



Director of
Central
Intelligence

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National Intelligence Daily

Thursday
4 October 1979

~~Top Secret~~

660

[REDACTED]

~~Top Secret~~

CHILE: Letelier Case

Chile apparently will not continue to investigate the Letelier case even though it expects considerable negative US reaction. The Chilean Supreme Court found that neither the US evidence nor its own investigations justified extradition of the accused, or even a local trial. Further civilian court action is unlikely. An 18-month-old investigation by a military court involving falsification of documents by the Chilean security agency continues. [REDACTED] this could expand to include homicide charges, should new evidence be developed. Given this court's desultory past performance, however, vigorous action seems unlikely. [REDACTED]

President Pinochet's remarks after the Supreme Court ruling suggest no plans to have another government agency take further action. He depicted the case as substantively lacking and said extradition had been denied "because the accused were not found guilty." Pinochet believes US leverage has declined with the decrease in US aid. Moreover, his government's popularity and domestic apathy about the case encourage him to believe that he can manage any US reaction. [REDACTED]

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