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

SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

STATE DEPT HANDLE AS EXDIS

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FOR SECRETARY RUMSFELD AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY MCAULIFFE
FROM POPPER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS CI
SUBJECT: SECRETARY RUMSFELD'S PRIVATE MEETING WITH ADMIRAL MERINO

REF: SECDEF 5602, DTG 272128Z JUL 76

1. I APPRECIATE YOUR DETAILED REPORT ON YOUR MEETING WITH ADMIRAL MERINO ON JULY 12. IT IS MOST HELPFUL TO US AS BACKGROUND, IN CONNECTION WITH FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS ON THESE SUBJECTS.
2. THE IRRITATION EXHIBITED BY ADMIRAL MERINO IS NOT UNTYPICAL. THE GOC MILITARY HAVE BEEN FIRST PUZZLED, THEN FRUSTRATED AND FINALLY EXASPERATED BY THE LONG SERIES OF DELAYS TO WHICH THEIR REQUESTS FOR U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED, OVER A PERIOD OF SOME TWO YEARS. THE UNEXPECTEDLY ADVERSE TERMS OF THE NEW SECURITY

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ASSISTANCE ACT, AS REGARDS BOTH MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, WERE A CROWNING BLOW. THE CHILEAN MILITARY WERE STUNG, AND HAVE FOUND WAYS TO INDICATE THEIR ANGER AND UNHAPPINESS.

3. DISCUSSIONS OF THE KIND YOU HAD WITH ADMIRAL MERINO

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ARE MOST USEFUL IN GETTING IT ACROSS TO THE CHILEANS THAT THE BASIC CHOICE IS THEIRS. IF THEY FEEL THEY MUST MAINTAIN THEIR INTERNAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS UNIMPAIRED, THUS CONTINUING THEIR PRESENT HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES, THEY MUST REALIZE THAT THE PROSPECTS FOR ADDITIONAL U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE WILL REMAIN EXTREMELY DIM. I THINK THIS POINT IS FINALLY SINKING IN.

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4. I WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE DISCUSSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. WE HAD PREVIOUSLY GOTTEN NOTHING MORE THAN A HINT THAT THE GOC HAD INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO INVITE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BENITEZ TO VISIT CHILE. IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IF WE COULD HAVE THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE A COPY OF THE CHILEAN NOTE TO THE COMMISSION, WHICH ADMIRAL MERINO HANDED YOU.

5. I HOPE YOU WILL LET ME KNOW WHENEVER YOU THINK THE EMBASSY CAN CONTRIBUTE USEFULLY TO CLARIFYING FOR THE CHILEANS SUCH QUESTIONS AS THE POSSIBILITY OF FLEXIBILITY IN THE PIPELINE, OR THE STATUS OF THE TERRIER DRAWINGS.
POPPER

[REDACTED]

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

