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ACTION SS-25

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 77026 W

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R 162025Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7508

Chile Project (#S199900006)
U.S. Department of State
 Release Excise Deny Declass
Exemption(s) _____

SANTIAGO 10081

EXDIS

DECRYPTED

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, CI
SUBJECT: THE STRANGE CASE OF JUAN MUNOZ: AMBASSADOR'S SOCIAL
SECRETARY QUESTIONED

REF: SANTIAGO_9231

1. SUMMARY: POLICE DISCOVERED THE MURDERED BODY OF JUAN MUNOZ ALARCON ON OCTOBER 24. HE HAD LIVED IN A SHADY WORLD OF INTRIGUE AND SHORTLY BEFORE HIS DEATH TRANSCRIBED BEFORE VICARIATE OF SOLIDARITY LAWYERS A TAPE OF HIS ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT WITH SECURITY FORCES. AFTER HIS DEATH THE VICARIATE TURNED THE TAPE OVER TO THE CIVILIAN COURTS. AMONG THE ASSERTIONS ON THE TAPE MUNOZ HAD STATED THAT THE AMBASSADOR'S CHILEAN SOCIAL SECRETARY AND AN EX-POST SECURITY OFFICER RAN THE CIA OPERATION HERE (AN ERRONEOUS CONCLUSION PRESUMABLY BASED UPON TWO VISITS HE HAD MADE AT OUR EMBASSY IN 1973 AND 1976). THE INVESTIGATING JUDGE POLITELY AND PERFUNCTORILY QUERIED THE CHILEAN EMPLOYEE, WHO HAD NOT SURPRISINGLY FORGOTTEN MUNOZ' VISITS. SHOULD THE COURTS AGAIN SUMMON OUR EMPLOYEE (SHE SUBSEQUENTLY RECALLED HER TWO CONTACTS WITH MUNOZ) WE WILL ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF CONFIDENTIALITY. OTHERWISE, WE INTEND TO LET THE MATTER REST. END SUMMARY.

2. REFTTEL'S PARA 7 REFERRED TO THE VICARIATE'S CONTACT WITH A MAN WHO TOLD WEIRD TALES OF HIS EXPERIENCES WITH SECURITY

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SERVICES AND WHO FEARED FOR HIS LIFE. THE VICARIATE TOLD US AT THAT TIME THAT HE HAD BEEN FOUND SHOT, KNIFED AND OTHERWISE BRUTALIZED AND THAT HIS ACCOUNT WOULD BE GIVEN THE SUPREME COURT. A BRIEF NEWS ITEM OF DECEMBER 7 MENTIONED THAT THE CHURCH HAD GIVEN THE COURT SOME INFORMATION RELATING TO THE DEATH OF JUAN RENE MUNOZ ALARCON.

3. ON DECEMBER 14 MS. CHITA FORTUNO, LONGTIME CHILEAN SOCIAL SECRETARY TO THE AMBASSADOR, WAS SUBPOENED TO APPEAR NEXT DAY BEFORE AN APPEALS COURT JUDGE. HE QUESTIONED HER POLITELY ABOUT HER JOB IN THE EMBASSY AND ASKED IF SHE KNEW MUNOZ (SHE SAID NO),

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4. AN EMBASSY NAME CHECK REVEALED THAT MUNOZ HAD COME TO THE EMBASSY SEEKING ASYLUM ON MAY 29, 1973. MS. FORTUNO HAD SHUNTED HIM OFF TO A JUNIOR POLITICAL OFFICER WHO PREPARED A MEMCON ON THE CONVERSATION. MUNOZ HAD JUST LAUNCHED A PUBLIC EXPOSE OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY (HE CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN A PS LEADER). HE TOLD US THAT THE PARTY HAD KILLED A NUMBER OF PEOPLE, AND SAID HE FEARED FOR HIS LIFE. HE LEFT AFTER LEARNING THAT WE DID NOT PROVIDE ASYLUM. ON JANUARY 15, 1976, MUNOZ AGAIN CAME TO THE EMBASSY AND MS. FORTUNO DIRECTED HIM TO THE REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICER (BLYSTONE) TO WHOM HE DESCRIBED AN ALLEGED ABDUCTION PLAN AIMED AT THE AMBASSADOR.

5. WE HAVE OBTAINED A COPY OF WHAT MUNOZ TOLD THE VICARIATE IN OCTOBER 1977. IT CONTAINS A BARRAGE OF ASSERTIONS MIXED WITH MUNOZ' "CONFESSION" THAT HE HAD LONG WORKED WITH SECURITY FORCES AND HAD FINGERED HIS EX-SOCIALIST COLLEAGUES FOLLOWING THE 1973 COUP. HE CLAIMS THAT 112 OF THE DISAPPEARED ARE BEING KEPT AT COLONIA DIGNIDAD. AMONG HIS ASSERTIONS, HE NAMES MS. FORTUNO AND BLYSTONE AS CIA AGENTS.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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6. COMMENT: THE IMPRESSION ONE RECEIVES ABOUT MUNOZ FROM OUR RECORDS AND THE TRANSCRIPT IS OF A HIGHLY UNSTABLE INDIVIDUAL LOSTG AMONG THE RUMORS AND HALF-REALITY OF INTRIGUE. WE HAVE NO IDEA WHO DID IN MUNOZ -- CLEARLY HE HAD MANY ENEMIES.

7. SINCE MS. FORTUNO ANSWERED THE COURT TO THE BEST OF HER KNOWLEDGE AT THE TIME, WE SEE NO REASON TO VOLUNTEER THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WE HAVE ON MUNOZ. SHOULD THE COURT AGAIN ASK MS. FORTUNO TO TESTIFY WE WILL ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF THE EMBASSY'S RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF ITS INFORMATION AND OF PERSONS MEETING WITH OUR PERSONNEL. UNTIL SUCH TIME, WE PLAN TO LET THE MATTER REST.

LANDAU

[REDACTED]

NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** [REDACTED]
*** Current Classification *** [REDACTED]