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Chile Project (#S199900006)  
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E. O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OR-P CI, PGOV, SHUM  
SUBJECT: LETELIER/MOFFITT CASE: BOMB, CONTRERAS AND OTHER ITEMS

REFS: (A) SANTIAGO 9004, (B) SANTIAGO 8849, (C) SANTIAGO 8749

1. BOMBING OF BORQUEZ' HOUSE: THE BOMB THAT WENT OFF OUTSIDE BORQUEZ' HOUSE THE NIGHT OF NOVEMBER 22 WAS ONE OF THREE IN THE CITY THAT NIGHT. THE OTHER TWO WERE IN DEPENDENCIES OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH. THERE WERE NO INJURIES AND THERE IS NO OBVIOUS CONNECTION AMONG THE THREE OTHER THAN CHRONOLOGY. THE PRESS SPECULATES, ON THE BASIS OF DAMAGE TO SURROUNDING BUILDINGS, THAT THE BOMB AT BORQUEZ' HOUSE COULD HAVE INJURED HIM OR MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY HAD THEY BEEN IN THEIR LIVING ROOM AT THE TIME.

2. THE JUDICIARY AND THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH HAVE RESPONDED WITH INDIGNATION TO THE BOMBING ATTEMPT ON BORQUEZ. A SPECIAL INVESTIGATING JUDGE HAS BEEN NAMED BY THE SANTIAGO COURT OF APPEALS AND AROUND-THE-CLOCK CARABINERO GUARDS HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO THE HOUSE. THE HEAD OF THE CARABINEROS FOR THE SANTIAGO AREA, GENERAL

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PAGE 02 SANTIA 09044 272308Z

GERMAN CAMPOS VASQUEZ, HAS BEEN FORCED INTO RETIREMENT. (COMMENT: NO ONE HAS STEPPED FORWARD TO TAKE CREDIT FOR ANY OF THE BOMBINGS. ONE GOOD POSSIBILITY, REPORTEDLY GIVEN CREDENCE BY BORQUEZ HIMSELF, IS THAT PERSONS ALLIED WITH MANUEL CONTRERAS WERE RESPONSIBLE. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN TOLD, BUT WE JUDGE LESS LIKELY, THAT THE BOMB WAS PLACED BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF GETTING RID OF GENERAL CAMPOS. CAMPOS WAS KNOWN TO BE CLOSE TO THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND REPORTEDLY WAS LINED-UP WITH LEIGH WHEN HE WAS OUSTED BY PINOCHET THIS PAST JULY. REGARDLESS, THE GOC PROBABLY WELCOMED THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET RID OF CAMPOS.)

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3.4 "CLARIFICATION" BY TOWNLEY'S LAWYER: REFTEL C REPORTED LOCAL COVERAGE OF THE JERRY O'LEARY STORY NOVEMBER 12, SAYING THAT TOWNLEY HAD LINKED CONTRERAS TO THE ATTACKS ON GENERAL PRATS AND BERNARDO LEIGHTON. AT THE TIME, TOWNLEY'S LAWYER, MANUEL ACUNA WAS QUOTED BY THE LOCAL PRESS AS SAYING THAT TOWNLEY CATEGORICALLY DENIED EVER TELLING THIS TO USG OFFICIALS. SUBSEQUENTLY A "LA SEGUNDA" REPORTER TALKED TO O'LEARY WHO SAID HE GOT HIS INFORMATION DIRECTLY FROM TOWNLEY. THE MOST RECENT "HOY" MAGAZINE SAYS "TOWNLEY HAS NOT CONFESSED EITHER TO THE CHILEAN OR US JUDICIAL SYSTEMS, NOR HAS HE MADE ANY OFFICIAL STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS, ABOUT HIS PARTICIPATION IN OTHER CRIMES." ASKED IF THIS MEANS THAT TOWNLEY DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN OTHER ACTIONS, ACUNA REPLIES: "I DO NOT SAY THAT. I REPEAT THAT HE HAS NOT CONFESSED TO THE JUDICIARY NOR HAS HE MADE A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS."

4. CLARIFICATION OF PINOCHET'S STATEMENT: REFTEL B REPORTED A STATEMENT PINOCHET WAS SAID TO HAVE MADE TO VISITING FOREIGN NEWSMEN. "HOY" QUOTED HIM AS SAYING THAT IF MANUEL CONTRERAS IS FOUND BY THE SUPREME COURT TO BE IMPLICATED, "I WILL GRANT HIS EXTRADITION." THIS WEEK'S EDITION OF "HOY" CARRIES THE FOLLOWING REWORDING: "SIR, I GAVE YOU THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION IN THE

PAGE 03                      SANTIA 09044 272308Z

BEGINNING OF OUR CONVERSATION. THIS CASE IS IN THE HANDS OF THE JUDICIARY, THE JUDICIARY HAS TO MAKE ITS DECISION, ALL THE EXECUTIVE HAS ALWAYS COMPLIED WITH JUDICIAL RULINGS. BUT THIS IS A PROBLEM THAT IS IN THE HANDS OF THE JUDICIARY AND I CANNOT PREJUDGE THE MATTER."

5. LAWYERS FOR CONTRERAS: "EL MERCURIO" OF NOVEMBER 26 REPORTS THAT TWO US LAWYERS DEFENDING CONTRERAS IN THE CIVIL SUIT BROUGHT BY MRS. LETELIER AND OTHERS WILL SOON VISIT SANTIAGO AND WILL MEET WITH SERGIO MIRANDA CARRINGTON. THE LAWYERS ARE NOT NAMED.

6. PRESENCE IN SANTIAGO OF MRS. LETELIER: ISABEL LETELIER ARRIVED IN SANTIAGO NOVEMBER 24. AT HER REQUEST, ETCHEBERRY MET WITH HER AT THE HOME OF A MUTUAL (LAWYER) FRIEND. THERE WAS NO DETAILED DISCUSSION OF THE CASE. MRS. LETELIER DID NOT ASK TO SEE THE AMBASSADOR. SHE TOLD ETCHEBERRY SHE PLANS TO LEAVE CHILE THIS WEEKEND.

7. PRESS CONFERENCE: MRS. LETELIER HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE IN HER LAWYER'S OFFICE NOVEMBER 27. SHE EXPLAINED THAT THE REASON FOR HER VISIT IS AN EFFORT TO HAVE HER HUSBAND'S CITIZENSHIP RESTORED. SHE EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT THE JUNTA MEMBERS WHO HAD SIGNED THE DECREE STRIPPING ORLANDO LETELIER OF HIS CITIZENSHIP "MUST HAVE SUFFERED A TERRIBLE SHOCK WITH THE NEWS OF HIS VIOLENT DEATH" AND SUGGESTED THAT SYMPATHY WITH HIS FATE MIGHT ENCOURAGE ACTION TO CORRECT THE LEGAL SITUATION. ON OTHER TOPICS, SHE SAID THAT SHE HAD NO PLANS TO CALL ON SUPREME COURT PRESIDENT BORQUEZ AND THAT THE CHILEAN JUDICIARY HAD IN ITS POSSESSION A GREAT DEAL OF EVIDENCE REGARDING THE ASSASSINATION OF HER HUSBAND. SHE

STATED THAT THIS IS A SUIT BROUGHT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES NOT SIMPLY A FEDERAL PROSECUTOR. REGARDING THE CIVIL SUIT, FILED BY HERSELF AND OTHERS, SHE DENIED THAT THEY ARE ASKING FOR ANY SPECIFIC AMOUNT OF DAMAGES (THE FIGURE OF \$9 MILLION HAS BEEN MENTIONED HERE IN THE PRESS).  
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