

XII. Visit by Guillermo Novo Sampol to Chile in 1976

Based on information provided by Propper and Branch concerning an alleged planned kidnapping to be carried out in Buenos Aires, Argentina, during the Summer of 1976 in which the Cuban Nationalist Movement was to play a role, Townley was interviewed concerning this allegation on 10/20/81 by SAs Cornick and Scherrer. Townley previously furnished information during 1978 which indicated that Novo Sampol had visited Chile during the Summer of 1976; however, Townley stated that Novo's visit was not related to the Letelier assassination and did not involve a violation of United States law.

During interview with Townley on 10/20/81, he advised that Novo Sampol visited Santiago, Chile while Virgilio Paz was in Chile during June or July, 1976. Townley advised that Novo Sampol agreed to commit the Cuban Nationalist Movement to participate in the kidnapping of an unrecalled President of a Dutch bank in Buenos Aires, Argentina. According to Townley, civilian members of the State Secretariat for Information (SIDE), one of the Argentine intelligence services, had developed the Dutch banker's secretary as a source and utilized information provided by her to make tentative plans to kidnap the Dutch banker and hold him for ransom. Townley explained that the Dutch banker and his secretary were having an affair and customarily spent several hours during weekday afternoons together at the same hotel, thereby assuring the civilian members of SIDE of a definite location from which the Dutch banker could be kidnapped. Townley reported that the SIDE civilian members believed it would be necessary to assassinate the Dutch banker's driver, who customarily waited for his employer at the hotel where the assassination customarily took place. Townley advised that Novo Sampol provided \$6,000 from the Cuban Nationalist Movement, which was forwarded to the civilian members of SIDE in Argentina as the Cuban Nationalist Movement's share toward the operational expenses for the kidnapping operation. Townley stated that Novo Sampol, after returning to the United States, forwarded a stock of paper to Townley in Chile, which was utilized to print pamphlets in the name of "Grupo Rojo" (Red Group), a nonexistent Argentine Marxist terrorist organization which the civilian members of SIDE created in order to utilize this group to claim credit for the kidnapping of the Dutch banker. Townley advised that the "Grupo Rojo" pamphlets were printed in Chile and forwarded to the civilian members of SIDE in Argentina, where they were subsequently distributed in Mendoza and Cordoba