANIZATION WAS DRIVEN BY THE DESIRE TO
SYSTEMATICALLY EXTERMINATE A CERTAIN CATEGORY OF
PERSONS FOR POLITICAL REASONS. WHAT DO YOU THINK
ABOUT THAT?

A: ONLY THAT THEY (THE COMMISSION) HEARD FALSE
DECLARATIONS FROM THE SAME DEFEATED MARXISTS OF
YESTERDAY WHO TODAY ARE GIVEN REFUGE BY THE VICARIATE
OF SOLIDARITY, WHICH HAS BEEN INFILTRATED BY MARXISTS
BOTH WITH AND WITHOUT CLERICAL GARB. AND MAY THE
CATHOLIC CHURCH FORGIVE ME, BECAUSE I AM AN

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 33

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1991SANTIA02319

Page: 34

Channel: n/a

PRACTICING CATHOLIC, BUT I BELIEVE THAT FOR A LONG TIME MARXISTS HAVE BEEN INFILTRATING THE CHURCH'S VICARIATE OF SOLIDARITY. FOR INSTANCE, CONSIDER THE CASE OF THAT MR. GUTIERREZ, A VICAR WHO FLED THE COUNTRY WITH HIS SECRETARY.

Q: BUT YOU DON'T BELIEVE THAT THE WORK OF THE VICARIATE SAVED THE LIVES OF MANY PEOPLE?

A: NO. ON THE CONTRARY, THE VICARIATE WAS INFILTRATED. INITIALLY IT WAS A GOOD IDEA, BUT IT WAS INFILTRATED BY MARXISTS AND FROM THAT MOMENT SERVED AS THE BEST INTELLIGENCE SERVICE IN THE COUNTRY FOR THE MARXISTS.

Q: GENERAL, DURING YOUR TENURE AT DINA DID YOU EVER HAVE OCCASION TO HAVE AN ASSIGNMENT ABROAD?

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SANTIA 02319 12 OF 13 281954Z
A: YES, I WENT ABROAD ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS. AND NOT, AS THE RETTIG COMMISSION REPORTS, TO KILL PEOPLE. THAT IS FALSE.

Q: IS IT TRUE THAT YOU WERE IN CONTACT WITH CARLOS ALTAMIRANO ABROAD?

A: I WAS IN CONTACT WITH CARLOS ALTAMIRANO.

Q: WHEN WAS THAT AND WHAT HAPPENED?

A: IN MARCH OF 1974 THERE WAS GREAT EXCITEMENT BECAUSE CHILE WAS TO BE JUDGED BEFORE THE RUSSELL TRIBUNAL IN HELSINKI. I WAS SENT TO HELSINKI WITH TWO DINA OFFICIALS. IT WAS DIFFICULT TO CONTACT ALTAMIRANO IN HELSINKI; NO ONE ABROAD KNEW ANYTHING ABOUT THE RUSSELL TRIBUNAL EVEN THOUGH IN CHILE THE MATTER WAS COVERED DAILY BY THE PRESS. AFTER VISITING EIGHT POLICE STATIONS, WE WERE ABLE TO OBTAIN ALTAMIRANO'S ADDRESS. THREE OF US ARRIVED TO FIND THIRTY CUBANS GUARDING HIS DOOR. WE IDENTIFIED OURSELVES AND ENTERED.

Q: HOW DID YOU IDENTIFY YOURSELVES?

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 34

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1991SANTIA02319

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 35
Channel: n/a

A: AS UPROOTED CHILEAN EXILES. WE ENTERED AND HAD THE PLEASURE OF SITTING DOWN AT MR. ALTAMIRANO'S TABLE TO EAT EMPANADAS AND DRINK RED WINE FOR AN ENTIRE AFTERNOON. I VERY HAPPILY DESCRIBED TO HIM THE SITUATION IN CHILE, WHICH OF COURSE WAS FICTITIOUS. THE NEXT DAY I WAS TO APPEAR BEFORE THE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 SANTIA 02319 12 OF 13 281954Z
RUSSELL TRIBUNAL, AND ALTAMIRANO INVITED ME TO GO WITH HIM IN HIS BUS. I SAT NEXT TO HIM ON OUR WAY TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI, WHERE THE COURT WAS TO TAKE PLACE. MR. ALTAMIRANO WANTED ME TO SHARE THE DAIS WITH OTHER FOREIGN PERSONALITIES FROM THE MARXIST WORLD, INCLUDING VOLODIA TEITELBOIM. ALTAMIRANO WANTED ME TO SIT ON THE DAIS AND TELL THE AUDIENCE WHAT HAD HAPPENED. IN REALITY, THERE WERE 200 PEOPLE, NO MORE. I WAS NOT CONVINCED TO SIT UP FRONT. I SPOTTED FORMER AIR FORCE OFFICER GENERAL POBLETE IN THE FRONT ROW. HE KNEW ME, AND WE SNUCK AWAY TO THE BACK WITH THE OTHERS AND LISTENED TO THE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SANTIA 02319 13 OF 13 281954Z
ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	EB-01	HA-09
	H-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	JUSE-00	LAB-04	L-03
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	PA-02	PRS-01	P-02	RP-10
	SIL-01	SP-01	SR-01	SS-01	STR-18	TRSE-00	/080W

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 35

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1991SANTIA02319

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 36
Channel: n/a

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0745
INFO RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
USIA WASHDC 3661
JCS WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS
CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK

UNCLAS SECTION 13 OF 13 SANTIAGO 02319

SAN JOSE FOR RAJO, C. CIRA

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREL, PHUM
SUBJ: EX-DINA CHIEF CONTRERAS' COMMENTS ON HUMAN

BORING SPEECHES THAT COMMUNISTS LOVE SO MUCH. WE
LISTENED CAREFULLY TO MR. VOLODIA TEITELBOIM, THE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SANTIA 02319 13 OF 13 281954Z
VERY MAN THAT TODAY ATTENDS MASS, WHO IS CONSIDERED A
DEMOCRAT, WHO FOUNDED THE COMMUNIST PARTY IN CHILE,
AND WHO THEN SPOKE TIRELESSLY AGAINST HIS COUNTRY. I
HEARD HIM SAY THAT DAILY IN MARCH 1974 THE HUGE
MAPOCHO RIVER WAS FILLED WITH THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS
OF BODIES.

Q: BUT WHAT HAPPENED AT THE END. WERE YOU ABLE TO
LEAVE?

A: AFTER SPEAKING, ALTAMIRANO SPOKE AND ASKED US TO
PROCEED TO THE DAIS; WE SNUCK AWAY. FROM LONDON I
SENT ALTAMIRANO A CARD IN MY NAME THANKING HIM FOR
HIS HOSPITALITY.

Q: WHO IS LILIANA WALKER?

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 36

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1991SANTIA02319

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 37

Channel: n/a

A: THEY SAY MONICA LAGOS IS LILIANA WALKER.

Q: EXCUSE ME, BUT DO YOU KNOW LILIANA WALKER?

A: I NEVER MET HER.

Q: LUZ ARCE SAID THAT THERE WERE AT LEAST FIVE OR TEN LILIANA WALKERS.

A: LUZ ARCE NEVER IN HER LIFE KNEW LILIANA WALKER.

Q: NOW, WITH RESPECT TO THE PEOPLE WHO WORKED IN DINA. DINA IS NOW DISSOLVED. BUT PRESENTLY, ARE THERE FORMER PEOPLE THAT MIGHT BE WORKING IN THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT IN CAPACITIES RELATED TO THE ARMY?

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SANTIA 02319 13 OF 13 281954Z

A: CERTAINLY, THERE ARE PEOPLE FROM DINA OCCUPYING HIGH POSITIONS IN THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT. THIS GOES TO SHOW THAT THEY WERE GOOD PEOPLE.

Q: AND WHO ARE THOSE PERSONS?

A: NAMES CAN NOT BE GIVEN IN KEEPING WITH THE AGREEMENT ON THIS MATTER.

Q: HOWEVER, THERE ARE PEOPLE?

A: THERE ARE....AND WELL PLACED BECAUSE THEY WERE GOOD PEOPLE.

Q: IN OTHER WORDS, AFTER THAT CONVERSATION, YOUR WORDS LEAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT DINA WAS A HOLY DOVE (INNOCENT). PUBLIC OPINION DOESN'T PERCEIVE IT THAT WAY.

A: THERE ARE NO HOLY DOVES ANYWHERE. AND THE DAY THEY REGARD THEMSELVES HOLY DOVES IS RIDICULOUS. WHAT WE (DINA) ARE SAYING IS THAT WE DO NOT ACCEPT THAT, WITHOUT HEARING OUR SIDE OF THE STORY, THEY ACCUSE, JUDGE AND CONDEMN US, AS WAS DONE BY THE RETTIG COMMISSION. THE MARXISTS ARE TRYING TO EXERT INFLUENCE THROUGH THE COMMISSION -- WHICH PERHAPS HAD GOOD INITIAL INTENTIONS TO TRY TO DEAL WITH THE DINA

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 37

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1991SANTIA02319

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 38
Channel: n/a

PROBLEM -- TO SAY THAT WE WERE INVOLVED IN GENOCIDE.
OF THE 1,322 DEATHS, THE RETTIG COMMISSION ATTRIBUTES
30 TO US, THAT IS THE SO-CALLED DINA GENOCIDE. AND
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 SANTIA 02319 13 OF 13 281954Z
OF THE 957 DISAPPEARED THEY PREVIOUSLY ATTRIBUTED 389
TO US; NOW THEY SAY 302. IT SEEMS AS THOUGH THEY
HAVE LOWERED THEIR SIGHTS.
END TEXT.
GILLESPIE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNNN

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 38

UNCLASSIFIED