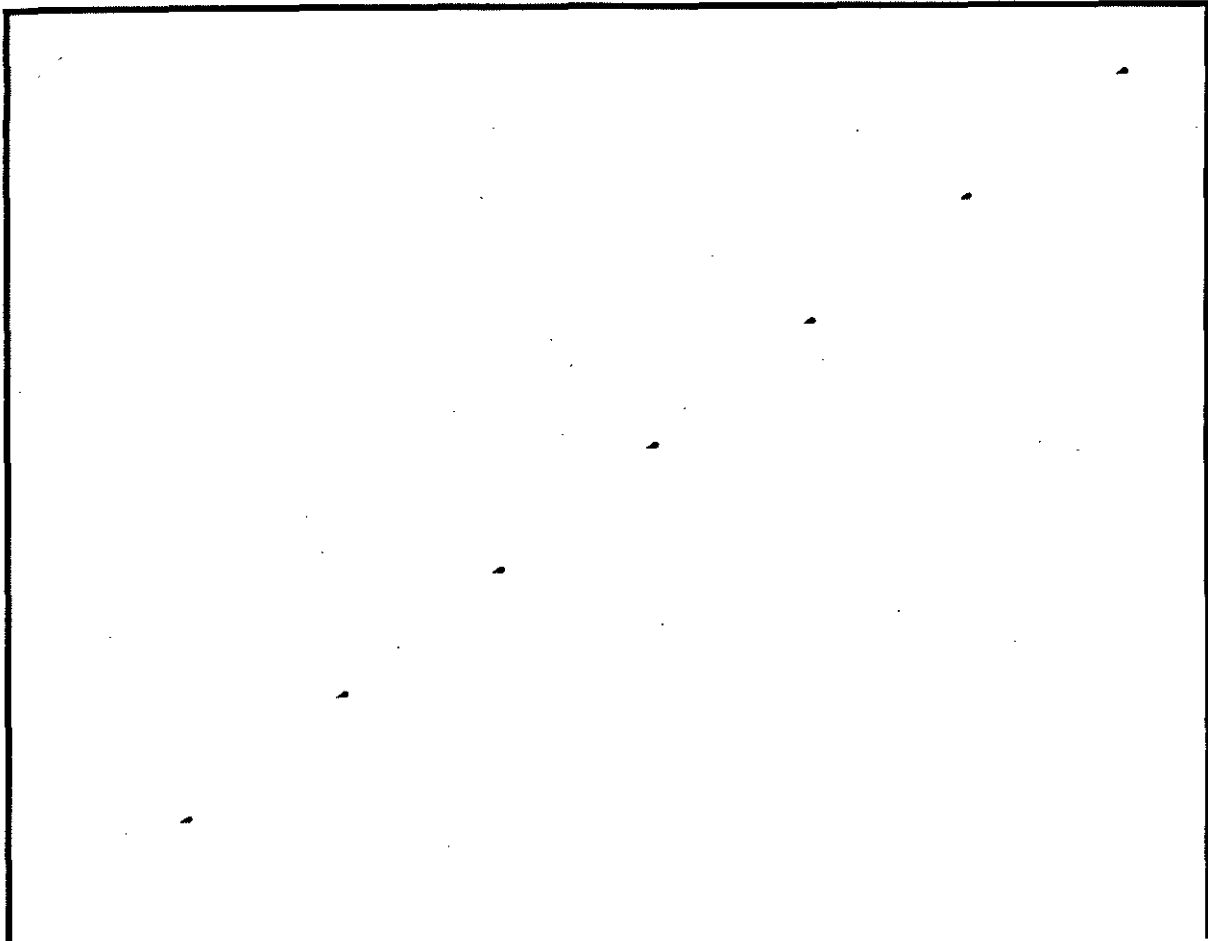


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SERIAL: (U) IIR 6 817 0123 89.

BODY

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/
PASS: (U) DIA PASS. TO AIG 11848.

COUNTRY: (U) CHILE (CI); GERMANY (GE); PARAGUAY (PA).

SUBJ: IIR 6 817 0123 89/CONTRERAS' TENTACLES (U).

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY
EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE

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Declassified by DIA
per EO 12958

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 890110.

SUMMARY: ~~(S,SI)~~ RETIRED ARMY GENERAL MANUEL CONTRERAS REPORTEDLY CONTROLS ALL CHILEAN GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS CONCERNING LETELIER-MOFFIT KILLINGS. CONTRERAS' SON, A MURDER SUSPECT, LINKED TO ARMY STAFF ADVOCATE GENERAL FERNANDO TORRES. CIRCLE CLOSES WITH TORRES TIES TO PINOCHET.

TEXT: 1. RETIRED CHILEAN ARMY BRIGADIER GENERAL MANUEL CONTRERAS, FORMER DIRECTOR OF DINA AND KEY FIGURE IN THE LETELIER-MOFFIT ASSASSINATION, HAS TAKEN EXTREME PRECAUTIONS TO PROTECT PRESIDENT PINOCHET FROM DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN THE DECISION-MAKING/AUTHORIZATION PROCESS OF THAT ASSASSINATION. ALL GOVERNMENT RECORDS PERTAINING TO THE LETELIER-MOFFIT ASSASSINATIONS IN WASHINGTON IN 1976 AS WELL AS THE KILLING OF PINOCHET'S PREDECESSOR AS ARMY CINC, GENERAL CARLOS PRATS, AND WIFE IN BUENOS AIRES AND THE ATTEMPT ON THE LIFE OF REGIME OPPONENT BERNARDO LEIGHTON IN ROME IN 1975, WERE REMOVED BY CONTRERAS FROM DINA ARCHIVES.

IN ADDITION TO INTERNAL DINA DOCUMENTS, THE ARCHIVES INCLUDED ALL RECORDS/PROCEEDINGS OF MEETINGS AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL AND IN THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL ON THE THREE INCIDENTS.

CONTRERAS MADE TWO COPIES OF EACH DOCUMENT, FORWARDING ONE TO GERMANY AND ONE TO PARAGUAY FOR SAFE KEEPING WHILE RETAINING THE ORIGINAL UNDER HIS CONTROL, IN STORAGE, IN THE SOUTH OF CHILE.

2. ~~(S)~~-AGAINST-SUGGESTION THAT CONTRERAS IS NOW HOLDING PINOCHET HOSTAGE WITH REGARD TO EXTRADITION FOR HIMSELF AND POSSIBLE JUDICIAL ACTION AGAINST HIS SON, MANUEL CONTRERAS JR. (FIELD COMMENT-- MANUEL CONTRERAS JR. KILLED A RETIRED ARMY OFFICER, MAJOR MOLINA, DURING A SHOOTING THAT OCCURRED ON 29 OCT 88). IN THE CASE OF CONTRERAS SR., THAT IT IS UNTHINKABLE THAT ANY GOVERNMENT WOULD EVER TURN OVER TO ANOTHER GOVERNMENT THE HEAD OF A NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. CONTERAS JR. WOULD NOT BE SENTENCED TO INCARCERATION IN A CHILEAN PRISON BECAUSE OF HIS CLOSE ASSOCIATION

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PAGE:0006

WITH THE CURRENT CHILEAN ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL,
COLONEL FERNANDO TORRES. -----

CONTRERAS JR. WAS AN ASSISTANT TO TORRES DURING
THE PERIOD TORRES WAS THE CHIEF MILITARY INVESTIGATOR
INTO THE ARMS CACHE DISCOVERIES AND THE ASSASSINATION
ATTEMPT ON PINOCHET. CONTRERAS JR.
HAD TOO MUCH INFORMATION ON LEFTIST ORGANIZATIONS AND
THAT HIS SAFETY COULD NOT BE GUARANTEED WITHIN THE
CHILEAN PENAL SYSTEM. AT THE
MOST, CONTRERAS JR. WILL PROBABLY SPEND APPROXIMATELY
THREE YEARS UNDER MILITARY JURISDICTION.

NON-AGGRESSIVE PROSECUTION
OF CONTRERAS JR. WILL BE A RESULT OF THE RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN CONTRERAS JR. AND TORRES AND NOT AS A RESULT
OF THE INFLUENCE CONTRERAS SR. WIELDS.

(2) THE JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION INVOLVING CONTRERAS'
SON HAS TAKEN A TWIST, VIS A VIS THE
RELATIONSHIP WITH TORRES. TORRES WAS NOT THE FIRST
CHOICE AMONG THE NEW ARMY LEADERSHIP FOR THE PRESTIGIOUS
ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL BILLET; HOWEVER, PINOCHET
REPORTEDLY DISREGARDED THE ADVICE OF HIS CLOSE MILITARY
ADVISORS AND CHOSE TORRES. DIRTYING THE WATERS MORE IS
THE FACT THAT THE INDIVIDUAL SLAIN BY YOUNG CONTRERAS,
MAJOR MOLINA, ACTED AS A LIAISON OFFICER BETWEEN CNI
AND TORRES' INVESTIGATIVE UNIT. UNCONFIRMED REPORTS
ALSO LINK MOLINA'S MISTRESS TO TORRES.
THE POSSIBILITY THAT THESE INTERNECINE RELATIONSHIPS
MAY VERY WELL CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT THAT COULD AFFECT
ADDITIONAL DECISIONS BY PINOCHET DURING 1989.

COMMENT: (EMBASSY COMMENT)--CHILEANS ARE WATCHING
EVOLVING SCANDAL OF THE MOLINA MURDER WITH CONSIDERABLE
INTEREST. EACH OF THE PRINCIPLES IN THE DRAMA HAS
INTERESTS TO PROTECT AND SHARED SECRETS TO KEEP.
IT APPEARS THEY HAVE DECIDED TO HANG TOGETHER, NO DOUBT.

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