

9/73

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IP FILES

WESTERN HEMISPHERE BRIEF 041.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DATE: NOV 2007

EO 12958 6.2(c)

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3. //MEXICO-CHILE: RELATIONS BETWEEN MEXICO AND THE MILITARY JUNTA IN CHILE ARE LIKELY TO BE COOL FOR SOME TIME. MEXICAN PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA WAS PERHAPS ALLENDE'S MOST VALUABLE FRIEND IN THE HEMISPHERE. DESPITE THE LONG DISTANCE SEPARATING THEM, MEXICO AND CHILE DREW CLOSE UNDER THEIR FRIENDSHIP. THE TWO PRESIDENTS EXCHANGED OFFICIAL VISITS IN 1972 AND THIS YEAR MEXICO SOLD CHILE PETROLEUM AND GRAIN ON CREDIT TO HELP BOLSTER CHILE'S FAILING ECONOMY.

AFTER THE COUP AND ALLENDE'S DEATH, ECHEVERRIA QUICKLY SHOWED SYMPATHY. HE GRANTED ASYLUM IN MEXICO TO ALLENDE'S WIFE AND FAMILY AND OVER 60 OTHER CHILEANS, DECLARED THREE DAYS OF OFFICIAL MOURNING AND WAS ON HAND AT MEXICO CITY'S AIRPORT TO MEET MRS. ALLENDE AND HER PARTY. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT OVER 200 MORE ASYLEES IN THE MEXICAN EMBASSY IN SANTIAGO AWAIT SAFE-CONDUCT TO MEXICO.

LEFTISTS IN MEXICO HAVE BEEN URGING THE GOVERNMENT NOT TO RECOGNIZE THE JUNTA. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT ECHEVERRIA WILL GO THIS FAR, BUT OFFICIAL CONTACT WITH CHILE'S NEW LEADERS WILL FOR NOW BE AVOIDED AND, IN THE FUTURE, BE SUPERFICIAL AT BEST.

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